

MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 19, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Richard called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The meeting was held at the City Offices located at 139 S. Saginaw Street, Montrose, MI.

ROLL CALL: Present council members were Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Richard, Robert Arnold, Ryan Heslop, Aaron Burch, Andrea Martin, (entered the meeting @ 7:29 p.m.), and Todd Pangle. Also present were City Manager Neil Rankin, City Clerk Tina Rush and 5 citizens. Mayor Colleen Brown was recorded absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Member Robert Arnold led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH:

1. *THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2023, MARK EMMENDORFER:* Mr. Emmendorfer was unable to attend.

2. *CHOOSE A CITIZEN OF THE MONTH FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:*

- **MOTION** by Arnold **SECOND** by Pangle that we make Janet Loomis Citizen of the Month. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
- **MOTION** by Pangle **SECOND** by Heslop for January Citizen of the Month we nominate the National Honor Society as well as volunteers that assisted with the tree planting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

PRESENTATIONS: *REP. JASPER MARTUS:* Mr. Martus was unable to attend.

KEN BERTHIAUME: Auditor Ken Berthiaume briefly read aloud various pages from the audit, taking note of prepaid expenses, payables and payroll adjustments equaling to 36 journal entries versus 32 from last year that could have been completed by staff. Page 11 shows a big picture of the assets, liabilities and net positions, which shows there were no deficits. Berthiaume also read aloud pages 14, 16 and 21. The City received the standard un-modified opinion which is the highest score possibly earned. Berthiaume also mentioned that the city will need an additional audit work for federal funding received in the 2023/2024 Audit.

APM Mosquito Control Representative Ben Seago read aloud the 2023 season summary report.

REPORTS

1. *FIRE & POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS:* Report on file at city office.

2. *BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES:* Report on file at city office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

MATTERS OF COUNCIL ACTION:

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1. APPROVAL OF THE 09/21/23 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

- **MOTION** by Arnold **SECOND** by Pangle that we approve the 09/21/23 regular meeting minutes. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Member Aaron Burch entered the meeting @ 7:29 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER & TREASURER REPORT:

- **MOTION** by Arnold **SECOND** Heslop that we pay our pay our bills. Roll Call Vote: Pangle – Aye, Martin – Aye, Arnold – Aye, Burch – Aye, Heslop – Aye, and Mayor Pro-Tem Richard – Aye. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

3. APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENT #1:

- **MOTION** by Arnold **SECOND** by Pangle that we approve the budget amendment #1 as presented. Roll Call Vote: Martin – Aye, Heslop – Aye, Arnold – Aye, Burch – Aye, Pangle – Aye, and Mayor Pro-Tem Richard – Aye. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

4. APPROVAL OF 2022/2023 FY AUDIT:

- **MOTION** by Pangle **SECOND** by Arnold that we approve the 2022/2023 Audit as presented to us at this meeting. Roll Call Vote: Heslop – Aye, Pangle – Aye, Burch – Aye, Martin – Aye, Arnold – Aye, and Mayor Pro-Tem Richard – Aye. All ayes. Motion Carried.

5. **DISCUSSION/DIRECTION SOLID WASTE COLLECTION/CONTRACT**: The Republic proposal would include a year one increase of 25.7% and this would be an increase of \$4.37 a month over the current contract. Increases each year after (years 2-5) would be 4.5% or CPI (whichever is lower). Republic contracts throughout the county are going to 4.5% as well as all being 5 years. Between 2009 and 2018 there was a 48% increase or 5.3% per year. What you see with the proposed increase is that the amount that would be billed would be smooth if approved at around 8% per year. So it is very close the what I had projected. The downside to the proposal besides the increase is that city would no longer be able to issue dump passes to residents once a month/per address. The township has an agreement with landfill operator for dump passes and no tipping costs which reduces the contract costs. I do know residents have come to appreciate having all these services including yard waste, bi-weekly recycling and the rolling carts. My suggestions to the proposal would be either:

- That the city remove recycling and offer it as an opt-in service.
- Request Republic to add a provision to the contract that would provide for heavy item pickup be added at no cost twice a year so residents who wish to dispose of larger items and residents could set them out without having to make a request.
- Go out to bid. Please remember that time is crucial and that a new contract would require the collection of old carts and distribution of new carts.

I have provided the list of current contracts (costs, length, services) throughout the county. Discussion ensued on possible costs savings to offset the proposed increases coming from Republic. 2 free dump passes for 2-yards per year instead of 1 per month should be included in the RFP and possibly once a month 95-gallon recycling versus bi-weekly. Prior to the roll call vote Rankin recommended a special meeting due to the contract expiring December 31st.

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- **MOTION** by Heslop **SECOND** by Arnold that we direct Neil to put this out for bid. Roll Call Vote: Pangle – Aye, Arnold – Aye, Martin – Aye, Heslop – Aye, Burch – Aye, and Mayor Pro-Tem Richard – Aye. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
- **MOTION** by Pangle **SECOND** by Burch to schedule a special council meeting on Thursday November 9th @ 8:00 p.m. to unseal and choose the bid for the solid waste contract. Roll Call Vote: Burch – Aye, Arnold – Aye, Martin – Aye, Heslop – Aye, Pangle – Aye, and Mayor Pro-Tem Richard – Aye. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

6. ***DISCUSSION/DIRECTION CANDLEWALK COMMUNITY EVENT APPLICATION:*** Martin noted that because she is now involved with helping the Candlewalk, she will abstain should there be a conflict of interest.

- **MOTION** by Arnold **SECOND** by Burch that we approve Candlwalk application with the recommendation from the city manager. Five, (5) Ayes. One (1) Abstain – Martin. Motion Carried.

7. ***DISCUSSION/DIRECTION SALE OF ELECTION EQUIPMENT SURPLUS:***

- **MOTION** by Pangle **SECOND** by Arnold to authorize the sale of the equipment. Roll Call Vote: Arnold – Aye, Martin – Aye, Pangle – Aye, Heslop - Aye, Burch – Aye, and Mayor Pro-Tem Richard – Aye. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

8. ***DISCUSSION/DIRECTION PURCHASE OF DPW GARAGE DOORS:*** The DPW garage doors as I mentioned last month need to be replaced. I have quotes for doors minus installation from Iversons, quote from Dover and am waiting on a quote from Davison overhead door. The DPW will be pouring concrete this week and should in the next week or two have the slab installed. I figure the garage door will take a few weeks to order and install and I would like to get installed by the time the snow starts to fly. I will provide a handout for council with quotes.

- **MOTION** by Pangle **SECOND** by Arnold to approve and purchase Accountable Building's quote for the DPW's garage door including the installation in the amount of nine thousand six hundred ninety-six dollars and no cents, (\$9,690.00). Roll Call Vote: Pangle – Aye, Burch – Aye, Heslop – Aye, Martin – Aye, Arnold – Aye, and Mayor Pro-Tem Richard – Aye. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

9. ***APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL MEMBER AARON BURCH ABSENCE AT THE 07/20/23 & 09/21/23 COUNCIL MEETINGS:***

- **MOTION** by Pangle **SECOND** by Arnold to approve the absences of those 2 dates. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

REPORTS FROM BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD: NONE

ELECTION COMMISSION: Absentee ballots are now available for the November 7th election.

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GENESEE COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ALLOCATION COMMITTEE: NONE

GENESEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN ALLIANCE: Mayor Pro-Tem Richard conveyed they discussed House Bill 5120-5123 regarding zoning for solar.

GENESEE COUNTY SMALL CITIES & VILLAGES ASSOCIATION: Mayor Pro-Tem Richard reported that Chief Steve Koloski discussed block safety license plates and face recognition cameras, also, a resolution was passed in support of satellite court locations not being closed.

GENESEE COUNTY WATER AND WASTE SERVICE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Heslop reported the Capacity Management and Operations/Maintenance Department came to speak regarding expansions of landfills. Water affordability legislation is being proposed that will not allow occupied properties who have delinquent water bills to be shut off. Solid Waste Plan update, PFAS, (polyfluoroalkyl substances) is still in discussion.

PLANNING BOARD: Mayor Pro-Tem Richard reported that the board is going through the Chicken Ordinance.

911 CONSORTIUM: NONE

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: NONE

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY:

CITY MANAGER: The DDA Small Business Workshop on October 3rd was well attended. There were well over 35 attendees and lots of new connections were made. The tree planting on October 6th was also well attended. There were 20 plus volunteers and trees were planted at Lion's Park, Oak Street and few other locations. The NHS at Montrose High School had a large group and were willing to get dirty. I hope Montrose will be a Tree City USA for the third year in a row. This Saturday please feel free to attend the Touch-A-Truck event by the Tennis Courts by Feher Drive. This is a great event to get those interested in big equipment including fire truck, dump trucks and various other equipment. It's also an opportunity to show the public up close what the public safety millage has helped the Township and City purchase and maintain. Please don't forget to vote on November 7th. Tell your neighbors, tell your friends. Polls open at 7am and close at 8pm and absentee ballots are available. I have also included an MML Fact Sheet regarding Municipal Expenditures. Once in while residents ask why the city can't do something like make a donation or host an event or retirement party. This fact sheet explains how we can and cannot spend tax dollars.

CITY ATTORNEY: NONE

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS: Burch encouraged families to attend this Saturday's Touch a Truck, Superintendent of the Montrose Schools will be speaking about the bond extension.

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Mayor Pro-Tem Richard asked council to sign a thank you card he will be giving to the Genesee County Planning Commission.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL: *On file at city office.*

ADJOURNMENT:

- **MOTION** by Pangle **SECOND** by Arnold to adjourn the meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richard adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Prepared by City Clerk, Tina Rush