

MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 23, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Colleen Brown 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 Colleen Brown, Pro-Tem Mark Richard, Robert Arnold, Ryan Heslop, Andrea Martin, and Todd Pangle. Also present, City Manager Neil Rankin, Clerk Tina Rush, and 8 citizens. Member Aaron Burch were recorded absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Colleen Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH:

1. *THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024, NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AND VOLUNTEERS OF THE OCTOBER 6TH TREE PLANTING:* Council honored 3 of the volunteers present and mentioned that if they would like individual certificates, to please contact the city clerk.

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

- **MOTION** by Richard **SECOND** by Arnold to approve the Neighborhood Montrose Pop-Up Shop members, Karen Galindo, Chris Middleton and Betty Matzke. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

PRESENTATIONS: FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: Rankin gave an oral report on the city's finances.

REPORTS

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

MATTERS OF COUNCIL ACTION:

1. *APPROVAL OF THE 12/21/23 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:*

- **MOTION** by Richard **SECOND** by Arnold to accept the minutes as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
- **MOTION** by Arnold **SECOND** by Richard that we add Small Cities and Villages meeting onto the agenda as No. 7. Ayes. Motion Carried.

Mayor Pro-Tem Richard asked if discussion of the Car Show could be placed onto the next city council meeting agenda.

2. *APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER & TREASURER REPORT:*

- **MOTION** by Richard **SECOND** Arnold to go forward with the check register and treasurer report. Roll Call Vote: Richard – Aye, Martin – Aye, Arnold – Aye, Heslop – Aye, Pangle – Aye, and Mayor Brown – Aye. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

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3. *DISCUSSION/DIRECTION PROPOSAL FOR 2024 CAPE SEAL PROJECT:* With Feher Drive done our next street projects will be Russell and Latting and will be paved as part the water improvement project this year. The Metro Planning Commission sent us an updated PASER rating this past week and it was an interesting coincidence that these same streets that are rated the lowest are the ones that I was getting quotes to do Cape Seal treatment. The city four years ago did Cape Seal on S. Saginaw and a few other streets to address the condition and utilize preventative maintenance. Rankin added that he contacted Highway Maintenance this fall and Sam and their rep drove the city looking for streets that would be ideal. They also mentioned that they can do a double cape seal on dirt/gravel streets that would be beneficial in reducing ruts, dust on Carlann. Please see photo examples. The plan if council wishes to move forward in cape sealing 1.69 miles of street this next fiscal year is to utilize sewer funds similar in how Feher Drive was financed. Please see spread sheet. This will allow us to do a number of projects on local streets while not having to bond. Some of the members asked that a contract be in place. Prior to the roll call vote Heslop questioned the life-time warranty on Cape and Seal on these roads and Rankin replied 8-10 years.

- **MOTION** by Richard **SECOND** by Arnold to direct Neil to go forward with the Street Cape and Seal Project for the streets that are outlined as well as a couple of the streets are double cape sealed. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

4. *DISCUSSION/DIRECTION EMPLOYEE HEALTHCARE PLAN:* Rankin reported that the employees of the city receive healthcare benefits through BlueCross/BlueShield and the renewal this year is increase 7.41% or \$2,673.80. However. the city should see a reduction/revision plan in the coming weeks as Janet/Spouse was on the renewal policy and once removed the overall number of insured will decrease by one. Using the new rates, I anticipate a reduction by \$6,240 or 16% for the plan. This does not include the buyouts. Without that the plan would be an additional \$16,366.92. Also, by next year another dependent will no longer be on the plan which will be additional savings of a little over \$3,900. For the most part I believe this is one of the better plans in the area and have priced out similar plans but its either a higher deductible or premium. Other plans such as PPO were quite limited with HAP being the most comparable but again the premiums were higher. Rankin indicated that if council is satisfied with the current insurance plan then no action is needed. No action taken, informational only.

5. *DISCUSSION/DIRECTION MANAGER EVALUATION/CONTRACT:* Last month I emailed all the council members my annual evaluation. Two evaluations were completed and returned to the clerk. These evaluations provide direction and I usually read the comments over as I strive to meet what you and your constituents wish to see their local unit of government address. If you could complete it this weekend or before the meeting on Tuesday that would be ideal.

I am also requesting a change/amendment to my contract regarding termination without cause. As you may know I have been with the city for the last 9 years and I have felt that I have brought a lot to the community. This including grants, financial and leadership stability and now a focus on improving the downtown and housing stock. I am requesting that if the manager is terminated without cause it would go from 14 days of pay to 120 days of pay. I also would reduce the amount of PTO to be paid out by 50%. To show my commitment of

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compromise. This would not change for cause termination or if the manager was to resign. Most municipal managers have a clause such as this in their contract. This was less of a consideration when I was hired as a part-time manager in 2015.

- **MOTION** by Pangle **SECOND** by Richard to accept the contract changes as presented by adding 120 severance package days. Roll Call Vote: Pangle – Aye, Heslop – Aye, Arnold – Aye, Martin – Aye, Richard – Aye, and Mayor Brown – Aye. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

6. *DISCUSSION/DIRECTION RESCHEDULE FEBRUARY 27TH COUNCIL MEETING*: Rankin conveyed that the Presidential Primary is being held on this same date.

- **MOTION** by Pangle **SECOND** by Richard to reschedule the February 27, 2024 meeting to February 20th, 2024 at normal time 7:00 p.m. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

7. *SMALL CITIES AND VILLAGES MEETING*: Brown announced that the City is hosting next month's Genesee County Small Cities and Villages meeting, it will be held Wednesday February 7th at the Montrose Historical and Telephone Pioneer Museum. It will be catered at \$15 per person and the guest speaker will be someone from the Montrose Historical Society Group talking about challenges of a small museum. A candidate looking to replace Dan Kildee will also be in attendance. Brown also noted at the last Genesee County Small Cities and Villages meeting, they voted Mark Richard to be their Vice-Chairperson, since this took place, Richard would need to become the Delegate on behalf of the City and Brown would become the alternate.

- **MOTION** by Arnold **SECOND** by Pangle that we make the said change. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

REPORTS FROM BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD: Next meeting February 13th.

ELECTION COMMISSION: Rush announced that absentee ballots are now available. The biggest constitutional change with upcoming Presidential Primary, there is a box that will allow voters to select and become on the Permanent Absentee Ballot List whereas the City did not offer one in the past due to high costs of mailings with inconsistent voter turnout. Rush will include in next month's packet Council and Mayor deadline dates to run on the ballot. Also, the 9-Day Early Voting will begin Saturday February 17th through Monday February 25th, polling location will be at the Montrose Township Hall located at 11444 Seymour Rd., Polls will be open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day.

GENESEE COUNTY SMALL CITIES & VILLAGES ASSOCIATION: A representative from the Greater Flint Health Coalition came to speak about, "Commit to Fit" the representative gave an overview of the various services offered to "all" of Genesee County and not just Flint; health screens, assistance with applying for health insurance or submitting documents for Medicare, etc. Brown also mentioned that she met with the CEO of the MTA and he assured her that "everyone" in Montrose qualifies for these services from Your-Ride, not just senior citizens.

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GENESEE COUNTY WATER AND WASTE SERVICE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Member Heslop referenced the City of Burton resolution protesting House Bill 5089 regarding shutting water off at properties due to non-payment.

GENESEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN ALLIANCE: Next meeting is January 24th.

PLANNING BOARD: NONE

911 CONSORTIUM: NONE

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Next meeting will be February 14, 2024

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY:

CITY MANAGER: The DPW has been out plowing and salting this last week or so. You have probably have seen Sam or Mitch out early in the mornings. Work on the water main will be starting in March. Looking to have a preconstruction meeting with contractors/engineers in the next week. The DPW garage doors are installed. The only thing left to do is to wrap them.

Our new solid waste provider seems to be working quite well. We haven't had a call to the office on missed locations but have a few questions on the dump passes and the need to drive to Flint. Heavy item pickup is available but they need to schedule it and then they seem ok. Our clerk has been working on the election which will be February 27th. There has been a number of changes. Absentee ballots are available and voting will start 9 days before election day. Our new employee has been working out well. She is learning the ropes and has even electronically filed the W-2's. Some of the most exciting news is that the downtown is seeing some new investment. The Fairway store is being cleaned out and the owner is looking to make significant investment into the building. Across the street the building between Naples and Whites Tavern will be getting a new façade. A new coffee shop will also be opening shortly. I would encourage council members to meet these new business and owners. I will be out the office January 29th to February 2nd at the MME conference in Lansing. I will have my laptop and will be checking voice messages.

Mayor Brown mentioned that there has been an influx of concerns on Facebook regarding recycling, there are over 125/135 property owners requesting additional recycling bins and/or asking for additional recycling pick-up dates. Additional bins cost \$90. Brown will contact Gary Hicks from Priority to discuss a possible resolution.

CITY ATTORNEY: NONE

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS: Pangle commented that he went to his first Blueberry Festival Committee meeting and said he looks forward to fruitful future meetings. Richard said he looks forward to discussing the Car Show at the next meeting. Martin mentioned she may know interested in driving a route in Montrose through Your-Ride. Brown said she met the president of consultant company that is looking into rehabilitating 106 W. State Street. Brown praised Gary Hicks from Priority's response to her calls.

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

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Prepared by City Clerk, Tina Rush