

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Jim Rundborg called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members Present: Dave Hunsaker, Sue Erickson, Tony Stoker, and Sheryl Strouse
Council Members Excused: Ray Knick and Jim Lancaster

STAFF:

Lisa Grysen, Police Chief Larry Jerue, Dan Matson, and Chris Olson

AUDIENCE:

Tom Jewell, Sherry Jewell, Janine Cavanaugh, Stephen Thimmig, Kathi Dominguez, Linda Pung, Robin Kashenider, Anne Winemann, Carol Bennett, Theresa Dubiel and County Commissioner Bob Showers

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Strouse, seconded by Stoker and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that **the agenda be approved as presented.**

SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS:

1. “Paint the Town Purple” Campaign for Relay for Life: Sherry and Tom Jewell would like to place a banner on the south side of Terranovas/Sam’s Kitchen and on the fence on the Farnum property located at the corner of Herbison and DeWitt Roads. The sign ordinance allows the placement of banners for up to 14 days with the property owner’s permission. No Action needed.

2. DeWitt Millennium Garden Club: The Garden Club was in attendance to update the City Council on their Labyrinth project. They received 40 designs from third-year MSU students. Those designs were narrowed down to three that were then combined into one. The rendering will be on display in the lobby of City Hall for approximately one week. The Garden Club is requesting permission to go out to bid since the labyrinth will be constructed on City property

Motion by Strouse, seconded by Stoker and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to approve the design of the labyrinth as proposed by the DeWitt Millennium Garden Club and authorize the Garden Club to solicit bids for constructing the labyrinth.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Strouse and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that **the minutes for the April 6, 2010 Regular City Council Meeting be approved as presented.**

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

County Commissioner Bob Showers reported on the following:

- Clinton County Road Commission has decided to not pursue a road millage at this current time.
- Clinton County has passed the wind ordinance.
- No Budget Deficit

CITY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

City Administrator, Chris Olson reported on the following:

Farmer Building – Administrator Chris Olson, Mayor Rundborg, Councilman Lancaster and DDA Chair Mike Lee attended a State Department of Treasury meeting with three Treasury officials and Senator Cropsey and State Representative Opsommer to discuss the status relative to the tax forfeiture issues on the Farmer Building located at 116 S. Bridge Street.

To remedy any notice errors special legislation was requested, however it was not met with enthusiasm by the Treasury officials. Senator Cropsey was in favor of the special legislation.

An updated title search was requested to ascertain the lien status on the property. An update is expected from the Treasury Department as well as from legislators in regards to any legislation that could result in the City gaining ownership prior to Summer 2011 (earliest possible under normal process).

Oaks 2 – No work has commenced at the Oaks 2 thus far, and the City has not received the promised documents. Building permit applications will be held until the contracts are fulfilled. A reminder has been provided to the developers, along with Planner Rob Nesbitt's review of their proposed subdivision sign. The developers have provided a decent looking subdivision sign plan that Rob has reviewed and approved from a planning/zoning standpoint. The developers need to get a building permit and follow the normal procedures.

Correspondence –

- 1.** The Knights of Columbus sent a letter of thanks for allowing the use of City streets for their fundraising effort.
- 2.** The Road Commission has provided a letter indicating that they will not be pursuing a 1-mill levy for county road improvements.
- 3.** Mayor Rundborg received a notice from the Girl Scouts regarding local young ladies from DeWitt: Abbey Doyle, Sarah Hundt, Katelynn Reisig and Lacey Stoddard – who will be receiving their Gold Awards. This is the highest award that a Girl Scout can earn, similar to a Boy Scout receiving his Eagle Scout.

FY 2010-11 Budget – Proposed budget was completed for Council's consideration.

Community Education/Recreation – A meeting to discuss the possibility of transferring Community Education Recreation Programs to DARA along with discussion on the operational and financial aspects has not been confirmed to occur by Superintendent Tina Templin or other school staff. The meeting, if held would include City Administrator Chris Olson, Township Supervisor, Rod Taylor and DARA Director, Clay Summers.

Michigan Main Street application – Resolution for that application is in new business for your consideration.

Code Enforcement matters – Mr. Nottage and his structural engineer/architect submitted an application for demolition of the rear part of the structure on April 23. This is under review by the building official, who is making sure that the site can be adequately secured during this work and prior to reconstruction.

CITY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT (Con't)

WECS ordinance – City Attorney Dan Matson and Planning Consultant Rob Nesbitt (LSL) have prepared the proper language for the proposed WECS aspect of the zoning ordinance, and Dan will prepare the necessary language for the nuisance ordinance.

Bridge Street paving – We still have not received any word on the grant application.

MML Capitol Conference – Councilmember Ray Knick attended the MML Capitol Conference Annual Spring program on April 13-14 and will report to council at the upcoming meeting.

MML Regional meeting – Scheduled for May 19, at the Retreat Center, DeWitt.

Arbor Day – The DeWitt Millennium Garden Club donated three trees for an Arbor Day ceremony held at noon on April 30, 2010 and located at the corner of S. DeWitt Road and S. DeWitt Drive (also known as Triangle Park).

Ash Tree removals – The City crew has already started doing some removal work in selected areas of the City. The contractor will be in town May 5-7 doing the bid work by the power lines. There will be some traffic restrictions and inconvenience during the work, but this will be minimized as much as possible.

Other Work – Several other smaller projects, follow-ups and other work mentioned in prior reports is still ongoing.

May Dates to Keep in Mind

Tuesday, May 4 – Council meeting, 7 pm

Wednesday, May 5 – Sister City, 7:00 pm

Saturday, May 8 – Mother's Day flower sale, Paint the Town Purple in downtown; YMCA volunteer picnic at Riverside Park

Tuesday, May 11 – DDA meeting, 7:30 am

Tuesday, May 11 -- Nominating Petitions due, 4:00pm

Wednesday, May 12 – Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Advisory Commission, 7:00 pm

Thursday, May 13 – District Library Board,

Tuesday, May 18 – SCCMUA, 4:30 pm

Tuesday, May 18 – City Council, 7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 19 – MML Region 4 Meeting at Retreat Center, 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

Friday, May 21 – Saturday, May 22 – Relay for Life, High School Track

Thursday, May 27 – Planning Commission, 7:00 pm

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Disposition of reserves at SCCMUA: SCCMUA recently sent a letter as a follow-up to their most recent audit, pertaining to the City's funds at SCCMUA which are in excess of our annual costs. They are asking how the City would like to handle these funds, which are approximately \$51,223.

1. Disposition of reserves at SCCMUA (con't)

The City has a lift station reserve account at SCCMUA which now totals \$225,508. From that present reserve, about \$20,000 will be spent this calendar year for the heat pump energy conservation project which was presented a number of months ago.

The City has been building a balance at SCCMUA in order to handle any pump station or other emergency repairs (please recall that all SCCMUA communities are responsible for their respective internal systems), as well as proceeds for any major capital projects (such as Logan Street or other sewer line replacements).

As discussed at the budget meeting, the City presently has about \$1.3 million in its own water and sewer fund, cash and investment reserves. It is not necessary for the City to transfer any amounts from SCCMUA accounts for our own for operations or emergencies.

Motion by Strouse, seconded by Hunsaker and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to place the \$51,222.80 retained earnings to the City of DeWitt lift station reserve at SCCMUA for future City of DeWitt sewer system project or repair use.**

2. Main Street application resolution of support: The application requires a resolution of support from the community's governing body as well as the sponsoring organization (in DeWitt's case, the DDA). The DDA did not make quorum at its April 13 meeting, and I have requested that one be scheduled next week for this purpose.

Motion by Erickson, seconded by Strouse and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to approve the prepared resolution to support the DDA's application to the Michigan Main Street program.**

WHEREAS, the City of DeWitt has a traditional central business district that it desires to improve; and

WHEREAS, the City of DeWitt has had a Downtown Development Authority since 1981 and has funded several programs and projects since that time; and

WHEREAS, approximately 20% of available commercial space in downtown DeWitt is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of DeWitt is supportive of obtaining technical assistance and expertise available from the Michigan Main Street program in order to improve the ongoing efforts to revitalize DeWitt's central business district.

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of DeWitt hereby supports the application of the DeWitt Downtown Development Authority for the Michigan Main Street Associate program.

3. DeWitt Library Name Change Resolution: Jennifer Balcom, Library Director has provided a revised resolution from the DeWitt Public Library relative to their desire for changing their official name to the DeWitt District Library.

The library's original name, in honor of Faye Hanson, was not considered to be an issue at the time City Council considered and approved the prior resolution at the April 6, 2010 City Council meeting.

Motion by Hunsaker, seconded by Strouse and carried by unanimous vote of the Council to **approve the prepared resolution to change the name of the DeWitt Public Library, previously known as the Faye Hanson Public Library, to become the DeWitt District Library.**

WHEREAS, the DeWitt Public Library, on June 7, 1963, was certified by the Library of Michigan as a legally established district library eligible to participate in penal fine distribution; and

WHEREAS, in 1989 in conformance with the then newly adopted District Library Establishment Act, the DeWitt Public Library (f/k/a the Faye Hanson Public Library) filed a District Library Organizational Plan with the Library of Michigan and such Plan was amended in 2005 to add DeWitt Charter Township as a participating municipality; and

WHEREAS, the DeWitt Public Library currently serves the DeWitt Public Library District comprised of Watertown Charter Township, DeWitt Charter Township, and the City of Dewitt except the portions of Watertown Charter Township that are located in the Grand Ledge Area District Library district and the Delta Township District Library district; and

WHEREAS, the DeWitt Public Library Board on December 19, 2009 passed a resolution to change the name of the DeWitt Public Library to the DeWitt District Library; and

WHEREAS, changing the name to include the word "district" conforms with the recent amendments to the District Library Establishment Act; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Library's District Library Organizational Plan, as amended, consent of not less than 2/3 of the legislative bodies of the participating municipalities will be required for any amendment to the Plan; and

WHEREAS, as a participating municipality, the City of DeWitt desires to approve the Amendment to the District Library Organizational Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of DeWitt approves the amendment to the District Library Organizational Plan to change the name of the DeWitt Public Library (f/k/a the Faye Hanson Public Library) to the DeWitt District Library.

4. Budget Question and Answer Session: Chris Olson, City Administrator went through the budget, department by department and fund by fund providing a brief overview. The Council suggested to not breakout the DPS activity within the General Fund. However, it is acceptable to spread the man hours and equipment rental among the Sewer and Street Funds.

COUNCIL/STAFF REPORTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Stoker, seconded by Erickson and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that **this meeting be adjourned at 9:35 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Gysen
City Clerk-Treasurer

James Rundborg
Mayor