

A Worksession of the City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on Monday, August 6, 2018, at 5:00 p.m.

Present were Mayor Malewski and Councilpersons Harri, Wichman and Colestock. Councilman Burke was absent and excused.

Administrative Staff Present were City Manager Aaron Desentz, Police Chief Larry Weeks, Fire Chief Roger McNutt, DPW Senior Foreman John Nobach, Water Senior Foreman Mark Lease, WWTP Foreman Scott Perry and City Clerk Kristy Reinecke.

Purpose of the meeting was a worksession. Notice of the meeting was duly given.

Public Comments:

Percy Watson, 211 McArthur River Drive, appeared before Council regarding the placement of a fence on his property. Mr. Watson was instructed to get with Building Official Hummel and bring this back to Council at the August 20th Worksession.

Russ Hicks, Columbia Hwy., appeared before Council regarding geese issues; presented Council with a folder on updates of the river project and possible trail maps; dam removal/repair; will be meeting with the Army Corp. Of Engineers regarding dam fish passage; erosion at Mill Pointe Park; Grand River Water Trail Meeting dates; and moving forward with the ADA Fishing Pier at Mill Pointe Park.

Sue Spagnola, Eaton County Conservation District, appeared before the Council regarding the Rain Garden/Rick Garden project at Mill Pointe Park.

Jim Ray, 316 Lee Street, appeared before Council regarding motor homes being allowed access to City property for camping during the ER Air Event that were not part of the ER Air Event, but wanted to be able to come and enjoy the event. After a lengthy discussion Mayor Malewski directed that a Waiver of Ordinances be drafted and ready for First Reading at the August 13th Council Meeting so that the City could be in compliance for the ER Air Event.

New Business Topics of Discussion were:

Ryan Anderson, Eaton Rapids High School Student Council Instructor, appeared before the Council with the annual request for the Homecoming Parade to be held on September 21, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., with the parade route being from River Street to State Street to Greyhound Drive and the duration being approximately one hour.

Mayor Malewski asked if the band would be participating in the parade. Mr. Anderson stated that they would be participating weather permitting. Mayor Malewski asked if the residents in this area would be notified by the road closure. Mr. Anderson stated that they would be going out the week of the event and contacting homeowners of the event. This item will appear on the August 13th Agenda for Council consideration.

Water Senior Foreman Lease reviewed with Council the purchase of a 1 ton Dump truck that would be fitted with a plow for the Water Department. Water Senior Foreman Lease stated that this would replace a truck that they currently have at the Department, which would be given to the DPW for use. Water Senior Foreman Lease stated that with the purchase of this vehicle it would allow them to assist the DPW with plowing in heavy snowfall situations. Mayor Malewski stated that this was a budgeted item which had been approved in the budget. Council thanked Water Senior Foreman Lease for the review and agreed to move ahead with the purchase.

DPW Senior Foreman Nobach reviewed with Council the purchase of a big salt and dump truck that will replace the 18 year old plow truck at the DPW. DPW Senior Foreman Nobach stated that this vehicle was very much needed as the current truck no longer had the power to get the jobs done properly. DPW Senior Foreman Nobach stated that this truck would have to be ordered and built and would not be delivered to the City until 2019. Mayor Malewski stated that this was a budgeted item which had been approved in the budget. Council thanked DPW Senior Foreman Nobach for the review and agreed to move ahead with the purchase.

WWTP Foreman Perry reviewed with Council the need to purchase an affluent sampler for the Department. WWTP Foreman Perry stated that the currently sampler was not working properly. WWTP Foreman Perry stated that they had received quotes and it was WWTP Supervisor Hughes recommendation to purchase the equipment from the low bid of Hack Company at a cost of \$6,397.25. WWTP Foreman Perry stated that this was not a budgeted item, but needed this equipment for correct sampling and requirements to be fulfilled. Council thanked WWTP Foreman Perry for the review. This item will appear on the August 20th Agenda for Council consideration.

Mayor Malewski reviewed with Council his idea of selling the brick pavers that were taken from the street project 10 years ago and selling them to residents so that they could own a piece of Eaton Rapids history. Mayor Malewski stated that there were approximately 200,000 bricks being stored down at the DPW and that he had received numerous inquires from citizens about purchasing them. Mayor Malewski stated that they could be sold for a moderate price with all of the monies being given to the Parks Department Revenue Budget and to start getting rid of them to help clean up this area of the DPW. Mayor Malewski stated that he would recommend selling them for \$1.00/brick.

Councilman Wichman stated that he would like to see a plan from the City as to what they felt the future use and projects could be used around the City with these bricks. Councilman Wichman stated that they were historical bricks and should be preserved and did not want to give up a large portion of them because once they were gone they would be gone. Councilman Wichman stated that he felt we should do this for a trial period and only sell a portion of the bricks pending on the level of interest from the citizens.

Mayor Malewski asked if Council would consider selling 100,000 of the bricks. Councilman Wichman stated that with the Michigan Main Street Program, Redevelopment Ready Program and Rising Tides Program that all of these programs would not be fully up and running for 2 to 5 years, and that maybe hold off selling them to see what the bricks could be used for in regards to these projects and where the vision would be. Councilman Wichman stated that some of the bricks had already been used at Mill Pointe Park and that it was in the plan to have a walkway continue at Mill Pointe Park so to keep with the continuity of the park to use some of the bricks in this area and did not know what other opportunities were out there for the bricks to be utilized around the City at various locations.

Mayor Malewski asked if Council would consider 20,000 bricks which would raise \$20,000 for the Parks Budget. Mayor Malewski stated that it could be advertised that no Commercial sales of the bricks. Councilman Wichman stated that he would want these bricks to be allowed to Commercial Businesses as some of the business owners in the City might have ideas for them to enhance their businesses in the downtown by repurposing these bricks. City Manager Desentz stated that in other communities that had done similar projects, when a Commercial business came in and wanted to purchase all of the bricks they had not wanted to be the \$1/brick fee, so that by selling them for \$1/brick this would take care of itself as far as Commercial sales.

Councilwoman Colestock stated that she agreed with the sale of a portion of the bricks as this area needs to be cleaned up and that there is currently no idea or plan as to what to use them for and that this would help to generate revenue in the Parks Budget to go toward special events and immediate needs.

Councilman Harri stated that he would like the Quality of Life Board to identify where the bricks could be used around the City as in the past he had heard of several different uses for them at various Parks locations.

Mayor Malewski asked if Council had the authority to specify what the monies raised could be used for and that it could go the Parks Budget. City Manager Desentz stated that Council did have this authority. Mayor Malewski stated that he would like to see the money used in the Parks for Park upgrades and physical amenities. City Manager Desentz stated that this would have to be the consensus of the Council.

Councilman Harri stated that he would like the bricks to be incorporated in the Parks where needed as well as selling a portion of the bricks.

Mayor Malewski asked if there was Council consensus to sell 20,000 bricks at a cost of \$1/brick and see what the interest was as well as seeing where else the bricks could be repurposed in the City Parks. Council agreed to proceed with Mayor Malewski's recommendation.

City Manager Desentz reviewed with Council pricing that he had obtained on resurfacing the Pickle Ball Courts at Howe Field. City Manager Desentz stated that it was not in the best interest/design to pour asphalt over concrete as cracking and shifting could still happen and the cost for this would be in excess of \$25,000. City Manager Desentz stated that there was an alternative which would be a court surface that you could apply over the existing concrete

and the cost of this would be \$5,200 plus \$450 for the court stripping. City Manager Desentz stated that there would be minimal additional cost as the courts would have to be cleaned up prior to pouring and applying the court surface over the concrete.

Councilman Wichman asked what the total investment has been so far for the Pickle Ball Courts. City Manager Desentz stated that he did not have this information with him, but so far fencing had been installed and that the basketball hoops had been removed and relocated at the park that is adjacent to the Public Safety Facility.

Councilman Wichman asked what the plan was for the Park and where was this in the current Park Master Plan. City Manager Desentz stated this had been presented to the Quality of Life Board and this was why the project had been started. Councilman Wichman stated that he did not feel comfortable to continue to invest City monies in this area and Park as this was not in the City's Park Master Plan and money kept being funneled to this project when Mill Point Park was clearly in the Park Master Plan and there were projects that needed to be completed at Mill Pointe Park. Councilman Wichman asked how the Pickle Ball Courts fit into the Park Master Plan and did not want to throw money away on a plan that was not in the Parks Master Plan.

City Manager Desentz stated that when he had began working for the City he had been presented with a Project List of projects that were currently in the work for the City and had not been completed. City Manager Desentz stated that these projects were the Frisbee Park, Dog Park, Pickle Ball Courts and Rails End Park. City Manager Desentz stated that if it was the Council's desire to step back from these projects and not fund them because they were not in the Parks Master Plan then he would need to have consensus of Council on this.

Councilwoman Colestock stated that in the past there were numerous projects being done that Council had not been made aware of by previous administration and that multiple projects had been started and nothing had been finished.

Councilman Wichman stated that he did not feel comfortable reacting to the loudest voice and wanted a clear vision going forward. Councilman Wichman stated that this Council had been put in an awkward position because of previously committed resources that were inconsistent with the Parks Master Plan and that the Mill Pointe Parks project had been being ignored. Councilman Wichman stated that the Mill Pointe Park Project had gone through the proper review in the Parks Master Plan and a vision had been set and that the State had approved a river trails project and that this was the correct process and monies had been budgeted whereas the Pickle Ball Courts were not properly budgeted for or in the Parks Master Plan.

Councilman Harri stated that he felt that all of these issues needed to go back to the Quality of Life Board and the new Quality of Life Director needed to have them sift through all of the projects and prioritize them with budget figures on completing all of the projects and then have Quality of Life Director Zeller present the Board recommendations to Council.

City Manager Desentz stated that he agreed with Councilman Harri and like this process and this is how all of the projects should proceed and apologized for any misunderstanding on his part regarding the project list that he had been handed when he started.

Mayor Malewski stated that the Quality of Life Board had inherited two new facilities with legacy costs with no Council or Quality of Life involvement but previous Administrative decisions had been made that had not been discussed with Council. Mayor Malewski stated that the Pickle Ball Courts was the same issue and that should this continue to be funded by the City or should we even finish this project. Mayor Malewski stated that Mill Pointe Park had been through the proper process and that a recommendation had come from the Quality of Life Board and had been prioritized that there needed to be a bathroom facility/changing area and then a pavilion and then a fishing pier as monies were available. Mayor Malewski stated that most people down there would use the restroom facility and changing area, then the pavilion and then the third priority was the fishing pier. Mayor Malewski stated that all of the projects at Mill Pointe Park were positive, but a lot of ranking had gone in on the discussion at the Quality of Life Board Meeting to come up with what would be the most advantageous. Mayor Malewski stated that Council had been left with a mess to clean-up from previous administration and that unfortunately Council had to navigate through the mess with the parks that had been created that were unfunded.

Councilman Harri again stated that he felt that all of the projects needed to go to the Quality of Life Board and brought back to Council with their recommendation on where to proceed and prioritize all of the projects.

Mayor Malewski asked that Council give direction to the City Manager and Quality of Life Director on the Council's preference on how to move forward and proceed with the projects that were half done and not completed.

Councilwoman Colestock stated that she would like the City Manager to give a list to Council on the projects that need completion with costs associated with the completion so that Council can review and prioritize. Councilwoman Colestock stated that previous administration had just done things so she was not sure what projects were even out there and that she also had concerns with staffing and training at the ORC Center.

City Manager Desentz stated that he currently had an estimation of \$7,000-\$10,000 to finish the restrooms/changing area at Mill Pointe Park and that it would be approximately \$5,000 for the fishing pier. City Manager Desentz stated that he would get costs associated with having a pavilion built at Mill Pointe Park.

Councilwoman Colestock asked where the discussion had gone at the July Quality of Life Board Meeting. Councilman Wichman stated that he had taken very detailed notes and that they wanted to follow the direction of the Parks Master Plan. City Manager Desentz stated that all of the site work has been completed in this area, that the grant is done and that the City had no more formal responsibility.

Councilwoman Colestock asked if all of the projects were sent to the Quality of Life Board what would come back to Council as a recommendation. City Manager Desentz stated that the Parks Master Plan would be followed and the focus would be on Mill Pointe Park and that a priority list would be designed with this component and then the Quality of Life Board would pass this information on to the City Council.

Mayor Malewski stated that a fishing pier in this location would need to be close to the Knight Street bridge between the launch and the bridge; that the pavilion would be adjacent to the ORC and the restroom/changing area.

Councilman Wichman stated that it was his recollection from the Quality of Life Board meeting that a pavilion was not a priority. Mayor Malewski stated that he had just had a conversation with Board Member Ford and that the pavilion was the second priority, with the restroom/changing facility being the number one priority and the fishing pier the third priority.

Councilman Wichman stated that the restrooms would need to be ADA compliant as well as the fishing pier and that one of the projects that was not being listed was the rain garden and the Fall plantings that needed to be done.

Mayor Malewski asked if pavilion pricing could be received and pricing given to Council and to move forward with the building of an octagon pavilion and that also part of the project at Mill Pointe Park would be a ramp getting citizens to the fishing dock. City Manager Desentz stated that sidewalks needed to be considered to all of the facilities that were being talked about in this area. City Manager Desentz stated that he will get with Quality of Life Director Zeller and bring this information back to Council for future discussions.

Public Comments:

Russ Hicks, Columbia Hwy., appeared before Council regarding the five historic timbers that had been taken from the dam that was removed and how it would be nice if these could be incorporated into the pavilion design.

Jeremy Babcock, 559 Harwood Court, appeared before Council and stated that some of the bricks that had been previously discussed could be used at the Northwester Park nature trail.

Patrick McNutt, 751F Island Court, appeared before Council stating that the fishing pier could be located the other side of the "mound" that is at the ORC so that it would not be in the way of the launch.

Old Business Topics of Discussion were:

City Manager Desentz reviewed with Council Chapters 5 and 6 of the Council Rules and Procedures and went over the language changes. Council thanked City Manager Desentz for the review. This item will continue to be reviewed at future Worksessions.

Reports:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.