

November 11, 2019

Worksession

A Worksession of the City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on November 11, 2019 at 5:00 p.m.

Present were Councilpersons Colestock, Harri, Wichman and Burke. Mayor Malewski arrived at 6:16 p.m.

Administrative Staff Present were City Manager Desentz, Clerk Boomer, Fire Chief McNutt, Building Official Hummel, DPW/Utilities Director Antone, Quality of Life Director Zeller and Main Street/DDA Director Smith.

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

Public Comments: None

New Business Topics of Discussion were:

1. City Manager Desentz presented and reviewed with Council the status of the CDBG river walk project to replace the pedestrian bridge on the east side of GAR Island Park, repair the sea walls around the park and construct a river walk foot bridge from Hamlin Square along the island shores to Mill Pointe Park. CDBG funds will cover 90% of the project and the DDA has pledged \$150,000. Brian VanZee from C2AE presented and reviewed the proposal for engineering services for the project. Colestock voiced concerns over the City's contribution and other infrastructure projects that need funding. Wichman commented that the river is a huge priority for the City. Harri added that 90% funding grants are rare. Wichman commented that this is the last round of 90% funding and that future grants will only offer 75% funding. Burke commented that the utility refund could cover the City's contribution. The C2AE proposal is on the formal agenda.
2. Building Official Hummel presented and reviewed with Council the Property Maintenance Code enforcement update. He reported that about 70% of residential property owners who received letters have complied or are still working on violations. About 51% of commercial/industrial properties have complied or are still working on violations. The commercial/industrial are not due until May 1, 2020. Fire Chief McNutt also contributed to the discussion.
3. Quality of Life Director Zeller presented and reviewed with Council the Residential Curb-side Grant Report. Twenty-three grant applications were approved and 20 of the projects have been completed. Total project costs came in at \$43,671.91 with the City issuing \$16,415.65 in reimbursements.
4. Quality of Life Director Zeller presented and reviewed with Council the Special Event Application submitted by the Eaton Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce for the Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting Event. Chamber of Commerce Director McGee contributed to the discussion. The application is on the formal agenda for approval.

5. City Manager Desentz presented and reviewed with Council that Eaton County Equalization is challenging the DDA capture of funds for the northern district saying they were not notified of the Public Hearing in 2017 by certified mail and therefore not given the opportunity to opt out. They do admit that the notice was received and posted. The City Attorney is reviewing this.
6. City Manager Desentz presented and reviewed with Council the Wastewater Capital Improvements Plan. The SCADA System upgrades are needed sooner than originally thought. Council discussed options for the payment of the needed improvements.

Unfinished and Special Business: None

Public Comments:

Russ Hicks appeared before Council and reported that Eaton County parks is considering a millage that could generate funds for the City's Parks. He reported that Upper Grand River Water Trail signage has been ordered. That the Grand River Expedition is planning a stop in Eaton Rapids with about 100 tents expected. He provided an update on dams risk management.

Training Attendance Update: None

Reports:

Mayor Malewski asked about the construction of the floor hockey walls and was advised that DPW constructed them but that funds would be paid out of the Quality of Life programming budget. Boomer advised that the election storage at the Fire Department will be constructed soon.

Wichman moved, Harri seconded, PASSED, to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Paul O. Malewski, Mayor

Laura Boomer, City Clerk