

A regular meeting of the City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street on Monday, April 12, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Platte called the meeting to order.

Present were Mayor Platte and Councilpersons Greenhoe, Brown and Harri. Councilman Letarte arrived at 7:05 p.m., during the invocation.

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Brown.

The Agenda was approved as printed.

The March 22, 2010 Regular minutes and the March 29, 2010 Worksession minutes were approved as printed.

Councilman Harri moved that disbursements of \$541,361.39, with the breakdown being General Fund Checks in the amount of \$152,665.17 - check numbers 52005 through 52100, Meter Deposit Refund Checks in the amount of \$1,025.62 - check numbers 100222 through 100234 and Wire Transfers in the amount of \$387,670.60 be approved; seconded by Councilwoman Brown, passed unanimously.

Police Chief Malewski introduced First Lieutenant Ed Hay and Lieutenant Chris Kelenske from the Michigan State Police. The Lieutenant's presented Officer Kirby and Officer Long with Awards of Professional Excellence regarding the apprehension of escaped felony prisoners from Montcalm County. Officer Kirby and Officer Long received a standing ovation.

Police Chief Malewski presented to Council the 2009 Police Department Report.

Mayor Platte asked for a motion to Open the Meeting for a Public Hearing on the 2010-2015 Parks and Recreation Plan to be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources; Councilman Harri moved the Meeting be Opened; seconded by Councilwoman Brown, passed unanimously. The meeting was Opened at 7:15 p.m.

Kim Byerly, Department of Public Works Office Manager, gave Council a presentation regarding the surveys that were sent out and received and the highlights from the surveys.

Councilman Letarte asked about the non-motorized trail system at the east end of Knight Street and Miller Drive that would connect the School system and make a safer walkway for our youth. Ms. Byerly stated that this was addressed in the report under item and trail number 24. Councilman Letarte asked if this could be broken out separately as it needs to be a priority for the safety of the students. Ms. Byerly stated that this was a part of the Safe Routes to Schools funding and can be done and moved up.

Mayor Platte asked what the feasibility of this route was without there even being a road at this location. Ms. Byerly stated that Right-of-Way issues needed to be investigated.

Manager LeFevere stated that currently the land is being farmed and could create issues.

Rod Schultz, 1303 Montgomery Street, stated that it had been mentioned that a brochure needed to be created, and wondered if this could just be placed on the website to save trees.

There were no other comments.

Mayor Platte asked for a motion to Close the Public Hearing. Councilwoman Brown moved the Public Hearing be Closed; seconded by Councilman Greenhoe, passed unanimously. The Public Hearing on the 2010-2015 Parks and Recreation Plan was Closed at 7:25 p.m.

Councilwoman Brown moved Council approve the 2010-2015 Parks and Recreation Plan; seconded by Councilman Letarte. Councilman Harri asked what the possible projects from the survey would be completed in 2010. Ms. Byerly stated that the only project scheduled were the pocket park due to the MDOT Project as well as possible work done by the DDA on the Island wall. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilman Greenhoe moved Council approve the Resolution for the Eaton Rapids Rotary Club; seconded by Councilwoman Brown, passed unanimously. Mayor Platte presented the Resolution to Rotary President Sean Cotter.

Councilman Harri moved Council approve the Resolution for the Tri-County Safe Prom Initiative; seconded by Councilman Letarte, passed unanimously. Mayor Platte presented the Resolution to Police Chief Malewski.

Rod Schultz, 1303 Montgomery Street, appeared before Council regarding the new phone system; the website needing to be updated; and the City Limit sign on Kinneville Road.

Jennifer Grivens, 6080 Springport Road as well as a teacher at the High School, appeared before Council to give a presentation regarding the Earth Day activities scheduled for the City.

Reuben Green, 630 Forest Street, appeared before Council regarding the trees on Main Street.

Mayor Platte reported on the following: that MDOT is hard at work on Main Street; that he will be attending the MML Legislative Conference this week; and congratulated Officer Kirby and Officer Long as well as the Police Department for a job well done.

Councilwoman Brown reported on the following: that the Eaton Rapids Home and Garden Club would be interested in helping and knowing about the scheduled Earth Day activities;

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thanked the citizens for their comments; congratulated the Police Department on representing the City in such a positive fashion; reminded citizens to fill out their Census forms; and that the Siren Shelter will be holding a fundraiser in the near future and urged all that could to help with this worthwhile cause.

Councilman Greenhoe reported on the following: congratulated Officer Kirby and Officer Long as well as the whole Department for a job well done; that the Parks Report was good information; reminded everyone to help celebrate Rotary Day in Eaton Rapids tomorrow; thanked Ms. Grivens for the Earth Day presentation; and that Council has discussed the Main Street tree issue and will have more information coming in the following weeks.

Councilman Harri reported on the following: congratulated the Police Department for their fine service to the citizens; that Council is looking into the tree situation; and thanked Ms. Grivens for the Earth Day Presentation.

Councilman Letarte reported on the following: congratulated Officer Kirby and Officer Long for a job well done; that along with the Earth Day Clean-up on Saturday, the Historical Society will be doing a clean-up as well and could use volunteers.

Fire Chief McNutt reported on the following: that positions are in the process of being filled at the Department; and that the ladders had been recently tested at the Department.

Police Chief Malewski reported on the following: that tickets are being issued due to the MDOT Construction and violations by motorists; that they did not receive the MDOT Funding; that the Speed Trailer will not be delivered until sometime in May; that Council will be seeing five proposed Traffic Control Orders due to the construction; that there will be a Community Gardening Meeting in the near future; that the Department will be receiving funding to purchase a fence to enclose the garden; and that apple trees have been donated to plant in the Community Gardens.

Mayor Platte reminded everyone that the Walk Michigan Program will be beginning within the City for Friday walks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Steven G. Platte, Mayor

Kristy Reinecke, City Clerk