

A worksession of the City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on Monday, February 7, 2011, at 5:00 p.m.

Present were Mayor Platte and Councilpersons Brown, Greenhoe and Harri. Councilman Letarte arrived at 5:15 p.m.

Administrative Staff Present was City Manager Jon Stoppels, Police Chief Paul Malewski, Building Inspector Jon Hill, WWTP Director Todd Nichols, City Assessor Mike Baker, Fire Chief Roger McNutt, City Treasurer Robert Damon, City Superintendent Scott Poyer, Deputy Carla Mazur and City Clerk Kristy Reinecke.

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

Department Head Reports:

City Treasurer Damon reported on the following: that Burnham and Flower will be coming to the City on Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. to meet with employees and answer questions.

Police Chief Malewski reported on the following: that there were several stops this weekend for controlled substance and drunk driving.

Public Comments:

None.

Old Business Topics of Discussion were:

City Manager Stoppels reviewed with Council the memo from the City Attorney regarding the property located on Dutton Street. City Manager Stoppels stated that an Administrative Hearing had been set, and the owners of the property had not shown up. City Manager Stoppels stated that the next step was to have a hearing before Council and that this will be scheduled for Monday, February 14th. Council thanked City Manager Stoppels for the update.

Councilman Letarte arrived at this point in the meeting.

Mayor Platte reviewed with Council the request from the Home and Garden Club to have a Blue Star Memorial placed at Memorial Park. Mayor Platte reviewed with Council the drawings that were presented by DPW Director Poyer, as well as photos of the area. After discussion, it was the consensus of Council to have the Parks Board review the request and location and make a recommendation to Council for further review.

New Business Topics of Discussion were:

DPW Director Poyer reviewed with Council the Electric Purchase Risk Policy. DPW Director Poyer stated that Council had three options, either a short term, intermediate term, or long term option. DPW Director Poyer explained to Council the advantages to all of the options, but that it was his recommendation to go with the long term option. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to have this on the February 28th Agenda.

City Manager Stoppels reviewed with Council the applications from Dowding and Astraeus Wind Energy for Tax Abatements. City Manager Stoppels stated that the Public Hearing for this has been scheduled for the February 28th Agenda. Councilman Letarte asked if there were dollar figures associated with this abatement. City Manager Stoppels stated that City Assessor Baker could have these figures available for Council at the next Worksession.

WWTP Director Nichols reviewed with Council the availability to have Michigan Rural Water Association do a water and sewer rate study at no cost to the City. WWTP Director Nichols stated that this information would be helpful to the Council and Staff with the upcoming Budget being prepared. Council agreed to have this done as it was at no cost. WWTP Director Nichols stated that he would contact Michigan Rural Water Association and have a representative come and gather the information as soon as next week. Council thanked WWTP Director for this service and information.

DPW Director Poyer reviewed with Council the Granger replacement cost. DPW Director Poyer stated that so much of the City's energy needs to be green, and that Granger has only fulfilled about 50% of the required portion. DPW Director Poyer stated that the Michigan Public Power Agency was recommending to its members to enter into an Agreement with North American Natural Resources for the renewable energy purchase. This item will appear on the February 14th Agenda.

DPW Director Poyer reviewed with Council that Resolutions need to be passed by Council for the MDOT Monies as well as the MEDC Monies to be received. These Resolutions will appear on the February 14th Agenda.

City Treasurer Damon reviewed with Council the 2nd Quarter Budget Adjustments. Treasurer Damon answered questions of Council. Council thanked Treasurer Damon for the report. The recommended Budget Adjustments will appear on the February 14th Agenda.

Public Comments:

None.

Other Items of Discussion:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Steven G. Platte, Mayor

Kristy Reinecke, Clerk