

A regular meeting of the City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street on Monday, July 25, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Platte called the meeting to order.

Present were Mayor Platte and Councilpersons Brown, Greenhoe and Harri. Councilman Letarte was absent and excused.

The invocation was given by Councilman Greenhoe.

The Agenda was approved as printed.

The July 11, 2011 Regular Minutes and the July 18, 2011 Worksession Minutes were approved as printed.

Councilwoman Brown moved that disbursements of \$549,842.76, with the breakdown being General Fund Checks in the amount of \$50,582.09 - check numbers 57619 through 57675 and Wire Transfers in the amount of \$499,260.67; seconded by Councilman Harri, passed unanimously.

Mayor Platte opened the meeting for a Public Hearing on the Planning Commission's recommendation to allow the keeping of chickens in the City. The Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m.

Mayor Platte gave a brief background of what the Planning Commission has recommended to Council, which is to allow chickens in the City for citizens to be able to produce eggs. Mayor Platte stated that when this recommendation came to the Council from the Planning Commission, that it was the Council's decision to hold the public hearing to get citizen response to this Ordinance. Mayor Platte stated that due to the number of citizens in attendance at the meeting that there would be a three minute time limit at the Public Hearing.

Jack Stohr, 206 Albers, appeared before Council stating that he is in favor of chickens being allowed in the City and read a document he had prepared regarding chickens being allowed in the City and comparables from other City's.

Reuben Green, 630 Forest Street, appeared before Council stating that he is against chickens in the City as the City already has a hard enough time enforcing the Ordinances that are currently on the books.

Theodore VanAken, 915 Hall Street, appeared before Council stating that he is for chickens in the City and how it would be educational for his children.

Brad St. Aubin, 710 Hastay Blvd., appeared before Council stated that he was against chickens in the City and that he felt that this was not the direction that the City needs to go

with already declining property values and the image that we wanted to portray to potential new residents.

Richard England, 502 S. Main Street, appeared before Council stating that he was against chickens as this would hurt property values; that the manure was an issue; and that he felt that this was the wrong direction for the City to take.

Janet Laverty, 610 Hastay Blvd., appeared before Council stating that she was against chickens due to it hurting property values, the manure issue, and that this would not be attractive to future residents.

Paul Wegner, 509 Drahner, and a member of the Planning Commission, appeared before Council stating that the Commission had looked at communities that already had ordinances in place, and they were communities such as Portage, Ann Arbor and East Lansing, and that after his research, he was for chickens in the City.

Beverly England, 502 S. Main Street, appeared before Council and stated that the City needs to look at this long and hard and to not allow chickens in the City as it would be a mess with manure and smell.

Brenda Stohr, 206 Albers Street, appeared before Council and finished reading the document that her husband had prepared regarding allowing chickens in the City.

Jordan VanAken, 915 Hall Street, appeared before Council and stated that she was for chickens and the educational process that this would provide to children and also the ability for City residents to participate in 4-H.

Karen Harding, 518 Canal Street, appeared before Council and stated that she was for chickens as long as there were stipulations on the way that the coops looked, that they would be cooped and not free range, and that other setback guidelines were addressed in the ordinance.

Deb Malewski, 1308 Hall, and the Chair of the Planning Commission, appeared before Council stating that the Commission had done an extensive research on this and felt that it would not hurt the image of the City, but would in fact be a good image for the City.

Marty Vanek, 1211 S. Main Street, and a member of the Planning Commission, appeared before Council stating that he was hesitant about the proposal, and that he felt that there should be some type of language that if you wanted chickens, that you needed to get permission from your neighbors, that the chickens did create large dirt spots in the lawn, and that he felt that privacy fences should have to be installed if you wanted chickens.

Robert Napieralski, 4427 Hyatt Street, appeared before Council stating that his property value has dropped over \$30,000 in the last three years and did not feel that the addition of chickens to the City would hurt his property values anymore than what they already are.

There were no further public comments. Mayor Platte closed the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m. Mayor Platte informed the citizens that this will be discussed by Council at the next Worksession scheduled for Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Harri moved Council approve the Resolution extending a moratorium on medical marijuana facilities, permits, approvals and certificates in the City of Eaton Rapids; seconded by Councilwoman Brown, passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Brown moved Council approve the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Kristy Reinecke, City Clerk, to be the Officer Delegate at the 2011 MERS Annual Conference; seconded by Councilman Harri, passed unanimously.

Councilman Greenhoe moved Council approve the election conducted by the City Clerk to have Jeff Verhougstraete be the employee delegate and Keith Miller be the employee alternate at the 2011 MERS Annual Conference; seconded by Councilwoman Brown, passed unanimously.

Robert Napieralski, 4427 Hyatt Street, appeared before Council commending the City Assessor for his patience and help with a recent situation he had regarding the FEMA Flood Zone and that the City is lucky to have someone like Mike Baker on their staff.

Mayor Platte reported on the following: reminded everyone about the Park Dedication scheduled for Friday at 2:00 p.m.; and that there have been several interested artists in the mural project at the Pocket Park.

Councilman Greenhoe reported on the following: that he was glad for all of the citizen participation at the meeting tonight.

Councilwoman Brown reported on the following: thanked everyone for their input at the meeting tonight, and that the chicken discussion will be reviewed again by Council at the Worksession on Monday at 5:00 p.m.

Councilman Harri reported on the following: thanked the City Assessor for his good work and that all of the staff for the City works hard; that he appreciates the Planning Commissions efforts that they have done on the Chicken Ordinance and the number of people that have turned out regarding this issue.

City Manager Stoppels reported on the following: that the siding at 747 Michigan will be completed this week; that the home on Jackson Street has been demolished and the

debris is in the process of being removed; that the building located next to the Pocket Park was painted to get ready for the dedication on Friday; and that two artists have shown interest in the painting of the mural on the building.

Councilwoman Brown moved Council go into Closed Session to discuss strategy and negotiations regarding collective bargaining; seconded by Councilman Harri, passed unanimously. Council went into Closed Session at 7:45 p.m.

Councilwoman Brown moved Council reconvene back into open session seconded by Councilman Greenhoe, passed unanimously. Council reconvened back into open session at 8:30 p.m.

Councilman Harri moved Council approve to ratify the tentative Fraternal Order of Police Labor Agreement; seconded by Councilwoman Brown, passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

---

Steven G. Platte, Mayor

---

Kristy Reinecke, City Clerk