

A worksession of the City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on Monday, January 21, 2013, at 5:00 p.m.

Present were Mayor Platte and Councilpersons Greenhoe, Brown, Harri and Norris. None were absent.

Administrative Staff Present was City Manager Jon Stoppels, DPW/WWTP Director Todd Nichols, Utility Director Scott Poyer, City Assessor Mike Baker, Police Sergeant Daniel Paling, Treasurer Lisa St. Aubin, Deputy Treasurer Carla Mazur, Building Inspector Hill, Library Director Sandy Porter, Fire Chief Roger McNutt and City Clerk Kristy Reinecke.

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

Mayor Platte stated that there would be a Closed Session added for the purposed of strategy and negotiation regarding collective bargaining.

**Public Comments:**

None.

**Department Head Reports:**

None.

**New Business Topics of Discussion were:**

Marta Ford gave a presentation to Council regarding a Civitans Club being formed in Eaton Rapids. Ms. Ford passed out brochures and urged Council to call with any further questions and suggestions regarding a date and time for weekly meetings. Council thanked Ms. Ford for the presentation.

**Old Business Topics of Discussion were:**

Mayor Platte and Russ Hicks reviewed with Council the Rapids Project. Mayor Platte stated that the Grant Application would not have a decision made until March 22<sup>nd</sup>, and that by that time, if the City did not fund the project, it would be 3 months behind schedule. Mayor Platte stated that if the Grant was awarded to the City, the money spent by the City would be given back, but at this point due to other unforeseen projects, the City would need to dip into Fund Balance to continue. Russ Hicks stated that the project could still be completed within the guidelines of the Grant if it was put on hold until after March 22<sup>nd</sup>. It was the consensus of Council to wait and see if the Grant monies were awarded to the City on March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Fire Chief McNutt reviewed with Council the Fire Department Mutual Aid Agreement for Medical runs with Eaton Rapids Township. Fire Chief McNutt stated that he and

Councilman Norris and Councilman Greenhoe had met with the Township and had reviewed the document and answered questions that Council had. Fire Chief McNutt stated that the next step would be to send the document to the City Attorney for review, and then bring back to Council with any further suggestions and have final approval on the document.

Council reviewed Chapters 1, 2 and 2 1/2 of the City Code. Council reviewed the suggestions from the Municipal Code Corporation, as well as suggestions from various Department Heads. Mayor Platte stated that all of the suggestions would be noted and could be revisited at any time as the process continues. Mayor Platte stated that at the next Worksession, that sections 3, 4 and 5 be reviewed by Council.

**Public Comments:**

None.

**Council Comments for the Good of the Order:**

Mayor Platte stated that there will be a meeting hosted by the DDA for business owners who are interested in learning more about the National Designation Register. Mayor Platte stated that the meeting would be held on Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Mayor Platte stated that the July 4<sup>th</sup> Committee has started meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday's of the month at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall, and encouraged anyone that wanted to be involved to come to the meetings. Mayor Platte stated that the next meeting was scheduled for February 12<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Platte stated that he and the City Manager had met with some members of the Eaton Rapids Development Corporation and that they had a potential client interested in one of the properties that they owned for a future restaurant and would keep Council informed on the progress.

Mayor Platte stated that the Marketing Alliance Committee, made up of the Hospital, Schools and the City, had hired a new marketing firm of M3, and hoped that the new firm would be much more beneficial to the entities involved.

Councilman Greenhoe asked what the discussions were at the Parks Board Meeting pertaining to the water fountain at Memorial Park. City Manager Stoppels stated that the Parks Board is still reviewing this item and getting costs associated with either removing the fountain completely, moving to a different location, or maintaining the fountain at its current location. City Manager Stoppels stated that after the Parks Board had the information, they would be making a recommendation to Council.

Councilman Greenhoe asked what the status was on the Playground of Dreams. City Manager Stoppels stated that this item was on hold due to budget constraints and the unforeseen projects that had happened this year.

**Closed Session:**

Councilman Harri moved Council go into Closed Session for strategy and negotiations regarding collective bargaining; seconded by Councilman Greenhoe, passed unanimously. Council went into Closed Session at 6:16 p.m.

Councilwoman Brown moved Council reconvene back into Open Session; seconded by Councilman Harri, passed unanimously. Council reconvened back into Open Session at 6:40 p.m.

Councilman Greenhoe asked what the status was on the Life Insurance issue. City Manager Stoppels stated that the City had denied the Union's counter proposal.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

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Steven G. Platte, Mayor

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Kristy Reinecke, City Clerk