

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

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

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

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

Public Comments:

Russ Hicks, Columbia Hwy., appeared before Council and presented them with three recreational signs for the various canoe/kayak launch sites within the City.

Department Head Reports:

Councilman Burke asked how many new homes were being built in Riverwood Estates. Building Inspector Hill stated that there were a total of three being built right now.

Building Inspector Hill reported on the following: that the home owned by Mr. Inghram on Knight Street had a judgement entered on it last week where they have 14 days to finish the project; and that the Grove Street issue had two judgements on it last week, with a period of 14 days to clean-up the property.

Fire Chief McNutt reported on the following: that Eaton Rapids Township had passed the Medical Mutual Aid Agreement with a few changes to the document that their attorney had suggested and he would be getting Council a copy of this for their review.

Old Business Topics of Discussion were:

City Manager Stoppels and Russ Hicks reviewed the dam removal/white water rapids project. Russ Hicks stated that there were a lot of variables in the project, but if everything went well this project could still be constructed this Fall for use in the Spring.

City Manager Stoppels stated that this would be reviewed with the DDA at their meeting on Friday, and that Council will be kept updated.

New Business Topics of Discussion were:

City Clerk Reinecke reviewed with Council the results of the Employee Election for the MERS Representative at the annual MERS Convention that is being held in October. This item will appear on the August 12th Agenda.

Mayor Platte opened the meeting for a Public Hearing on the Property Maintenance Violation for property located at 308 Blake Street. The Public Hearing opened at 5:26 p.m.

Building Inspector Hill reviewed with Council the pictures and issues surrounding the property. Council thanked Building Inspector Hill for the information.

The property owner was not present to speak on their behalf.

Mayor Platte closed the Public Hearing on the Property Maintenance issue at 5:33 p.m.

Councilwoman Brown moved Council authorize the Building Inspector to have the property cleaned up as soon as possible; seconded by Councilman Greenhoe, passed unanimously.

City Manager Stoppels reviewed with Council the Resolutions that need to be approved by Council for the change in the Municipal Employees Retirement System (MERS) per the negotiations with the Police Department.

Councilman Greenhoe moved Council approve the MERS Resolutions per the negotiations with the Police Union; seconded by Councilwoman Brown, passed unanimously.

DPW/WWTP Supervisor Nichols reviewed with Council the proposal that he had received from Mid-Michigan Recycling in the amount of \$600 per grinding hour for the removal of the brush pile at the DPW grounds. DPW/WWTP Supervisor Nichols stated that the quoted price was the same as when they had performed this service in 2011.

Councilman Harri moved Council approve the proposal from Mid-Michigan Recycling for the Tub Grinder at a cost of \$600 per grinding hour; seconded by Councilman Burke, passed unanimously.

Mayor Platte reviewed with Council that in the past couple of weeks he had received various complaints from residents regarding fireworks, and that the Police Chief and Fire Chief are looking at Ordinances and will have them reviewed with the City Attorney and brought back to Council at a future Worksession.

Public Comments:

None.

Council Comments for the Good of the Order:

Mayor Platte stated that the Wounded Warrior Project at the Kayak Company was a great event with a very nice turn out.

Councilwoman Brown stated that she had attended the event and that it was well received by all and was a great event for our community and that there were several more of these events scheduled.

Mayor Platte and City Manager Stoppels reviewed with Council the idea of having a fireplace located in the downtown area of the City and being constructed out of the bricks that are being stored at the DPW grounds. Council was in agreement with the idea of a downtown fireplace. City Manager Stoppels stated that he will keep Council informed on the findings of placement.

Councilman Greenhoe stated that the City trucks were in disrepair and could even be considered a hazard as some of them were in such bad shape. City Manager Stoppels stated that he had told the Department Heads to have the vehicles looked at and that if seats need to be repaired or replaced, then to have this done.

Councilman Burke stated that he had attended the Touch A Truck Event and that this was a great event for the community. Councilman Burke asked when the movies were picked for the Movie Events held on Friday's at the Amphitheater and who picked the movies. Mayor Platte stated that the movies were picked in April and May and set for the Summer schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

Steven G. Platte, Mayor

Kristy Reinecke, City Clerk