

A worksession of the City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on Monday, October 20, 2014, at 5:00 p.m.

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

Administrative Staff Present was City Manager Jon Stoppels, City Assessor Mike Baker, Quality of Life Director Troy Stowell, Library Director Sandy Porter, Fire Chief Roger McNutt, Utility Director Scott Poyer, Police Chief Larry Weeks, City Treasurer Marrie Jo Carr and City Clerk Kristy Reinecke.

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

Public Comments:

None.

Department Head Reports:

Mayor Platte asked how the Main Street Trick-or-Treat event was coming along. Quality of Life Director Stowell stated that at this time there are 25 businesses that will be participating.

New Business Topics of Discussion were:

Utility Director Poyer introduced Paul Powell who is a Representative from the Army Corp of Engineers. Mr. Powell reviewed with Council the work that has been completed to date. Mr. Powell stated that the next step would need to be a Feasibility Study. Mr. Powell stated that the City's portion of the project would be \$180,000. This item will appear on a future Worksession Agenda for further discussion.

City Manager Stoppels reviewed with Council the agreement that was reached with the property owners on Michigan Street regarding access to the rear of their property through City property. City Manager Stoppels stated that the agreement had been reached over at the Courthouse on Monday and that the Judge had agreed with the proposed agreement in settling this dispute. This item will appear on the October 27th Agenda for Council consideration.

City Manager Stoppels reviewed with Council the proposal from the Michigan Municipal League on the Administrative Search for the Building Inspector and Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent. City Manager Stoppels stated that he had worked with the MML on getting a significantly reduced rate for the searches. Council instructed City Manager Stoppels to proceed with the search with the assistance of the MML.

Old Business Topics of Discussion were:

City Manager Stoppels reviewed with Council the Advanced Auto preliminary design. City Manager Stoppels stated that this had been reviewed at the Planning Commission, and that the Planning Commission had concerns with land locking one home in this block between Commercial properties and that the proposed building would not have a residential look. City Manager Stoppels stated that at the Planning Commission meeting it was discussed about having a professional planner come in and look at the proposed development and give his recommendation to the Planning Commission. City Manager Stoppels stated that this cost would then be given to the developer to pay. After a lengthy discussion it was the direction of the Council to proceed with the professional planner looking at the proposed development. City Manager Stoppels stated that he will get a quote from the developer on the cost and have this reviewed by the developer before proceeding.

Public Comments:

John Greathouse, 306 State Street, appeared before Council representing the Postal Service Workers and the possibility of the closure of the Lansing/Collins Road postal distribution center.

Robert Broughman, 740 Michigan Street, appeared before Council regarding who property owners were to contact to gain access to their properties through the DPW yard with Todd Nichols no longer working for the City. City Manager Stoppels stated to contact City Hall and this could be arranged.

Council Comments for the Good of the Order:

Mayor Platte shared with Council the NOAA Weather Service recognition of the WWTP for 50 years of service to NOAA Weather on documenting the weather in Eaton Rapids and that this is a recognition that is not easily attained. Council commended the WWTP on this accreditation and recognition.

Closed Session:

Councilwoman Brown moved Council go into Closed Session to discuss strategy and negotiations regarding the Department Head agreement; seconded by Councilman Burke, passed unanimously. Council went into Closed Session at 6:02 p.m.

Councilwoman Brown moved Council reconvene back into Open Session; seconded by Councilman Harri, passed unanimously. Council reconvened back into Open Session at 6:15 p.m.

Councilwoman Brown moved Council go into Closed Session to review an Attorney Client Privileged Communication; seconded by Councilman McGee, passed unanimously. Council went into Closed Session at 6:16 p.m.

Councilwoman Brown moved Council reconvene back into Open Session; seconded by Councilman Burke, passed unanimously. Council reconvened back into Open Session at 6:58 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Steven G. Platte, Mayor

Kristy Reinecke, City Clerk