

A worksession of the City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on Monday, June 6, 2016, at 5:00 p.m.

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

Administrative Staff Present was City Manager Jon Stoppels, Police Chief Larry Weeks, Quality of Life Director Troy Stowell, City Treasurer Marrie Jo Carr, Building Official LeRoy Hummel, Fire Chief Roger McNutt, 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 gave an update on the Rapids Project that will be beginning in two weeks.

Paul Malewski, 1308 Hall Street, appeared before Council regarding the river clean-up that was held last Friday; and that he will be giving water safety classes next Thursday and Friday at the school pool.

**Department Head Reports:**

Councilman McGee asked about the removal of the drinking fountain by the playground. City Manager Stoppels stated that it was being removed and would be replaced at some time but that there were two other drinking fountains at Howe Field that could be used.

Councilman Burke asked how the de-junking day went. City Manager Stoppels stated that there was a huge turn out and it ran well and the City would be considering holding another one in the Fall.

Councilwoman Colestock asked about the Community Assessment meeting. Quality of Life Director Stowell stated that there is a meeting on Friday that is the wrap-up from the meeting where participants gave their input.

**New Business Topics of Discussion were:**

Quality of Life Director Stowell reviewed with Council the events and activities that are being planned for the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Quality of Life Director Stowell stated that the parade will begin at 11:00 a.m., with TNT Music Announcing entries in the downtown area; there will be a food and craft area; a kid zone; pedal pullers; there are plans for a movie following the fireworks and that they are still looking for someone to sponsor a beer tent. This item will appear on the June 13<sup>th</sup> Agenda for Council consideration.

Mayor Platte stated that the next item on the agenda was a grievance proceeding to be held in Open Session per the request of the grievant, Lisa Kirby. Mayor Platte stated that comments from people in attendance would be held to three minutes.

Tom Krug, Union Representative for the FOP, appeared before Council and stated that he was here to support Officer Kirby and felt that she should be reinstated as there was no reason whatsoever to terminate her.

Lisa Kirby read a prepared statement to Council regarding her grievance and asked for Council consideration to reinstate her to her position with the Eaton Rapids Police Department.

Tom Krug, Union Representative once again stated that Officer Kirby should be reinstated to the Police Department; that the Chief of Police reports directly to the Mayor and Council according to the City Charter.

Mayor Platte stated that Council had 15 days to act on a decision regarding the grievance issue.

Mayor Platte reviewed with Council the request from the Relay for Life Organization to waive the Noise Ordinance. Patrick McNutt, a member of the Relay for Life in Eaton Rapids, stated that the Relay for Life Event was being held at the High School in front of the band room, that the Event would take place on June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 p.m. on June 17<sup>th</sup> until noon on June 18<sup>th</sup>. This item will appear on the June 13<sup>th</sup> Agenda for Council consideration.

Building Official Hummel reviewed with Council an issue with a fence located at 709 West Street and that in order to leave the fence where it was Council would need to approve it as it was in violation of the City Code. This item will appear on the June 13<sup>th</sup> Agenda for Council consideration.

**Old Business Topics of Discussion were:**

City Manager Stoppels reviewed with Council the Parks Fund Budget. City Manager Stoppels stated that if Council had questions or concerns to see him, but this item will continue to be discussed at future worksessions.

**Public Comments:**

Tracy Lawson, 207 Lindy and owner of Your Creative Escape, appeared before Council in support of Officer Kirby; how she felt that her business was not included in City Events such as Urban Air, Main Street Trick-or-Treat, the July 4<sup>th</sup>, and that they did not feel welcomed by the City.

Jamie Lawson, 207 Lindy and owner of Your Creative Escape, appeared before Council regarding a handicap sign in front of his business is needed.

Krista Lehner, 201 W. Oak Street, St. Johns, appeared before Council regarding a theater group that used to be located in Eaton Rapids that was now located in St. Johns that moved there because they did not feel welcome in Eaton Rapids; and asked about a reaction from Staff during Officer Kirby's presentation.

Rod Schultz, 1303 Montgomery Street, appeared before Council regarding Officer Kirby.

Paul Malewski, 1308 Hall Street, appeared before Council stating that in 2012 the MML came to the City and gave all employees a Sexual Harassment Program.

Krista Lehner, 201 W. Oak Street, St. Johns, appeared before Council asking where an Officer was to go if there was an issue with command staff. Mayor Platte stated that the Police Department was a Union Bargaining Unit and should go the Chief and if not satisfied with the result then go to the Union, that this was proper procedure.

Ottmar Holley, 7706 S. Royston Road, appeared before Council in support of Officer Kirby.

Elizabeth Kortman, 787 N. Gunnell Road, appeared before Council stating that she was a small business in Eaton Rapids and was really happy here and felt welcomed working in the City.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

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Steven G. Platte, Mayor

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Kristy Reinecke, City Clerk