

A Worksession of the City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street, on Monday, October 16, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

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

Administrative Staff Present was City Manager Jon Stoppels, City Treasurer Marri Jo Carr, Building Official LeRoy Hummel, Police Chief Larry Weeks, Quality of Life Director Troy Stowell, Fire Chief Roger McNutt, Library Director Anna Curtis 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 stated that an ADA compliant picnic table has been delivered to the ORC and donated to the City; that he had passed out a catalog of where the table was purchased and the City could possibly look at purchasing bike rakes, benches and other items from this company that is located in Mulliken.

Department Head Reports:

None.

New Business Topics of Discussion were:

City Treasurer Carr reviewed with Council the recommendations that had come from the Auditor's regarding special funds that have been created. City Treasurer Carr stated that the Auditor's are requiring a Resolution from Council stating what the Funds are to be used for and the monies in these Funds stay within the Fund and are used for the specific purpose as defined. This item will appear on the October 23rd Agenda for Council consideration.

Mayor Platte reviewed with Council that the Rails End Park approval naming was inadvertently left off of the October 9th Council Agenda, and that Quality of Life Director wants to get the signs ordered and placed as soon as possible so was looking for Council approval on the item. Councilman Burke moved that Council approve the Quality of Life Board's Recommendation for the naming of the new Park that is being located on Line Street to be "Rails End Park"; seconded by Councilman McGee, passed unanimously.

City Treasurer Carr reviewed with Council the First Quarter Budget Amendments. City Treasurer Carr answered questions of Council regarding the Amendments. Council thanked Treasurer Carr for the review. This item will appear on the October 23rd Agenda for Council consideration.

City Clerk Reinecke reviewed with Council the MPPA's recommendation for the purchase of power for the 2019 and 2020 Hedge Plan. This item will appear on the October 23rd Agenda for Council consideration.

Mayor Platte reviewed with Council that City Manager Stoppels has tendered his resignation that will be effective on November 3, 2017. Mayor Platte reviewed with Council how the search was conducted back in 2010 through the Michigan Municipal League to fill the City Manager position. Mayor Platte stated that the search and process is at least a 12 week progress, with his intention of interviews for the City Manager position being conducted in January, after the November Election so that the then seated Council would be conducting the interviews. Council was in agreement with the process through the Michigan Municipal League. This item will appear on the October 23rd Agenda for Council consideration.

Mayor Platte reviewed with Council that when the previous City Manager had left the City and until City Manager Stoppels had been hired, the Council had looked at hiring an interim manager. Mayor Platte stated that to hire an interim manager was very costly, so at that time Council had formed a "Core Group" to handle the Administrative duties of the City, with Council support, until a new City Manager could be hired. Mayor Platte stated that this had worked out very well and had saved the City a considerable amount of money. Mayor Platte stated that it would be his recommendation to Council to reinstate a "Core Group" to fill the gap until a new City Manager could be hired and that he would be recommending the City Clerk and City Treasurer for the daily activities, with himself and Councilman Burke for consultation on pending issues. Mayor Platte stated that the last time that the "Core Group" had been used, at the end of their tenure, a bonus had been given to the employees that were in the Core. Mayor Platte stated that this could not be promised, but wanted it to be considered and kept in mind at the end of the interim process. Council was in agreement with the "Core Group" being formed. This item will appear on the October 23rd Agenda for Council consideration.

Old Business Topics of Discussion were:

None.

Informational Updates:

Mayor Platte reported on the following: that the fire pit at the ORC Center is almost completed; that there is a COG Meeting at City Hall on Thursday; and that the river is up thanks to the rain that we received over the weekend.

Police Chief Weeks reported on the following: that the Lien computer system will be audited on December 13th.

Public Comments:

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Steven G. Platte, Mayor

Kristy Reinecke, City Clerk