

CITY OF ST. JOHNS
CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

JUNE 26, 2023

The regular meeting of the St. Johns City Commission was called to order by Vice Mayor Dzurka at 6:00 p.m. at the Clinton County Courthouse, 100 East State Street, 2nd Floor, Suite #2200, St. Johns, Michigan.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Eric Hufnagel, Jean Ruestman, Brad Gurski, Scott Dzurka, Chris Hyzer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Kristina Kinde, Interim City Manager/Treasurer; Mindy J. Seavey, City Clerk; Justin Smith, Director of Public Services; Anne Seurnyck, City Attorney

FILLING OF VACANCIES, FILLING OF MAYOR, VICE MAYOR IF NEEDED

Vice Mayor Dzurka discussed beginning of the filling the vacancies of mayor and vice mayor.

There was a discussion that this isn't a reorganization and at this time only the position of mayor needs to be filled. The vice mayor position would only need to be filled if needed.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman and seconded by Commissioner Gurski that the city commission correct the agenda to reflect Filling of Vacancies, Filling of Mayor, Vice Mayor if needed.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Vice Mayor Dzurka opened the nominations for mayor.

Commissioner Ruestman nominated Eric Hufnagel for Mayor. She discussed her reasons for nominating him.

There was a discussion on whether a second is required for a nomination.

Commissioner Gurski nominated Scott Dzurka for Mayor. He discussed his reasons for nominating him.

There were no other nominations.

Motion by Commissioner Gurski seconded by Commissioner Ruestman to close the nominations.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Vice Mayor Dzurka asked for a vote on the nomination for Eric Hufnagel as mayor.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel to appoint Eric Hufnagel as mayor.

Clerk Seavey called a roll call vote:

YEA: Ruestman

YEA: Hufnagel

NAY: Gurski

NAY: Hyzer

NAY: Dzurka

Motion failed.

Motion by Commissioner Gurski seconded by Commissioner Hyzer to appoint Scott Dzurka as mayor.

Attorney Seurnyck said if passed, the vice mayor position automatically becomes vacant.

Clerk Seavey called a roll call vote:

YEA: Gurski

YEA: Ruestman

YEA: Hyzer

YEA: Hufnagel

YEA: Dzurka

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Mayor Dzurka thanked the commissioners for their support.

Commissioner Ruestman nominated Eric Hufnagel for Vice Mayor. She discussed her reasons for nominating him.

Commissioner Dzurka nominated Brad Gurski for Vice Mayor. He discussed his reasons for nominating him.

There were no other nominations.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hyzer to close the nominations.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel to appoint Eric Hufnagel as vice mayor.

Clerk Seavey called a roll call vote:

YEA: Ruestman

YEA: Hufnagel

NAY: Gurski

NAY: Hyzer

NAY: Dzurka

Motion failed.

Motion by Commissioner Hyzer seconded by Commissioner Dzurka to appoint Brad Gurski as vice mayor.

Clerk Seavey called a roll call vote:

YEA: Gurski

YEA: Ruestman

YEA: Hyzer

YEA: Hufnagel

YEA: Dzurka

Motion carried.

Mayor Dzurka assumed the chair and asked if any of the commissioners or persons present wished to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

a. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the minutes of the May 18, 2023 special meeting and May 22, 2023 regular meeting be approved as presented.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None
Motion carried.

b. Approval of Warrants

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that warrants be approved as presented in the amount of \$583,206.93.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

c. Motorola Service Agreement – Patrol Car Onboard Video Camera System

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission ratify the service agreement with Motorola for the warranty extension on all cameras in the amount of \$1,825.00 and authorize the mayor or vice mayor to sign.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

d. Year End Budget Adjustments

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission approve the year end budget adjustments as per City Treasurer Kinde's memo.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

e. Principal Shopping District/Downtown Development Authority Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission reappoint Corinne Trimbach to the Principal Shopping District and Downtown Development Authority Boards as recommended (terms expiring June 30, 2027).

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

f. Revision of Section #320 of the Personnel Manual – Personal Protective Footwear Reimbursement

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission approve the revision of section #320 of the Personnel Manual.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

g. Police Department National Night Out Donations

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission approve the police department sending out letters to local businesses and service groups soliciting donations for the National Night Out program.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

h. National Night Out 2023 Proclamation

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission adopt the National Night Out 2023 Proclamation and authorize the mayor and clerk to sign.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

i. Clinton County Road Commission – Chip Seal Agreement on Scott Road & Walker Road

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission ratify the agreements with the Clinton County Road Commission and authorize the mayor or vice mayor and city clerk to sign the agreements.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

j. Phone System - Spectrum VoIP

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission ratify the Commercial License Agreement with Spectrum and authorize the mayor or vice mayor to sign and authorize staff to complete and sign the other necessary paperwork to transfer our phone numbers over to Spectrum.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

k. Personnel Policy #305 - Holidays

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission approve the revision to section #305 of the Personnel Manual.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

l. Automatic Door Locks - Depot and Park

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission approve the door lock proposals from Knight Watch.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

m. Merit Bonuses

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission award merit bonuses to all three individuals who successfully passed Drinking Water Exams.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

n. Higham Street Parking Lot Engineering & Design

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission approve the proposal from Wolverine Engineers and Surveyors and authorize the mayor or vice mayor and clerk to sign.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

AGENDA

Mayor Dzurka asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.

There were none.

Motion by Commissioner Gurski seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission approve the agenda as presented.

AGENDA

A. OPENING:

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Filling of Vacancies: Filling of mayor, and vice mayor, if needed.
4. Consent Agenda

The staff proposes the following items for the Consent Agenda. If any Commissioner wishes to discuss any of these items, it should be placed on the regular agenda. The remaining items and recommendations may be approved en masse:

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - Special meeting of May 18, 2023
 - Regular meeting of May 22, 2023
- b. Approval of Warrants
 - In the amount of \$583,206.93
- c. Motorola Service Agreement – Patrol Car Onboard Video Camera System
 - Staff recommends that the city commission ratify the service agreement with Motorola for the warranty extension on all cameras in the amount of \$1,825.00 and authorize the mayor or vice mayor to sign.
- d. Year End Budget Adjustments
 - Staff recommends that the city commission approve the year end budget adjustments as per City Treasurer Kinde's memo.
- e. Principal Shopping District/Downtown Development Authority Appointment
 - The St. Johns PSD/DDA Boards of Directors recommends the city commission reappoint Corinne Trimbach to the Principal Shopping District and Downtown Development Authority Boards as recommended (terms expiring June 30, 2027).
- f. Revision of Section #320 of the Personnel Manual – Personal Protective Footwear Reimbursement
 - Staff recommends the city commission approve the revision of section #320 of the Personnel Manual.
- g. Police Department National Night Out Donations
 - Staff recommends the city commission approve the police department sending out letters to local businesses and service groups soliciting donations for the National Night Out program.
- h. National Night Out 2023 Proclamation
 - Staff recommends that the city commission adopt the National Night Out 2023 Proclamation and authorize the mayor and clerk to sign.

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- i. Clinton County Road Commission – Chip Seal Agreement on Scott Road & Walker Road
 - Staff recommends the city commission ratify the agreements with the Clinton County Road Commission and authorize the mayor or vice mayor and city clerk to sign the agreements.
 - j. Phone System - Spectrum VoIP
 - Staff recommends that the city commission ratify the Commercial License Agreement with Spectrum and authorize the mayor or vice mayor to sign and authorize staff to complete and sign the other necessary paperwork to transfer our phone numbers over to Spectrum.
 - k. Personnel Policy #305 - Holidays
 - Staff recommends the city commission approve the revision to section #305 of the Personnel Manual.
 - l. Automatic Door Locks - Depot and Park
 - Staff recommends the city commission approve the door lock proposals from Knight Watch.
 - m. Merit Bonuses
 - Staff recommends the city commission award merit bonuses to all three individuals who successfully passed Drinking Water Exams.
 - n. Higham Street Parking Lot Engineering & Design
 - Staff recommends the city commission approve the proposal from Wolverine Engineers and Surveyors and authorize the mayor or vice mayor and clerk to sign.
 4. Approval of Agenda:

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

C. PERSONS WISHING TO PRESENT TESTIMONY:

1. Public comment - agenda & non-agenda items

D. COMMUNICATIONS:

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Parks and Recreation Board Recommendation – Main Park Road Closure

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. King Media Invoices
2. Resolution to Comply with the Provisions of Public Act 152 of 2011 (#16-2023)
3. Resolution #17-2023 to Adopt an Ordinance to Adopt a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances #676
4. Sparks Grant Resolution (#18-2023)
5. Fantasy Forest – Fiscal Agent Letters
6. Jeep Track Expansion
7. Street Program Bids

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8. St. Johns Chamber of Commerce Special Event – Mint Festival – August 11 – 13, 2023
 9. Principal Shopping District/Downtown Development Authority Special Event – Mint Festival Down at the Depot – August 11 & 12, 2023 & Application for Alcohol Use or Sale
 10. Planning Commission – Acceptance of Resignation of James Ensign from the Planning Commission and Appointment to Fill Two Vacancies
 11. City Offices Discussion
 12. Commissioner Comments

G. ADJOURNMENT:

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PERSONS WISHING TO PRESENT TESTIMONY

1. Public Comment

Mayor Dzurka asked if there were any public comments.

Carolyn Smith, resident, was present. She discussed her concerns with the drag show that was held downtown on June 3rd and discussed the application for events.

Cheryl Nodarse, resident, was present. She thanked the St. Johns Call In Coalition for putting together the event and making us proud to be part of the community.

Cheryl Cole, resident, was present. She discussed her concerns with spending, the Wilson Center, city roads, King Media, the decorum of commissioners, and taxes.

Andrea Ryan, co-founder of the St. Johns Call In Coalition, was present. She thanked the commissioners for supporting the Pride Fest and also thanked law enforcement.

Lori Zelenka, resident, was present. She discussed the purchase agreement, legal documents, quality of Zoom meetings, the Wilson Center spending, King Media, the Sugar Bowl building, the city charter, mayor position, and leaf pick-up.

Roberta Cocco, resident, was present. She discussed lack of transparency, King Media invoices, and statements released recently by the city.

Brian Mills was present. He said he submitted an application for appointment to the planning commission or any other commission. He discussed his background and thanked the commission for their consideration.

Kelly McCausey, resident, was present. She thanked everyone for the Pride Fest. She discussed seeing the commission give each other respect even when they disagreed and thanked everyone.

Mayor Dzurka thanked them for their time and important issues. He said the commission comments would be at the end of the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

OLD BUSINESS

1. Parks and Recreation Board Recommendation – Main Park Road Closure

Recreation Director Schafer said this came before you two months ago and we are bringing back estimates for you to consider. They solicited 3 and received 2 back: Dewitt Fence and Maco Tool. Staff is recommending Dewitt Fence.

There was a discussion of:

- The two options and their differences.
- The location of the gates.
- The purpose of the gates.

Motion by Commissioner Gurski seconded by Commissioner Ruestman that the city commission move forward with Dewitt Fence for \$8,900.00.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. King Media Invoices

Mayor Dzurka said he wanted to address this. He said the city attorney had a chance to review the process and content of invoices. He said he wanted to take the opportunity today to put an issue to rest regarding the King Media contracts:

- The former mayor made allegations regarding the City's handling of these contracts, so we wanted to set the record straight.

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- The City agreed to pay a monthly consulting contract of \$4,000 per month for the June 1, 2022-June 30, 2023. The cost of that includes 20 hours of work. However, if the City requested work over that 20-hour limit, King Media would charge a rate of \$200 per hour. He clarified this was not a “flat fee” contract. There were a number of months where the City needed and requested services that exceeded the \$4,000 monthly service amount. The City received invoices that explained the services and the additional hours, several of which involved the former mayor such as phone calls with the mayor, direct work with the mayor, or work with her initiative Coffee with a Cop, and the Wilson Center was a major request from this body and the mayor. There was a request for board and committee one-page documents, also communication for the parking plan and signage and pre-work was begun. The invoices were presented at regular meetings to the City Commission as part of the bill paying process and for our review. The City Commission understood what services King Media provided and did not need any other additional information or detail from King Media to approve the bills. All received copies of bills since this issue was raised. Although the City has spent significant time over the last few months on this issue trying to resolve the issue, the allegations continue to be raised.

Attorney Seurnyck said the biggest misunderstanding this is a \$4,000 contract and they were spending in excess. This is a contract that has two different pricing structures: \$4,000 per month for 20 hours. The city is in control of what you ask them to do. The contract also has \$200 per hour for over 20 hours in it. She said it is not a flat fee contract and it is up to you as a city to decide what is appropriate. There is a misconception that the city treasurer has hidden invoices. You all have seen those and had a chance to ask questions.

Mayor Dzurka said a point was raised earlier on the contract itself and getting preauthorization for amounts.

Attorney Seurnyck read that portion of the contract “King Media will provide estimates” and said sometimes clients want an estimate, but they don’t think it is unusual if you call them up and they do the work. It doesn’t mean you violated the contract because the estimates were not provided.

Commissioner Ruestman said one of the criticisms was a lack of effective communication to the public, which is why we entered into a contract with them. We felt those were important communications and it was work above and beyond what the staff could do since they are already extremely busy.

Mayor Dzurka said everyone has the bills. We went back to requests from this body. Our option, if we get into a larger project, is to get bids like we did our last meeting with the signs. We may want to examine further costs before an action is taken. He said he would like to move forward from this:

- (1) The City Commission has been presented with the invoices for monthly consulting services from King Media;
- (2) Those invoices identified work that King Media performed for the City that exceeded the monthly hours and consulting service amount of \$4,000;
- (3) The City Commission understood what additional work was requested and has been completed by King Media as well as the time reconciliation for those projects and we require no additional information from King Media regarding those services;
- (4) Although the City Commission has approved the invoices as part of its bill payment process, there appears to be some belief by members of the public that the City did not understand the expenses, approve the expenses, or that the expenses were not in compliance with the contract.
- (5) To move forward, I suggest that the City Commission ratify the approval for the invoices for the June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023.

Motion by Commissioner Hufnagel seconded by Commissioner Ruestman that the city commission ratify the approval for the invoices from June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

2. Resolution to Comply with the Provisions of Public Act 152 of 2011 (#16-2023)

City Clerk Seavey said the city has opted-out annually since 2015. This year, we have potential to be over the hard cap due to our funding of the HSA and potential HRA funding. She said staff recommends the city commission adopt the resolution to exempt us from PA 152. By adopting this resolution to opt-out, we are in compliance and we are keeping this on our radar annually.

There was a discussion of the reason for opting-out.

Motion by Commissioner Hyzer seconded by Commissioner Gurski that the city commission adopt Resolution #16-2023 – Resolution to Comply with the Provisions of Public Act 152 of 2011.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

3. Resolution #17-2023 to Adopt an Ordinance to Adopt a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances #676

City Clerk Seavey said annually we have American Legal codify any ordinances we have adopted through the last year. The S-17 supplement includes Ordinances #665 through #672. We are able to adopt this ordinance at the meeting tonight without introducing it.

Motion by Commissioner Gurski seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission adopt Resolution #17-2023 to Adopt an Ordinance to Adopt a Supplement to the Code of Ordinances #676.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

4. Sparks Grant Resolution (#18-2023)

Recreation Director Schafer said this is a Sparks Grant Resolution. He said this is the COVID money available by the state and administered by the DNR. This would help to replace Fantasy Forest. There is not a match required for this grant.

There was a discussion of:

- COVID money
- Turn-around time on grants
 - Should find out in September
- This is the second round. They funded 24 projects in the first round and our grant application was number 1,097.

Motion by Commissioner Gurski seconded by Commissioner Hyzer that the city commission adopt Sparks Grant Resolution (#18-2023).

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

5. Fantasy Forest – Fiscal Agent Letters

Interim City Manager Kinde said there are two different letters to be approved separately. The first is for a Sparks Grant and the second is a general approval. Also, we would be the fiscal agent for money coming in.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Gurski that the city commission approve the support letter for the sparks grant for Fantasy Forest.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Hufnagel seconded by Commissioner Hyzer that the city commission adopt the general support letter for Fantasy Forest acknowledging the city as fiscal agent.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

6. Jeep Track Expansion

Recreation Director Schafer said the Mint City Off Road Foundation is currently running the Jeep track and looking to expand. They want to run up to 3 courses: beginner, intermediate and advanced. Right now, their agreement has a 1-year automatic renewal. If approved, they want a 3-year commitment. Right now, this land is under contract to be farm land so it would start January 1st. We can lease property that is still there as farm land.

There was a discussion of:

- The attorney reviewed the agreement.
- The relationship with the group.
- Restoring land to what it was before, at the end of an agreement.
- Removing Community Development Director from the agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Gurski seconded by Commissioner Ruestman that the city commission approve the lease and direct the city attorney to clarify the restoration of property would be to 2018, and removing reference to community development director.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

7. Street Program Bids

Director Smith said this will begin years 11 to 15 of our street millage. We are excited about this and they are really great projects. He discussed the five areas that will be done this year. We entered into a contract with C2AE to assist us with this. We will not be starting the projects until after July 1st. We received two bids: Michigan Paving &

Materials and Rieth Riley. He discussed the bids. He said we would be approving the bids tonight and in July will bring the contract with Michigan Paving and Materials to you for ratification.

There was a discussion of:

- How the quote compared to our budget.
 - The quote is below our budget.
 - At the end of the 5-year cycle, if we have additional funds, we will try to do another street or sidewalks.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that city commission accept the bid from Michigan Paving.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

8. St. Johns Chamber of Commerce Special Event – Mint Festival – August 11 – 13, 2023

Interim City Manager Kinde said this is the permit application for Mint Festival. She said most permits do not come to the city commission, but this asks us to forgive some costs for police and DPW. She discussed the Mint Festival special event request and items we won't be able to do.

Motion by Commissioner Hufnagel seconded by Commissioner Gurski that the city commission approve the special event permit for the Mint Festival August 11-13.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

9. Principal Shopping District/Downtown Development Authority Special Event – Mint Festival Down at the Depot – August 11 & 12, 2023 & Application for Alcohol Use or Sale

Executive Director Hanover said this will be held in the third block of Clinton Avenue. The alcohol use you approve is for during the car show. They will have two bands on Friday and Saturday nights and a cornhole tournament also.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hyzer that the city commission approve the special event application for alcohol use or sale during the Mint Festival.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

10. Planning Commission – Acceptance of Resignation of James Ensign from the Planning Commission and Appointment to Fill Two Vacancies

Mayor Dzurka said the planning commission has been having issues with getting a quorum.

Motion by Commissioner Hufnagel seconded by Commissioner Hyzer that city commission accept the resignation of James Ensign from the Planning Commission.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Mayor Dzurka said we will be filling two spots for the planning commission. He thanked those who have applied. He asked for feedback on applicants. He discussed interactions with James Eshelman and we heard from Brian Mills this evening.

Commissioner Hufnagel said he agrees with your assessment.

Attorney Seurnyck said you need to state who you want to appoint individually and the appointment has to be approved by the body.

Mayor Dzurka said we have two different terms: 2024 & 2025.

Mayor Dzurka recommended Brian Mills be appointed to fill out the seat that expires 11/2024.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Gurski that city commission appoint Brian Mills to the Planning Commission (term ending 11/2024).

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Mayor Dzurka recommended James Eshelman be appointed to fill out the seat that expires 11/2025.

Motion by Commissioner Hufnagel seconded by Commissioner Hyzer that city commission appoint James Eshelman to the Planning Commission (term ending 11/2025).

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

11. City Offices Discussion

Mayor Dzurka said in previous meetings we discussed our lease with the county. We opted to not move offices to the Wilson Center and wanted to look at other options.

Interim City Manager Kinde said she talked with John Fuentes, County Administrator. We put conversations on hold due to security and changes to security. She discussed our indirect costs with the county and one of the areas that came up was the amount the city was paying for security. She said now there is going to be a change with security. She reached back out and he is willing to restart a conversation. He can't speak to the interest of the board, but will continue discussions with the city commission. She said we have \$800,000 sitting in escrow with the county.

Mayor Dzurka asked if there were questions on the lease or opportunities we wanted to discuss with the county and if there were any additions to that?

Commissioner Hufnagel said we need a broader discussion. He said over the years we had discussions periodically and a couple of opportunities that came to our attention. We looked at the Congregational Church when it was up for sale and it was more of a reactive review to it and we had to come up with information quickly. He said the same thing happened with the Wilson Center. He said it would behoove us to have that conversation for occupancy at this point. He said he would like to have a broader conversation and not be in a reactive mode. We have a new city manager that's coming in and it is a perfect time to bring him in.

Commissioner Ruestman said with security, everyone coming into the building will go through security. What is the cost allocation based on?

Interim City Manager Kinde said it is based on square footage. We are treated as any department here in the county and there are various line items. We pay close to \$90,000 per year. Security was the area we thought we had a lot of room for negotiation.

There was a discussion of:

- The cost allocation plan.

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- If there is any way to know how many people coming into the building are here for the city or the county.
 - What services we provide compared to the county.
 - Needing to have something measurable.
 - Will need the input and assessment of the new city manager.
 - A space needs study has been done (with commission chambers and without).
 - Put this on the city manager's long-range to-do-list.
 - May want to form a new ad hoc committee.

12. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Gurski thanked them for support on being vice mayor. He said he wanted to address a few things tonight. He thanked Ms. Kelly for her comments. He said this job is not easy or fun and he is not doing it for personal gain. He said taxes and costs are going up and the tax rate and millage is what it is; it's capped and that's where it's at. He said we capture more money by selling and building of new homes. The assessment goes up, but the tax rate stays the same. He said he agrees with a full charter review. With how outdated the document is, it is almost impossible to follow and it is not going to be an easy process. It is going to take a long time and we can't just change it; it has to be a vote of the people and a committee formed. He said he keeps hearing the transparency buzz word. Transparency is interesting and is something people want to see. Everybody has a different truth or different belief and sometimes we don't like the truth. Finally, talking about mayor and vice mayor, our last meeting was a side show and entertainment worthy and he is hoping a new charter can address some of those things. By charter, mayor and vice mayor are ceremonial heads of this meeting here. We operate as one unit; besides an emergency, we are one unit. He said lots of people get confused. Our Charter is different. Those are some facts. Truth not transparency. He thanked Mr. Thelen for attending the ambulance board meeting last month and said he has full trust and faith in Mr. Thelen. He said there is nothing exciting to report, just changes in personnel.

Commissioner Ruestman thanked Commissioner Gurski for his comments. She said she wanted to address that she was told she was being disrespectful when she spoke, when she looked down, or tried to write notes. She said she can't apologize for how her face looks when writing notes. She said she takes offense she was only one who was called out. She asked for respect to be given both ways. She did attend Pride Day and had a fabulous time and there was lots of love. She said the drag show was incredibly entertaining and she has seen less clothing in other places. She said there were people of all ages and people were respectful to one another. She was pleased people were made to feel welcome and it was inclusive. She attended the kick-off for the summer reading

program at the library and it was very well attended. It is a great program the library puts on and is a huge asset to our community.

Commissioner Hufnagel said with the application for events, the events do not come to the commission unless it is a request to sponsor, co-sponsor or some type of staffing and financial support. Any contract this body considers goes to the and is fully vetted by the city attorney. He said with the comment about the old Sugar Bowl, it is a private building and it sat there for a very long time before the new owners took it on. He is glad the new owners wanted to take on and move forward. With respect to streets, it is a big deal to the community and had been a big deal for 40 years. Finally, as a commission we had a referendum and had the public decide whether they wanted to invest. We have a millage now and are in our 11th year and have made a lot of progress. We are very transparent on the decisions on the streets. We can't do everything all at once. We have an outstanding program every year and most years we come under cost. This is not exactly the way we want, but we are making progress. Many places are state trunk lines we have no control over. He said he is proud of the work staff has done.

Commissioner Hyzer said he appreciated city staff for all the help they have given him over the last month. He said questions were answered and documents sent. He congratulated the 3 individuals who have passed their water exams.

Mayor Dzurka thanked them for their support. As mayor, he will be responsible to city and residents and responsive to you. He hopes he can work closely with you. All 5 of us are leaders. He said he appreciated the opportunity. He said all of us show our leadership skills. On the roads, some areas were mentioned in ill repair and he believes those were water/sewer related.

Director Smith said it is very expensive to have a crew come in for one or two patches. We have them come in the spring or summer; we like to have patched up before the Mint Festival. We need to get a crew in to do multiple patches, it doesn't make financial sense to have them come in and patch a small area.

Mayor Dzurka said he is excited to look at the city charter as well. We can also make minor changes if we see something we need to expedite. The Wilson Center was mentioned in public comments, but wasn't on the agenda. Commissioner Ruestman and I met with the attorneys regarding the condo documents. The construction documents will be coming back, and both will be back for the July meeting. Conversations are moving forward and going really well. Thank you to the DPW and kudos to the community on the Soapbox Derby event. He said the clean-up was done before businesses opened on Monday. Kudos on the improvements to the leaf pick-up and efficiencies. We penned a contract with Chad Gamble who is going to join us in July and we will be hosting a

community open house for Chad on July 12th up here. This gives people an opportunity to say hello to him and hopefully you can all introduce yourselves at the reception. He said he had an opportunity to go to a meeting on Dewitt Road and road construction. The State budget is being finalized this week and Dewitt road may be included. It is not in the city, but it will re-route trucks from the cheese factory. It will also affect 21 & 27. It will move from a local to a primary seasonal road and is slated to happen next year if successful in the budget. He recognized and thanked Interim City Manager Kinde. Thank you for double duties and you logged a lot of hours. Thank you for your work, we appreciate it.

Director Smith said he wanted to recognized Kristina for himself and staff. He said Kristina stepped in with strong leadership and he has respect for her. He discussed the unwarranted criticism she received. Thank you for myself and staff.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Hyzer seconded by Commissioner Ruestman that the meeting be adjourned.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m.