

CITY OF ST. JOHNS

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

JUNE 22, 2020

The regular meeting of the St. Johns City Commission was called to order by Mayor Hufnagel at 6:00 p.m. through a virtual meeting at www.gotomeeting.com.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Heather Hanover, Eric Hufnagel, Bob Craig, Jean Ruestman, Tamara Kirschenbauer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Jon Stoppels, City Manager; Mindy J. Seavey, City Clerk; Kristina Kinde, City Treasurer; Dave Kudwa, Community Development Director; Steve Martin, Director of Public Services; John B. Salemi, City Attorney; David Kirk, Police Chief

Mayor Hufnagel asked if any of the commissioners or persons present wished to discuss any of the items on the consent agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Craig that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

Clerk Seavey called a roll call vote:

YEA: Craig

YEA: Hanover

YEA: Kirschenbauer

YEA: Ruestman

YEA: Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

a. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Craig that the minutes of the June 8, 2020 regular meeting be approved as presented.

YEA: Hanover, Hufnagel, Craig, Ruestman, Kirschenbauer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

b. Approval of Warrants

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Craig that warrants be approved as presented in the amount of \$235,592.48.

YEA: Hanover, Hufnagel, Craig, Ruestman, Kirschenbauer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

c. Year End Budget Adjustments

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

YEA: Hanover, Hufnagel, Craig, Ruestman, Kirschenbauer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

d. 2020/2021 Fee & Rate Correction

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Craig that the city commission approve the 2020/2021 corrected Fee & Rate Schedule as noted.

YEA: Hanover, Hufnagel, Craig, Ruestman, Kirschenbauer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

e. Savin Lease Agreement & Addendum – Police Department Copier

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Craig that the city commission approve the Savin dealer value lease agreement and state and local government addendum and authorize the police chief to sign.

YEA: Hanover, Hufnagel, Craig, Ruestman, Kirschenbauer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

AGENDA

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

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Kirschenbauer that the city commission approve the agenda as presented.

AGENDA

A. OPENING:

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consent Agenda

The staff proposes the following items for the Consent Agenda. If any Commissioner or person attending 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
 - Regular meeting of June 8, 2020
 - b. Approval of Warrants
 - In the amount of \$235,592.48
 - c. Year End Budget Adjustments
 - Staff recommends that the city commission approve the year end budget adjustments as per City Treasurer Kinde's memo.
 - d. 2020/2021 Fee & Rate Correction
 - Staff recommends that the city commission approve the 2020/2021 corrected Fee & Rate Schedule as noted.
 - e. Savin Lease Agreement & Addendum – Police Department Copier
 - Staff recommends that the city commission approve the Savin dealer value lease agreement and state and local government addendum and authorize the police chief 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. COVID 19 Response

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. DeShano Land Sale
2. Resolution #15-2020 – Resolution to Participate in the State of Michigan Fire Insurance Withholding Program
3. Commissioner Comments

G. ADJOURNMENT:

Clerk Seavey called a roll call vote:

YEA: Craig

YEA: Hanover

YEA: Kirschenbauer

YEA: Ruestman

YEA: Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PERSONS WISHING TO PRESENT TESTIMONY

1. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

COMMUNICATIONS

OLD BUSINESS

1. COVID 19 Response

City Manager Stoppels said we waited two more weeks to open and Michigan is in pretty good shape. He said there are 2 states that are ahead of COVID, one is Michigan. He said there is less than a 1% increase in daily new cases. Today there was 179, which is below the average number for last week. He said city hall reopened on June 8th. He said the public was slow to respond initially, but it picked up a little this week. He said there are 29 states showing spikes and they used the word second wave. He said he thinks the first wave is not over. He said it is not typical to Michigan and he hopes it stays that way. He said we have put documents on our social media pages for the public: FAQ (will be updated with new orders); Depot and pavilions available for 50 or less inside; 250 or less outdoors. Our splash park is closed and some around the state are not going to open at all this year. He said with our public bathrooms we ran into issues with vandalism early on and repairs have been made. Recreational programming should be in full swing in July with outdoor activities. The concert in the park will be on July 1st. He commended Bill Tennant for doing an excellent job working with staff. He will be meeting with the Mint Festival group on Wednesday; they are making a decision by July. He said the fireworks were cancelled by the Rotary Club; yard waste pick-up will resume in July; spring clean-up will be in the fall as well as the tire pick-up.

Commissioner Ruestman said she had communication with Jon and Chief Kirk earlier in the day. She said she was disappointed when she went down to a restaurant/bar. There were no masks on staff and no social distancing. She said it is hard to enforce, but we should do something (possibly write a letter or remind them of their responsibility). Face

coverings are required in enclosed public spaces and we should encourage businesses to follow the law.

Commissioner Hanover said she was concerned with our approach to that. If people are concerned, they don't have to patronize that shop. If we get a few complaints, for us to report them to the attorney general or state liquor commission, I don't want to report. She said she doesn't want to fine people or report them to any state office.

City Manager Stoppels said we weren't going to do that enforcement; it wasn't our intention. We could send a letter or make the contact.

Commissioner Hanover said she hopes we wouldn't suggest that to citizens.

Commissioner Kirschenbauer said the resident has the option to walk out. She said people can refuse to go there if they are not wearing masks. She said she doesn't think we have the power or time and resources to enforce.

Mayor Hufnagel said if specified in executive order, he expects we would need to touch base on it directly. If we don't enforce, it puts us in an awkward position. We are putting the public at risk if we don't enforce. We want to follow executive orders and should send formal communication to those businesses and give them a warning.

Commissioner Craig said he sees both sides. If the city could be more proactive with education and communication. He said maybe staff, Jon Stoppels, needs to visit every business. We have to have consistent outreach and education before we give out warnings or letters. Maybe Mr. Purves could go from store to store.

Mayor Hufnagel said education is having something in written form. He discussed a conversation with the board of the downtown businesses.

City Manager Stoppels said we are not intending to do strict enforcement. He said the laws are there for a purpose and he thinks we can do some visits. Larger retail and bars should have a reminder. We are far from being out of the woods.

Commissioner Hanover said she would appreciate a non-heavy-handed approach. She said she knows a lot of older ladies and told them the bathrooms would be open on June 12th. As of last Thursday, said bathrooms were not open by the depot.

City Manager Stoppels said as of Friday they were open.

Commissioner Hanover said she was out to dinner in Cadillac and their splash park was open.

Chief Kirk said a caveat that has changed. With opening, we were informed by the Attorney General's office, those that are licensed it changes the purview to the licensing department. The investigation would go to the liquor control commission or health department now that they are open.

NEW BUSINESS

1. DeShano Land Sale

City Manager Stoppels said this is to approve the sale of land to DeShano. He said it includes the construction of a road that will better facilitate traffic around the development.

Community Development Director Kudwa said we were approached by DeShano in December and they are interested in the 3.88 acres. They have been fantastic to work with. He said the site plan will be dealt with the application process. It will be assisted living and duplex facilities. He discussed their plan.

Mayor Hufnagel asked about AFC (adult foster care). Clarification on that?

Boone DeShano was present. He said it would be assisted living. In some of the 40 bed, they do have some memory care rooms as well. He said he will have that fixed on the drawing.

There was a discussion of:

- The road being lined up with Swegles Street
 - Informing the adjacent property owner (Diocese of Lansing)
- Duplexes or single-family homes
- Parking lot and trees for barrier
- Assisted living building would be all at once; duplexes would be phased in later.
- Road or private drive
- Sale price

Motion by Commissioner Craig seconded by Commissioner Hanover that the city commission accept recommendation of the Property Review Committee.

Mr. DeShano said what you are looking at is preliminary. He said they have a strong history with projects like these and will make this successful as well.

Clerk Seavey called a roll call vote:

YEA: Craig

YEA: Hanover

YEA: Kirschenbauer

YEA: Ruestman

YEA: Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

2. Resolution #15-2020 – Resolution to Participate in the State of Michigan Fire Insurance Withholding Program

City Manager Stoppels said if a house burns down and is a total loss the insurance company would pay an escrow amount until the property is rebuilt. If the building stays in that condition; the escrow money would be used for the city to take down the building.

Treasurer Kinde said if approved tonight it will get sent over to the state and added to the list that gets sent out monthly and would become effective August 1st.

Mayor Hufnagel asked if there was any fiscal commitment?

Treasurer Kinde said no.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Hanover that the city commission adopt Resolution #15-2020.

Clerk Seavey called a roll call vote:

YEA: Craig

YEA: Hanover

YEA: Kirschenbauer

YEA: Ruestman

YEA: Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

3. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Craig said he appreciates the updates from staff on activities and progress happening around the city. He said he is particularly pleased with how East Walker Road is beautifully paved. He said it looks nice for the industrial park and Glanbia, Proliant and the residents and it looks like a very well-done project. He said he would like next month at one of our meetings to bring in a full report on how we are progressing: city,

Glanbia, Proliant, and Consumers Energy. He said there were some very positive news articles on how Glanbia was able to work through the COVID shut down. He said he hopes everyone will be ready for opening in October.

Commissioner Hanover said the ambulance board had a meeting last week. They had a \$76,000 loss last month; down on runs. The governor is setting aside \$220 million to help first responder agencies, but she is not sure how it will be divvied out. She said they had a demonstration on electric cots, which are almost as expensive as a car. She said the rail trail group is going to meet again for the first time this week. She said they didn't know if they could meet at the courthouse or not. They decided to have their meeting at Main Street Café this month.

Commissioner Kirschenbauer said she is happy to hear about the rails to trails because people asked her about the mowing along the trail.

Commissioner Hanover said they weren't being allowed to mow. Also, they can't get a permit to put the statue in there until October.

Mayor Hufnagel reminded everyone about the retreat wrap up meeting taking place next week, July 1st from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. He said he is looking forward to that.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Craig that the meeting be adjourned.

Clerk Seavey called a roll call vote:

YEA: Craig

YEA: Hanover

YEA: Kirschenbauer

YEA: Ruestman

YEA: Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.