

CITY OF ST. JOHNS

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

OCTOBER 12, 2020

The regular meeting of the St. Johns City Commission was called to order by Mayor Hufnagel at 6:00 p.m. 100 E. State Street, Conference Room C, with all 5 commissioners in person and through a virtual meeting at www.gotomeeting.com for the public.

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; Dave Kudwa, Community Development Director; Kristina Kinde, Treasurer, 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 Ruestman that the consent agenda be approved as presented.

YEA: Craig, Hanover, Kirschenbauer, Ruestman, Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

a. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Ruestman that the minutes of the September 28, 2020 regular meeting be approved as presented.

YEA: Craig, Hanover, Kirschenbauer, Ruestman, Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

b. Approval of Warrants

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Ruestman that warrants be approved as presented in the amount of \$282,086.95.

YEA: Craig, Hanover, Kirschenbauer, Ruestman, Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

c. Board Appointments

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Ruestman that the city commission authorize staff to contact board members whose terms are expiring to see if they are interested in reappointment.

YEA: Craig, Hanover, Kirschenbauer, Ruestman, Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

d. 2021 Holidays

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Ruestman that the city commission approve the 2021 holidays as noted.

YEA: Craig, Hanover, Kirschenbauer, Ruestman, Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

e. 2021 City Commission Meetings

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Ruestman that the city commission approve the 2021 city commission meeting dates as noted.

YEA: Craig, Hanover, Kirschenbauer, Ruestman, Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

AGENDA

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

Commissioner Craig asked about New Business item #1 that says discussion only. He said it should be an action item.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Craig 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 September 28, 2020
- b. Approval of Warrants
 - In the amount of \$282,086.95
- c. Board Appointments
 - Staff recommends the city commission authorize staff to contact board members whose terms are expiring to see if they are interested in reappointment.
- d. 2021 Holidays
 - Staff recommends the city commission approve the 2021 holidays as noted.
- e. 2021 City Commission Meetings
 - Staff recommends the city commission approve the 2021 city commission meeting dates as noted.

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. Rescind Resolution #19-2020 (to approve Mercantile as our bank for financing of the dump truck) & Adopt Resolution #20-2020 Approving Tax Exempt Leasing for Financing
- 2. Commissioner Comments

G. ADJOURNMENT:

YEA: Craig, Hanover, Kirschenbauer, Ruestman, Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PERSONS WISHING TO PRESENT TESTIMONY

1. Public Comment

There was no one present wishing to speak.

COMMUNICATIONSOLD BUSINESS1. COVID 19 Response

City Manager Stoppels said Michigan is seeing a surge in new cases with 5 of the last 7 days in excess of 1,000 new cases. This past Saturday's total was 1,522 new cases which is the third highest daily total since the pandemic began in March. Today's reported total for the last 48 hours in Michigan is 1,809, which equates to an average of 904 per day. New cases have been increasing since beginning the of September when schools reopened. Ingham County also has seen a rapid increase in new cases since MSU reopened. The total number of cases in Ingham County has doubled to nearly 4,000 since September 1st. What happens in Ingham County is very important in Clinton County. Clinton County has also seen an increase in daily cases with the total increasing by 62% since September 1st. We have heard of local cases as well as exposures where those involved are in quarantine. Since the Michigan Supreme Court removed the Governor's authority to enact emergency orders, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services have issued their own mandates that more or less duplicate the previous executive orders issued by Governor Whitmer over the last several months. It is important that we all stay focused on preventing the spread of the virus by strictly adhering to the rules for social distancing, hygiene and the wearing of masks. Today he issued a memo to city employees reminding them of the rules they must follow.

NEW BUSINESS1. Rescind Resolution #19-2020 (to approve Mercantile as our bank for financing of the dump truck) & Adopt Resolution #20-2020 Approving Tax Exempt Leasing for Financing

City Manager Stoppels said we are changing the financing source for dump truck. The first one had a charge of legal fees that we didn't anticipate. We would like to rescind the previous resolution and adopt a new resolution tonight.

Treasurer Kinde said with Mercantile they were going to require an outside attorney which would add a \$4,500 increase. She said we would like to rescind the original resolution and adopt a new resolution with Tax Exempt Financing.

City Manager Stoppels said we have used Tax Exempt Leasing before.

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Kirschenbauer that the city commission rescind Resolution #19-2020.

YEA: Craig, Hanover, Kirschenbauer, Ruestman, Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Commissioner Ruestman seconded by Commissioner Craig that the city commission adopt Resolution #20-2020 a resolution to establish a commitment to secure financing for a new dump truck, and to designate an agent (the city manager) to execute any and all legal documents necessary to complete the transaction.

YEA: Craig, Hanover, Kirschenbauer, Ruestman, Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

2. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Ruestman said her understanding of DHHS mandates is they are stricter on mask wearing. She said she is assuming we will hear more about that. She asked if staff has any updates on the open meetings act? She said bills were introduced in both chambers.

Mayor Hufnagel said the senate has moved on it. The MML (Michigan Municipal League) has asked folks to reach out and he reached out to Representative Graham Filler. He indicated he was supportive.

Commissioner Ruestman asked if it would be permanent or just during the pandemic.

Commissioner Hanover said during certain circumstances.

Mayor Hufnagel asked for more information from staff.

Commissioner Craig said recently he saw a news release that Huntington Bank has committed funds to a plan to boost the economy. He said this is exciting for St. Johns, Bingham, and our DDA. He said we could get some of our partners such as the Clinton County Economic Alliance and Clinton County Chamber of Commerce involved in this. He said it is focused on access to capital, affordable housing, etc. He said he hopes staff and the organizations can work to do something with Huntington Bank. He said he is a customer of Huntington Bank and his son is a corporate officer in Ohio.

Commissioner Hanover said the St. Johns Area Community Fund gave some money to the drum project. She asked about the city being the fiduciary for that project.

Treasurer Kinde said we received the \$1,500 check from the community fund today.

Commissioner Hanover said she has heard complaints from the downtown people that the city has stopped watering the hanging baskets except for once a week. They kind of look dead. She asked if it was too much for city to water those? She said she knows other cities have high school students water them. We need to think about it in the future.

Commissioner Kirschenbauer said she drove through the industrial park. On the board it says 100 plus acres available. Do we still have that available? Do we need to update that sign? She said we need to update who is in the industrial park.

Mayor Hufnagel said it was nice to see everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

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

YEA: Craig, Hanover, Kirschenbauer, Ruestman, Hufnagel

NAY: None

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.