

**MINUTES
ST. CLAIR SHORES CITY COUNCIL MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
APRIL 6, 2020**

Regular Meeting of the City Council, held electronically and teleconference utilizing a Zoom meeting aired live on our website and cable stations.

Notice is hereby given that due to precautions being taken to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and protect the public health, the Regular Meeting of the St. Clair Shores City Council **will be held electronically** from the City Council Chambers of the Municipal Building at 27600 Jefferson Avenue, St. Clair Shores, Macomb County, Michigan 48081, on Monday, April 6, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is being held in compliance with Governor's Michigan Executive Order No. 2020-15 effective March 18, 2020 and continuing until April 15, 2020 at 11:59 p.m.

Present: Mayor Kip C. Walby, Council Members Peter Accica, John Caron, Ron Frederick, Peter Rubino, Candice Rusie and Chris Vitale

Also Present: City Manager Matthew Coppler, Assistant City Manager William Gambill, City Clerk Mary Kotowski, Court Administrator Andrea Strassburg, Directors Bryan Babcock, Henry Bowman, Chris Rayes, Laura Stowell, Chief James Piper, Chief Todd Woodcox, City Attorney Robert Ihrie, Nancy Kolinski, HRC and Bradley Shepler, HRC

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Walby called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Ms. Kotowski, City Clerk, called the roll, and a quorum was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Mayor Walby had explained that everyone would stay seated because of camera logistics of the Zoom meeting.

Mayor Walby read the following:

In compliance with Governor Whitmer's Order to help stop the spread of the Coronavirus and protect the public health, the City Council meeting on Monday, April 6th at 7:00 p.m. will be conducted virtually (online and/or by phone).

Public Comments will be handled by an email option or dial in option. Please conduct yourself like you would in council chambers with no background noises. Any use of profanity, derogatory terms, hateful speech, by any speaker will result in muting, and/or removal from the teleconference. Email: marva@scsmi.net, Dial in to speak is 1-312-626-6799, the Meeting Code is 912 213 643#.

For Audience Participation on Agenda Items (2 minute time limit) you can call in to speak on agenda items.

We will utilize the Raise your Hand Method. Dial *9 to raise your hand and you will be called upon when it is your turn and identified by the last 4 digits of phone number you dialed in on.

1. **PROCLAMATIONS & PRESENTATIONS** - None
2. **ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCEDURES DURING A TELECONFERENCE MEETING**

Background: It was recommended that approval be given for Adoption of a Resolution for Public Participation procedures during a teleconference meeting.

This Resolution is required as a result of the Governor's Michigan Executive Order No. 2020-15 effective March 18, 2020 and continuing until April 15, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. to mitigate the spread of the Coronavirus and protect the public health. This allows a City Council meeting to be held utilizing teleconference methods while protecting the public, Mayor and City Council, and staff from unnecessary possible exposure.

Moved by Council Member Frederick, and supported by Council Member Rusie to adopt a Resolution for Public Participation procedures during a teleconference meeting which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, The Governor's Michigan Executive Order No. 2020-15 effective March 18, 2020 and continuing until April 15, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. requires Mayor and City Council to adopt a resolution to allow for their meeting to be conducted while keeping the public safe;

Item 2 (Cont'd):

WHEREAS, the procedures will allow for the public body to provide input or ask questions on any business that may come before City Council;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the St. Clair Shores City Council Meeting Agenda notice will include:

- a. An explanation of the reason why the public body is meeting electronically; and
- b. The public may participate in the meeting electronically, including a telephone number, internet address, or both; and
- c. The public may participate by sending their public comment through email at: marya@scsmi.net and your comment will be read at the meeting; and
- d. Notice: Individuals with disabilities needing accommodations for effective participation through electronic means in this meeting could contact the City Clerk at (586) 447-3306 or by email at marya@scsmi.net at least four working days in advance of this meeting. An attempt will be made to make reasonable accommodations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that there is no requirement for the public to electronically register or otherwise provide his or her name or other information or otherwise to fulfill a condition precedent to attendance, other than mechanisms necessary to permit the person to participate in a public comment period of the meeting; a person must not be excluded from a meeting held electronically otherwise open to the public except for a breach of the peace committed during the meeting;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the general public otherwise participating in a meeting of a public body held electronically be excluded from participation in a closed session of the public body held electronically during that meeting if the closed session is convened and held in compliance with the requirements of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) applicable to a closed session.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: All – 7

3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS (2 MINUTE TIME LIMIT) –

Mayor Walby announced that people can call in to speak on agenda items now for 2 minutes. Please conduct yourself like you would in council chambers with no background noises. Any use of profanity, derogatory terms, hateful speech, by any speaker will result in muting, and/or removal from the teleconference. We will utilize the Raise your Hand Method. Dial *9 to raise your hand and you will be called upon when it is your turn and identified by the last 4 digits of phone number you dialed in on.

There was no audience participation by email, phone or Zoom.

4. REQUEST TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION FOR BAFFIN BREWING COMPANY, 25113 JEFFERSON, FOR A NEW ON-PREMISES TASTING ROOM PERMIT

Background: It was recommended to adopt the Michigan Liquor Control Commission resolution supporting the application from Baffin Brewing Company, LLC, 25113 Jefferson, for a New On-Premises Tasting Room Permit (for wine) as required by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

Baffin Brewing Company, LLC originally applied to the City in 2014 for their Micro Brewer License, and in 2019 added a new tasting room permit to add a distiller/small distiller. They are now adding a new On-Premises Tasting Room Permit for wine, which requires City Council's adoption of a resolution in support of their application to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC). The MLCC allows for additional tasting rooms in conjunction with their additional manufacturing permits. They are applying for this additional tasting room for wine just as two other Breweries in the City have done.

As defined by MCL 436.11111 (9) and (10)

(9) "Small distiller" means a manufacturer of spirits annually manufacturing in Michigan not exceeding 60,000 gallons of spirits, of all brands combined.

(10) "Small wine maker" means a wine maker manufacturing or bottling not more than 50,000 gallons of wine in 1 calendar year.

Item 4 (Cont'd):

Local Approval – If the applicant intends to sell wine it manufactures under its Wine Maker or Small Wine Maker license in an approved tasting room located on the manufacturing premises under an On-Premises Tasting Room Permit, it must obtain the approval of the local legislative body of the local governmental unit where it will be licensed. The Manufacturer License & Permit Application (Form LCC-150) contains a Local Governmental Approval form (LCC-106a) that can be used by the local governmental unit to approve or disapprove the request for the On-Premises Tasting Room Permit. Local approval is not necessary for the Commission to consider approval and issuance of a Wine Maker or Small Wine Maker license when the applicant does not intend to sell its wine to customers on the premises where it manufactures the wine and has not applied for an On-Premises Tasting Room Permit; however, applicants will still need to comply with any local ordinances specific to manufacturing operations.

All City inspection requirements have been met. There is a past due property tax invoice that is their landlord's responsibility as they lease the property.

Ms. Kotowski explained that they need this permit in order to allow a wine tasting room in addition to their current beer permit and other tasting room permit.

Moved by Council Member Rusie, and supported by Council Member Caron to recommend that the application from Baffin Brewing Company, LLC for a New On-Premise Tasting Room Permit to be located at 25113 Jefferson, St. Clair Shores MI 48080, Macomb County, be considered for approval by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: All – 7

5. STATE DRINKING WATER REVOLVING FUND PROGRAM APPLICATION

a. Public Hearing

Mayor Walby announced that you can call in to speak at the Public Hearing for the State Drinking Water Revolving Fund Program Application at this time. He reminded viewers of the phone number and email.

Mayor Walby opened the Public Hearing at 7:17 p.m.

There were no speakers. Mr. Babcock received one resident letter that he forwarded to HRC.

Ms. Kolinski read the letter from Jeffrey Chase, 21811 East 8 Mile Road. He objected to the plan. He would like the City to explore a no cost Federal grant. Only the affected property owners should be billed. St. Clair Shores should move to a defined contribution plan. Do not raise taxes.

Mayor Walby closed the Public Hearing at 7:21 p.m.

b. Request for approval to submit State Drinking Water Revolving Fund Program Application

Background: It was recommended that the Mayor and City Council Approve the submission of the application for the State of Michigan Drinking Water Revolving Fund Program.

A proposed DWRF Project has been developed to strategically verify the material of existing water services with unknown materials to assist in asset management planning and replace approximately 1274 known lead or galvanized previously connected to lead water service lines in a prudent and planned approach over 3 years. Proposed project construction will include service line material verifications (excavation at the curb stop or visual inspection of interior service lines) and replacement of water services lines. If the DWRF application is successful, the City will have the ability to employ the EGLE's DWRF low interest loan program to fund the proposed project(s); however, construction of the projects or utilization of the loan is not mandatory.

The City will request \$10,000,000.00 total project cost for service line material verification and replacing water services lines that are lead or galvanized previously connected to lead. The repayment of the DWRF loan, if approved, will be apportioned to users based on use.

Item 5 (Cont'd):

The estimated user costs to finance the proposed projects have been determined assuming DWRP financing with a 2.0% interest rate (current DWRP interest rate) and a 20-year debt retirement. The apportionment costs are based on an annual average over a 20-year period to provide an estimate for user charges per unit (100 cubic feet) of water consumption.

The City user rate increase necessary to retire the debt incurred from the construction of the proposed projects would be approximately \$24.00 per year over the life of the loan, raising an average user's water and sewer bill approximately 4.3%.

Ms. Kolinski gave a presentation which explained the program in detail. The City did allow a comment period which was in compliance with the requirements of EGLE.

It was pointed out that our city is proactively tackling this program. We intend to move as quickly as possible and be done in three years. Restrictions due to the COVID-19 Pandemic has slowed down the progress because it is necessary to enter each home. Administration will investigate moving forward with doing unoccupied homes. The contractors are ready to move forward.

Once we are done with all of the lead service water line replacements, Council has asked that this be advertised to promote St. Clair Shores.

Moved by Council Member Accica, and supported by Council Member Caron to approve the submission of a Drinking Water Revolving Fund Program Application to the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy in the amount of \$10,000,000.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: All – 7

6. MUNICIPAL PROPERTIES LEASE AGREEMENTS DURING COVID-19

Background: The City has a number of agreements for either operations of facilities (ex. Blossom Heath Inn, golf course restaurants) or agreements with companies to rent land (ex. Official Towing). The City Manager would like to have a discussion with Mayor and Council regarding the potential to provide relief to these companies since the Governor ordered shutdown has impacted their ability to utilize the properties thus reducing their ability to raise revenue to pay for the leases.

An idea, for example, we would waive payment of the monthly lease as long as the Governor ordered shutdown is in place. The months would be tacked on to the end of the agreement. Thus, a five-year lease agreement would become a five-year plus the number of months the Governor ordered shutdown lasts.

All of Council supported this plan of action. We should consider extending it an additional month or two while businesses are trying to recover. Administration will negotiate with each business and bring the agreements back to Council for approval at the April 20 Council meeting.

Moved by Council Member Frederick, and supported by Council Member Rubino to have administration work on these municipal property lease agreements during the COVID-19 Pandemic and present agreements to Council for approval.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: All – 7

7. BIDS/CONTRACTS/PURCHASE ORDERS –**a. Request to award bid for City Hall Parking Lot Reconstruction (bids opened 3/17/2020)**

Background: It was recommended to approve the 2020 City Hall Parking Lot Reconstruction contract award to Metropolitan Concrete with the base bid amount of \$1,483,556.30. If Council so chooses to proceed with adding the electric vehicle chargers that additional cost would be \$15,275.00 (alternate bid). The total for base bid and the alternate would therefore be \$1,498,831.30.

Item 7 (Cont'd):

Bid documents for the 2020 City Hall Parking Lot Reconstruction were posted on MITN on February 13, 2020. Bids were opened on March 17, 2020. There were four bids with the lower bidder being Metropolitan Concrete with the base bid amount of \$1,483,556.30 for parking lot reconstruction.

Mr. Rayes said they would like to move this project forward so it can be done while City Hall is closed to the public.

Mr. Caron was concerned about the bioswales being maintained properly for the City Hall Parking lot reconstruction.

Mr. Rayes will provide Council with the information for maintenance on the bioswales.

Mr. Rayes said this contractor has not done work for the City previously. Because there was such a difference in the bids submitted, they did research the bids thoroughly to make sure everything is included. They are confident everything is in order.

Mr. Vitale is not in favor of the charging stations. We do not know what the universal standard is, and these may become obsolete. He is in favor of installing the conduit in preparation for the future.

Mr. Rayes said the base bid includes installing the conduit. This will be paid from the General Fund this budget and July 1, 2020.

Mr. Gambill will research grant opportunities for the charging stations.

Ms. Rusie said we do not know what is going to happen with the economy, and she is not comfortable putting \$1.4 million into a parking lot at this time.

Mr. Rubino agreed that spending this much money on the parking lot at this point in time may not be prudent.

Moved by Council Member Caron, and supported by Council Member Vitale to approve the 2020 City Hall Parking Lot Reconstruction and to award the contract to Metropolitan Concrete in the base bid amount of \$1,483,556.30 for parking lot reconstruction, as recommended by the City Manager, without the charging stations unless funding is provided from a grant or a sponsor.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Caron, Vitale, Accica, Frederick Walby

Nays: Rubino, Rusie

b. REQUEST TO AWARD 2020 SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (BIDS OPENED 3/17/2020)

Background: It was recommended to approve the 2020 Sidewalk Replacement Program and to award the contract to Italia Construction, Inc. The project was bid for a 3-year period, covering District 6 (Category 1 - \$631,185.00) and District 7 (Category 3 - \$651,081.05) and District 8 (Category 4 - \$671,487.50). Category 2 is for out of district work (DPW repairs) that includes pricing for 2 additional years (2021 & 2022).

Bid documents for the 2020 Sidewalk Replacement Program were posted on MITN on February 25, 2020. Bids were opened on March 17, 2020. Total of four bids were received with the lowest bidder being Italia Construction, Inc. The average pricing per slab for District 6, including permitting and inspection fees is as follows: R&R - 4" (5'x5') slab = \$147.90; R&R - 6" (5'x5') slab = \$168.90; Mudjacking - 4" (5'x5') slab = \$96.00; Mudjacking - 6" (5'x5') slab = \$108.00; Mudjacking - 6" (Approach) = \$216.00.

A long discussion ensued. It was determined that the contract be approved in order to lock in the pricing and bring the program back to Council in August to approve commencing with the actual marking and replacing of slabs. DPW scatter work repairs can move forward.

Mr. Vitale would like staff to review the feasibility of placing a limit on the number of sidewalk slabs a resident must be responsible for during the 20/21 sidewalk replacement program.

Mr. Caron would like to be provided with the number of slabs and cost per resident we charged during the past sidewalk replacement programs.

Item 7 (Cont'd):

Mr. Rayes said that if the contract is awarded at this meeting, they will mark in August/September 2020 and do replacements in 2021.

Moved by Council Member Vitale, and supported by Council Member Frederick to approve the 2020 Sidewalk Replacement Program and to award the contract to Italia Construction, Inc. for a 3-year period, covering District 6 (Category 1 - \$631,185.00) and District 7 (Category 3 - \$651,081.05) and District 8 (Category 4 - \$671,487.50). Approval of Category 2 is for out of district work (DPW repairs) that includes pricing for 2 additional years (2021 & 2022), as recommended by the City Manager, with the Sidewalk Replacement Program portion to be brought back to Council at their August 17, 2020 meeting with a timeline before markings are done for Spring 2021 installations.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: All – 7

- c. ~~**REQUEST TO AWARD 2020 ASPHALT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM CONTRACT (BIDS OPENED 3/17/2020)**~~
- d. **REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE MICHIGAN INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION GRANT AGREEMENT # 2020-4**

Background: It was recommended that City Council authorize Grant No. 2020-4 between the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission (MIDC) and the City of St. Clair Shores, the amendment request and future non-substantive MIDC grant amendments for the current contract year ending 9/30/20.

The City of St. Clair Shores was awarded the FY 2020 grant from the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission. The City of St. Clair Shores and 40th District Court will use these funds to implement the standards for indigent criminal defense services. The first four standards have been approved by the State of Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) to cover training and education of counsel, the initial client interview, use of investigation and experts, and counsel at first appearance and other critical stages. Included in this packet is an amendment request to change the Managed Assigned Counsel Coordinator (MACC) position from a full-time position to a part-time contracted position. This request is based on the current need. Approval of this request would authorize the contract, make the necessary budget adjustments, authorize the attached amendment request and future non-substantive MIDC grant amendments, if needed, for the current contract year.

Mr. Gambill explained that we already received the MIDC grant, and this is being done in order to make us compliant.

Moved by Council Member Frederick, and supported by Council Member Rusie to authorize Grant No. 2020-4 between the State of Michigan - Michigan Indigent Defense Commission, Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and the City of St. Clair Shores, amend the FY 2020 Court budget (140) and MIDC budget (265) accordingly, approve the attached amendment and future non-substantive amendments during the current contract year.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: All – 7

Items 7e, 7f and 7g were taken together

- e. **REQUEST TO APPROVE EXTENSION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT AGREEMENTS FOR ST. CLAIR SHORES POLICE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**
- f. **REQUEST TO APPROVE EXTENSION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT AGREEMENTS ST. CLAIR SHORES COMMAND OFFICERS ASSOCIATION**
- g. **REQUEST TO APPROVE EXTENSION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT AGREEMENTS FOR ST. CLAIR SHORES FIRE FIGHTERS UNION LOCAL 1744**

We began negotiations before the COVID-19 virus took off and created the situation we are in today. As we entered into the state of emergency it was clear that we would not be able to properly negotiate the contracts. We spoke to the three units and proposed extending the current contracts as is with a 2% wage increase for one additional year. Effectively,

Item 7 (Cont'd):

we are taking a three-year contract and making it a four-year contract. All other provisions of the current contract stay in effect.

e. Background: It was recommended the extension of the current collective bargaining agreement with St. Clair Shores Police Officers Association/Michigan Association of Police for a period of one additional year and providing a 2% pay increase effective July 1, 2020 to all members of this bargaining unit be approved.

The St. Clair Shores Police Officers Association/Michigan Association of Police represents the non-supervisory police officers employed by the City of St. Clair Shores. There are 68 bargaining unit members covered by this agreement.

The financial impact of this extension will be approximately \$93,363 to the General Fund.

f. Background: It was recommended that the extension of the current collective bargaining agreement with St. Clair Shores Command Officers Association/Michigan Association of Police for a period of one additional year and providing a 2% pay increase effective July 1, 2020 to all members of this bargaining unit be approved.

The St. Clair Shores Command Officers Association/Michigan Association of Police represents all police officers holding the rank of Sergeant and Lieutenant employed by the City of St. Clair Shores. There are 16 bargaining unit members covered by this agreement.

The financial impact of this extension will be approximately \$28,362 to the General Fund.

g. Background: It was recommended that the extension of the current collective bargaining agreement with St. Clair Shores Fire Fighters Union Local 1744 of the International Association of Firefighters for a period of one additional year and providing a 2% pay increase effective July 1, 2020 to all members of this bargaining unit be approved.

The St. Clair Shores Fire Fighters Union Local 1744 of the International Association of Firefighters represents all firefighters by the City of St. Clair Shores except for the Fire Chief. There are 48 bargaining unit members covered by this agreement.

The financial impact of this extension will be approximately \$52,694 to the General Fund.

Mr. Coppler said that he would like to address the fire inspector position outside of the contract process and handle it during the budget process instead.

Mayor Walby asked the City Attorney if items 7e, 7f and 7g can be approved with one motion. Mr. Ihrie said that would be appropriate.

Moved by Council Member Rubino, and supported by Council Member Accica to approve the following:

Approve the one year extension of the current collective bargaining agreement between the City of St. Clair Shores and the St. Clair Shores Police Officers Association/Michigan Association of Police (expiring June 30, 2020) which provides a two percent pay increase effective July 1, 2020.

Approve the one year extension of the current collective bargaining agreement between the City of St. Clair Shores and the St. Clair Shores Command Officers Association/Michigan Association of Police (expiring June 30, 2020) which provides a two percent pay increase effective July 1, 2020.

Approve the one year extension of the current collective bargaining agreement between the City of St. Clair Shores and the St. Clair Shores Fire Fighters Union Local 1744 of the International Association of Firefighters (expiring June 30, 2020) which provides a two percent pay increase effective July 1, 2020.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: All – 7

8. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CITY MANAGER TO PAY BILLS

Background: It was recommended that the Mayor and City Council authorize the City Manager to pay municipal bills and invoices necessary for continued City operations, subject to retroactive approval at the first City Council meeting after said bills and invoices have been authorized by the City Manager and paid. The City Attorney opinion was provided to Council.

Item 8 (Cont'd):

Mr. Ihrie said he is making this recommendation which would only be necessary when a declared emergency is in effect. It would permit the City Manager to pay legitimate and necessary bills that the City Council is otherwise unable to approve.

Mr. Caron did not want this to include progress payments unless Council wanted it that way. Mr. Coppler noted that was not an issue.

The City Attorney will draft a formal resolution for authorization for the City Manager to pay bills.

Mr. Vitale is not in favor of this because one of the powers granted to Council is the power of first. He is not willing to give up that power.

Moved by Council Member Accica, and supported by Council Member Caron that should the City Council be unable to meet, either in person or virtually for whatever reason, the City Manager be authorized to pay municipal bills and invoices as determined by him to be legitimate and necessary for continued fulfillment of City obligations and operations. Further, this authority given to the City Manager would be subjective to retroactive approval by City Council at the first City Council meeting after said bills and invoices have been authorized by the City Manager and paid.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Accica, Caron, Frederick, Rubino, Rusie, Walby

Nays: Vitale

9. **CONSENT AGENDA** – All items listed on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion and approved by a vote of City Council. There will be no separate discussion of the items unless the Mayor and or a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered under the last item of the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Council Member Caron supported by Council Member Frederick to approve the Consent Agenda items a – e as follows:

a. **Bills**

March 27, 2020

\$5,243,790.53

Resolved to approve the release of checks in the amount of \$5,243,790.53 for services rendered, of the report that is 36 pages in length, and of the grand total amount of \$5,243,790.53, \$212,331.56 went to other taxing authorities.

b. **Fees** - None

c. **Progress Payments**

Resolved that the following Progress Payments be approved as presented:

Granite Inliner, LLC	\$81,288.00
Italia Construction, Inc.	\$ 7,488.60
Italia Construction, Inc.	\$ 4,165.27

d. **Approval of Minutes**

Resolved that the following Minutes be approved as presented:

<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>
City Council	January 20, 2020
City Council	February 3, 2020
City Council	February 18, 2020
City Council	March 2, 2020
City Council	March 16, 2020

e. **Receive & File Boards, Commissions & Committee Minutes**

Resolved that the following minutes be received and filed:

Item 9 (Cont'd):

Minutes
Board of Review
Cultural Committee
Zoning Board of Appeals

Meeting Date
March Session 2020
February 12, 2020
January 9, 2020

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: All – 7

10. UPDATES AND FOLLOW-UPS FROM COUNCIL MEETING

Staff members answered questions received from Council.

Police Chief Woodcox

Secretary of State issues such as expired license plates and driver's licenses – They will not be issuing violations for recently expired license plates and driver's licenses. They will continue to enforce extremely late issues.

Essential/Non-Essential Business – They are not taking direct immediate action. They are investigating and forwarding to the City Attorney's office if needed. Officers on the road are not making the call.

Boat Ramp at Blossom Heath – This is accessible, but there is no gate guard. They will monitor these areas and break up any groups that are not following social distancing guidelines.

Council would like to be kept informed if the Police Department changes how they are responding to violations i.e. change from warning to ticketing.

Ms. Rusie would like to know the call volume for the Police Department during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Fire Chief Piper

Fire Department – They are still responding to many COVID-type calls. The overall call volume is pretty close to the same as last year. The type of call is almost completely COVID-type calls. Currently, they have enough personal protection equipment. They are keeping in contact with the EOC.

Bryan Babcock, Department of Public Works Director

Lead Service Line Program - Residents should continue to send agreements and pictures for when we move forward with the program.

Sandbags and Sand - These are available. Please call before going to the DPW. The lake has come up at least a month earlier than last year.

Resident Issues/Concerns - Use "Report a Concern" or call the office. They are currently collecting lead and copper water samples. Residents should let the DPW know if they would like a test kit delivered to them.

Henry Bowman, Parks and Recreation Director

Animals at Veterans Memorial Park – They have closed the side gate and put up proper signage. This seems to have helped control the situation.

Playgrounds – They have all been cautioned taped. The parks are all open for use. State parks are closed. The basketball courts are closed off.

Boat Launches – These have been busy. They have not been staffed as part of "stay safe" order. It has required them to work out some issues.

Park Passes – These are not currently available.

Trash - They are doing trash in the parks three days a week right now. They will put more cans out when it becomes necessary.

Item 10 (Cont'd):

Picnic tables - These will be put out a few at a time. It is still early in the season. They still have a very small staff.

11 Mile Boat Ramp – This will be opened as soon as they can get the docks in the water. It will not be staffed.

Mr. Vitale asked that Parks & Recreation place a sign at the Blossom Heath marina noting that there is a boat launch ramp ½ mile south available.

Chris Rayes, Community Development and Inspections Director

Grass cutting - This is permissible when necessary to keep grass at a reasonable length. They will not be enforcing lawn services doing lawn cutting only. Brickpavers and landscaping projects are not permissible currently.

Building Plans - They are looking at plans if people want to turn them in by dropping them in the white city drop box in front of City Hall.

Inspections – Staff is still doing emergency inspections using masks and gloves. They are trying to keep things moving as much as possible.

Matthew Coppler, City Manager

CARE Act Money – There is \$520,000 available, and it is very restrictive what it can be used for. We may be able to use some to benefit our businesses and residents. We will put ideas together and bring them to Council.

Boards and Commissions Meetings – They can start meeting using Zoom, but we do need to sort through the process because there are many guidelines that need to be followed to stay in compliance with the Open Meetings Act.

City Hall – Residents can use the white drop box in front of City Hall. We are checking it on a daily basis.

11. COMMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Member Rusie thanked administration for figuring out how Council could continue to meet.

She thanked staff members for helping a resident in need this weekend.

There is a podcast group that does a user poll for breweries, and the final championship this year is between Baffin Brewery and The Copper Hop.

Council Member Rubino said thank you to his fellow Councilmembers and administration for keeping everything running.

Council Member Caron thanked all the Police Officers, EMTs and Firefighters for all they are doing.

He thanked administration for keeping day to day activities going.

He asked administration to direct Clark Hill to prepare the steps and timeline for the creation of the Chapter 20 District to include the major milestones for Council approving, etc.

He noted that EGLE is holding up the permits for the Chapaton Pump Station project.

He acknowledged Commissioner Klinefelt for keeping the county accountable.

Council Member Frederick noted we lost Eugene Doppke this past week, and Al Kaline passed away April 6th. He expressed his sympathy.

He asked about testing our front line staff for COVID-19.

Chief Piper said we do not have our own quick tests, but we do have the ability to test through the Macomb County Health Authority.

Mr. Frederick asked about taking down the Kmart building at this time.

Item 11 (Cont'd):

Mayor Walby said the City Attorney did investigate, and they are able to move ahead with the project.

Mr. Ihrie said we have been in contact with the Governor's office. They are aware and understand the situation. They did not say it was inappropriate to continue with this project.

Mr. Frederick thanked everyone for all the effort put into this meeting.

Council Member Vitale complimented administration and staff for doing a really great job getting this meeting together.

Mr. Vitale asked if Assessing would need a state waiver on their property surveying this year.

A resident sent him a letter regarding having Miss St. Clair Shores in the Memorial Day Parade but there is not a Mr. St. Clair Shores. That is an organization separate from the City. We will not be eliminating her from the parade.

He noted a resident said the statue at 12 Mile and Harper should not be trimmed with holiday accessories.

Council Member Accica thanked the first responders. We can help by wearing masks when we go out and by practicing social distancing.

12. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT - None

13. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT) - None

14. MAYOR'S COMMENTS -

Mayor Walby expressed his condolences to the Doppke family.

He thanked administration, staff and first responders. He also thanked Council for participating in this meeting.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Caron, supported by Council Member Frederick to adjourn at 9:43 p.m.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: All – 7

KIP C. WALBY, MAYOR

MARY A. KOTOWSKI, CITY CLERK

(THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD).