

City of Utica
Regular Council Meeting
May 13, 2008

The City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Noonan at 5:39 p.m.

Members present: Figurski, Kraft, Sikora, Barthelmeh, Osladil
Absent: Baker

Executive Session

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Kraft, to recess to executive session to discuss personnel and real estate matters. Voting by roll, 6 ayes, 1 absent, motion **CARRIED**. Meeting recessed at 5:40 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda

Mayor Noonan added the following items to the agenda: Grant Writer Contract, Planning Consultant fees, MDOT Contract Resolution.

Minutes of 4/8, 4/29 and 5/6/08

Motion by Figurski, seconded by Kraft, to approve the minutes of 4/8, 4/29 and 5/6/08 as amended. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Police Department Awards

The following police officers were recognized for their outstanding work in the past year: Officer Greg Moribito, Officer Jim Venegoni, Officer Randy Plante, Officer Kurt Sharrow. Officer Tom Bowman will receive the Employee of the Year award from the City; he was nominated by his fellow officers for his 27 years of service to both the Police Department and other departments. Officer Greg Moribito received the Police Officer of the Year award for a variety of reasons including his departmental training of first aid and CPR classes and the training of all City employees.

Public Hearing 7:45 p.m.

Motion by Figurski, seconded by Kraft, to open the public hearing. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**. Public hearing opened at 7:52 p.m.

Temporary Use, 45015 Van Dyke

Lauri Eschner, representing L&G Concessions, was present to request permission to sell sports paraphernalia at 45015 Van Dyke for one month to celebrate the area sports teams Red Wings and Pistons. There will be a 10'x20' tent at the corner as there has been in the past; the owner has given written permission to use his property, the Planning Commission has reviewed the request and recommended approval.

As there were no comments from the public, motion by Figurski, seconded by Barthelmeh, to close the public hearing. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**. Public hearing closed at 7:54 p.m.

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Sikora, to approve the concession sales at 45015 Van Dyke as requested, including the 10'x20' tent. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Unfinished Business

None.

Consent Business

None.

Correspondence

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Osladil, to receive and file correspondence received from Marsha Bodary for the National Day of Prayer, Anthony Landino for the Fire Department resignation, DNR regarding the Clinton River Hike Bike Trail Development, Bill and Cathy McGrail thank you's to all departments, Emergency Telephone Service Committee regarding the Public Safety Telecommunications Weeks notice. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

New Business

Department Reports

Mayor Noonan

Board of Review Appointment

Mayor Noonan recommended the appointment as an alternate member for the Board of Review Dominic Paone. Motion by Figurski, seconded by Kraft, to appoint Dominic Paone as an alternate member for the Board of Review. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

DWSD

Mayor informed Council of the DWSD contract negotiations that are on going. No action required.

Grant Writer Contract

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Sikora, to extend the contract for the Grant Writer, Linda Kirksey Davis for one year. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Planning Consultant Fees

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Figurski, to approve the increases in fees for the Planning Consultant as requested. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

MDOT Contract Resolution

The City has received the formal contract from MDOT for the Cass and Auburn paving projects and MDOT requires a resolution authorizing two individuals to sign the contract. Motion by Figurski, seconded by Kraft, to authorize the Mayor and the City Clerk to sign the contract. Voting by roll, 6 ayes, 1 absent (Baker), motion **CARRIED**.

Public Hearing 8:00 p.m.

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Figurski, to open the public hearing. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**. Public hearing opened at 8:02 p.m.

Sign Variance, 11051 Van Dyke

Ed Philips, owner of the sign company, and the owner of EJ's Auto Wash, were present to request a variance to allow a sign with a reader board larger than the allowed 10% as stated in the ordinance.

Review by Planning Commission recommended approval of the variance with two conditions: signage had to be reduced to comply with 50 sq. ft. maximum, and the changeable copy cannot be any faster than 8 seconds on the sign, cannot contain commercials. Review by Mr. Ambrose recommended approval with above conditions.

Motion by Sikora, supported by Kraft, to close the public hearing. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**. Public hearing closed at 8:11 p.m.

Motion by Sikora, seconded by Barthelmeh, to approve the sign variance for 11051 Hall Road for the reader board section to be 50% of entire signage and copy cannot contain commercials or change faster than 8 seconds per screen. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Council Reports

Councilwoman Figurski complimented the contractor who did the recent work on the pavers at the Library.

Assessing- Nancy Strehl, Assessor

No report.

Building- Ed Durbin

No report although the Mayor informed all that our ISO rating for code enforcement was recently upgraded to 4 and she commended the department.

DPW- Bill Lang, Superintendent Request to Purchase Safety Equipment

DPW Superintendent Lang requested permission to purchase the confined space entry safety equipment as presented.

Motion by Osladil, seconded by Figurski, to approve the request to purchase the necessary safety equipment, cost not to exceed \$1600.73 as recommended by Mayor Noonan. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Miscellaneous Updates

Superintendent Lang updated all on the paving project, bid was awarded to Dan's Excavating; Auburn Road Bridge repairs was added to the project and saved \$48,000 by combining the two projects.

Eppler Jr. High had donated extra trees for Grant Park in honor of Earth Day, 2008. Trees were planted by the students. Trees were planted at Heritage Park with a grant funded by DTE.

Fire- Randy Plante, Ass't Chief

Assistant Fire Chief requested permission to hire two firefighters to complete the ranks for the department.

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Osladil, to approve the request to hire 2 firefighters as requested. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

The Mayor thanked the department members who cleaned up the yard at Sgt. Diantonio's house over the weekend.

Police- Mike Reaves, Chief MADD Outstanding Service Award, Officer Fazekas

Officer Fazekas was recognized by MADD for his diligence in apprehending drunk drivers.

Community Shred Day

Chief Reaves updated all on the Community Shred Day on Saturday, May 17, 2008 in the municipal parking lot.

DARE Fundraising

Chief Reaves will be waiting tables at Texas Roadhouse on Tuesday, May 20 along with the chiefs from Sterling Heights and Shelby Township and the Macomb County Sheriff. Proceeds go to the DARE program.

On Tuesday, June 17, there will be a golf outing for the DARE program. Fliers are posted in the Municipal Building.

Traffic Control Order 08-02

Motion by Sikora, seconded by Kraft, to approve the traffic control order 08-02 as presented. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Request to Begin Hiring Process

Chief Reaves requested permission to begin the hiring process by advertising the vacancy for dispatcher as discussed during the budget process. Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Kraft, to approve the request to begin the hiring process for dispatchers. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Request to Purchase Accident/Crime Scene Investigation Tool

Motion by Kraft, seconded by Figurski, to approve the request to purchase the Accident/Crime Scene Investigation Tool as outlined by Chief Reaves, cost not to exceed \$9,500. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Chief Reaves thanked the Mayor and Council for their support of the department.

Treasurer- Philip Paternoster

No report.

Administration- Cathy McGrail, City Clerk

No report.

Library- Marsha Doege, Director

No report.

Parks and Recreation Commission

Mayor Noonan updated all on the Michigan Week events including the Heritage Luncheon and Mayor's Exchange with Ecorse, also the Student Government Day.

Historic District Commission

No report.

City Attorney

No report.

Planning Commission

No report.

Senior Housing Steering Committee

No report although the Committee thanked Mike Wize for fixing the emergency ceiling repairs. Thanks to Rob Lootens for his work.

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

No report.

Bills Payable

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Sikora, to approve the payment of all bills as presented. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Communication from the Public

Angela Allen, 45647 Harry, Apartment 204, request an additional crossing guard at Stead and Cass. Resident was informed that students are not allowed to cross at area and have not been for many years due to a serious accident. No action taken.

Mary Lou Kinney, 7650 Greeley, thanked the DPW Superintendent and the DPW for the exterior work at Riverside 175.

John Ambrose thanked the Mayor and Council for approving the fee increases as presented.

Adjournment

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Osladil, to adjourn the meeting. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**. Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

M. Catherine McGrail
CITY OF UTICA
City Clerk