

Minutes of the regular Durand City Council meeting held on Monday, March 7, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Durand City Hall.

Mayor Ken McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Brian Boggs, Jeff Brands, Connie Cobley, Rich Folaron, Mayor Ken McDonough, Pat O'Connor (left @ 8:24p.m.), Matt Schaefer

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

The Council led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Boggs moved, Cobley supported to approve the agenda as presented.

Carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Schaefer moved, O'Connor supported to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 7, 2022 as presented.

Carried

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Boggs moved, Schaefer supported to approve bills #54469-54565.

YEAS: Boggs, Brands, Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, O'Connor, Schaefer

NAYS: None

Carried

HEARING OF PRESENTATIVES AND CITIZENS PRESENT:

Mayor McDonough read a letter submitted by Carol Bowen, 611 Brand Street regarding the increased water/sewer rates.

Paula Brooks, 104 W Summit St. She had questions regarding the igloos that were purchased during the pandemic, the rocking chairs that were purchased for the downtown and NRMI.

Bill Heilbronn, 113 W. Fauble St. He asked what the council was going to do about his high water bill.

Mary Yarborough, Pastor with Light of Faith. She offered a prayer

CITY COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Boggs: He thanked Pastor Yarborough for the prayer. He said that the DPW disagrees with you regarding the chairs. He said that NRMI is its own organization and that the current engine and rail cars belong to the City.

Schaefer: He said that the igloos were purchased by Union Station Smokehouse and were damaged in the fire.

Mayor McDonough: He spoke about the high bill that Mr. Heilbronn was here to discuss. Mayor McDonough said that regardless of what was estimated the meter had a final read on it and the meters are

very accurate. He said that the City takes payment arrangements if they are interested in doing that. Mr. Heilbronn threatened legal action.

DPW/WATER/WASTEWATER/MECHANICS REPORT:

DPW Foreman: He said that his department has been busy plowing and helping Rob with water main breaks. He is getting prices on tub grinding and playground mulch for Optimist Park. Mayor McDonough said that they did a good job with plowing but they need to get closer to the curbs.

Mechanics Report: He said that he is doing routine maintenance along with a few major repairs.

Wastewater/Water: He said that they are down one person. He told the Council that the compressor came in and a new dialer has been installed at the sewer plant. He also said that there was an over flow recently at the sewer plant.

DPW Director: He said that he is taking classes in advance of testing. He also said that there is a vacancy in utilities. He said that he is meeting with a cellular company about leasing space on our water tower. He told the Council that the current lawn care contractor is unwilling to keep the contract for the upcoming year so he will be going out for bids. Due to the high costs with gas, repairs and equipment, he will only be going out for one year contract. City Attorney said that the City could take the contractor to court to force him to fulfill his contract but it could take a long time and it could cost more than savings. Boggs asked if we could get the difference between what the contract says versus what the City actually has to pay for lawn care this year. He said that at the end of summer we should revisit this and see if we should take them to court for the difference for expectations. There was discussion to bring lawn care back “in house” to have staff do it. DPW Director was directed to start the bid process and price out the cost of having the City do it.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

Boggs moved, Brands supported to approve Traffic Control Order #184.

YEAS: Brands, Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, O’Connor, Schaefer, Boggs

NAYS: None

Carried

Boggs moved, Cobley supported to direct the City Attorney re-draft the Vacant Building Ordinance according to the City’s ordinances.

YEAS: Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, O’Connor, Schaefer, Boggs, Brands

NAYS: None

Carried

Boggs moved, Schaefer supported to approve the first reading of the business registration draft as presented.

YEAS: Folaron, Mayor McDonough, O’Connor, Schaefer, Boggs, Brands, Cobley

NAYS: None

Carried

Boggs moved, Mayor McDonough supported to approve the Farm Lease Agreement for the 2022 growing season with Levi Zdunic as presented with the approval from City Manager as to price per acre.

YEAS: Mayor McDonough, O’Connor, Schaefer, Boggs, Brands, Cobley, Folaron

NAYS: None

Carried

Mayor McDonough moved, Schaefer supported to approve the contract with Farmer's Garden to water the hanging and fence baskets from May 20th – September 20th, 2022 not to exceed \$6,000.00.

YEAS: O'Connor, Boggs, Brands, Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough

NAYS: Schaefer

Carried

Mayor McDonough moved, Folaron supported to purchase twelve rocking chairs from Frontera for the downtown at a cost of \$3907.00.

YEAS: Boggs, Brands, Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, O'Connor

NAYS: Schaefer

Carried

Boggs moved, Brands supported to approve NRMI's proposal to procure, place, and maintain the Refrigerator Car at no expense to the City and have the City take ownership of said car after delivery.

YEAS: Boggs, Brands, Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, O'Connor, Schaefer

NAYS: None

Carried

O'Connor moved, Cobley supported to approve the extension of the Wednesday Night Car Show to run from May 4th to August 31st, 2022 and the participants/volunteers of the show setup and remove the barricades for the 200 block of Saginaw St at the beginning and conclusion of each show held on Wednesday evenings during this timeframe.

Carried

Boggs moved, Mayor McDonough supported to approve the raising of the "After Hours Water Turn on/off Fee" from \$50.00 to \$100.00 per occurrence.

YEAS: Brands, Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, O'Connor, Boggs

NAYS: Schaefer

Carried

Boggs moved, O'Connor supported to adopt the Notice of Intent Resolution for the Durand WWTP CWSRF project as presented.

YEAS: Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, O'Connor, Schaefer, Boggs, Brands

NAYS: None

Carried

Discussion: ARPA Funds The council discussed the different expenditures on which ARPA funds could be spent. They asked that a study be completed on the cost to bring the parks and the restrooms at City Hall into ADA compliance. They also asked that the Fire Department get a quote on the cost of a Fire Extractor (washing machine) and the cost of giving all city employees \$1,000, whom did not receive "Hero's" pay.

CITIZENS SPEAK ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Paula Brooks, She said that the bricks on Saginaw Street are treacherous.

Mary Stone, Director of Durand Union Station: She said the bottoms of the poles of the pavilion at Trumble Park are deteriorating and need to be repaired. She also said that the paving bricks at the depot are also deteriorating. She also said that Durand should be "business friendly".

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

City Manager: He said that he received a call from Erin Farmer from the Steam Locomotive Institute asking if the City can give them a part off of our locomotive. The Council unanimously said no. The City Manager said that he along with Ken McDonough, Jeff Brands and Mike Nazarian were asked to give a presentation on edible gardens at the Michigan Downtown Association conference. He said that it went well. The City Manager also said that he was researching city owned property for possible sale. He also gave an update on the electricity issue with Railroad Days Incorporated.

Deputy Clerk: She stated that those council members attending the Capital Conference on March 16th have all the registration confirmations at their stations.

Police Chief: He said that they are having issues with one of their police cars. He said that he hired a part-time office so he currently has three and he has room for eight.

City Engineer: He briefly reviewed his report that was given to the Council.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Brands: He told the DPW that they did a great job plowing.

Folaron: Nothing to add.

Schaefer: Nothing to add.

Boggs: Nothing to add.

Mayor McDonough adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

Ken McDonough, Mayor

Mindy McKay, Deputy Clerk