

**CITY OF EVART
VIRTUAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY JULY 13, 2020**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Joyce at 7:30 pm.

After a brief discussion among council, it was decided to forgo the Pledge of Allegiance until council can meet in person and all can participate.

Present (by roll call): Mr. Ralph Carlson, Mr. Dan Elliot, Mr. Matt Hildebrand, Mayor Joyce, Ms. Sandy Szeliga

Absent: none

Present: City Manager Sarah Dvoracek, Assistant City Manager Mark Wilson, City Attorney James White, Police Chief John Beam, City Clerk Kathy Fiebig and Finance Director/Meeting Host Pepper Lockhart.

Guests: Cathie Crew, Victoria Martin, Janet, John and Angela Hunter, Kayliecia Gilleran, JJude, R Douglas, Robert, Jan, Roger Elkins, Laurie Chase, Chris, Karen Higgins, P. Kiewit, Megan Erickson, Ann, Cooper, Steph and one person via telephone.

Citizens' Comments (read by Meeting Host Lockhart): none

Approval of Agenda

Motion made by Mayor Joyce to approve the agenda as presented. Support by Mr. Carlson.

Ayes: Mr. Elliot, Mr. Hildebrand, Mayor Joyce, Ms. Szeliga, Mr. Carlson

Nays: none

Consent Agenda

B. Virtual Council Minutes – June 30, 2020

C. Vendor's List \$75,677.66

Motion made by Ms. Szeliga to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Support by Mr. Elliot.

Ayes: Mr. Hildebrand, Mayor Joyce, Ms. Szeliga, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Elliot

Nays: none

Unfinished Business

D. Request for Traffic Study Engineering Services – School Zone Safety Review

Tabled. Ms. Dvoracek is gathering quotes and Mr. Wilson and Chief Beam are discussing the matter with school administrators.

New Business

1. Evert Industrial Properties, LLC/Evert Township Board meeting July 7, 2020

This concerns four parcels owned by a developer based in the Evert Industrial Park who wishes to expand his business. The parcels in question have jurisdiction in Evert Township and the developer requests jurisdiction to be transferred to City of Evert. The transfer can be completed several different ways such as mutual annexation or a 425 agreement.

Mayor Joyce reminded council of the options presented by Ms. Wood in an earlier closed session. He asked council to consider the following: the type of agreement (425 vs annexation), the duration and monetary value of the agreement, and a time frame for implementation. After considerable discussion, Mr. Carlson suggested having a in person council work session with Ms. Wood present in person or via phone to work out the details of the agreement. Council will meet outdoors at the Depot on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 7:30 pm. No action taken.

2. Request to revisit water/sewer rate increase to support 2020-2021 budget

Ms. Dvoracek advised council that due to lag time between bids and completion and the fact that a typical study takes 3-4 months, a water and sewer rate study cannot be completed before December or even January. Without a rate raise now, she will have to cut roughly \$60,000 from the current budget. She asked council to approve a 3% and 5% for water and sewer, respectively, to be revisited after the study is complete. Mayor Joyce reminded the council that approximately two years ago, council passed a 3% and 5% increase to be done yearly for five years.

Motion by Mayor Joyce to approve what has already been voted on by previous council and adopt the 3% water and 5% sewer increase. Support by Mr. Carlson.

Ayes: Mayor Joyce, Ms. Szeliga, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Elliot
Nays: Mr. Hildebrand

3. Request to revisit waiving interest and penalty on utility bills

Per an Executive Order 2020-144 by Governor Whitmer, the city cannot shut off water due to nonpayment. The City has not been charging interest or penalties on late utility payments since April 2020. The order not allowing the city to shut off utilities now has now been extended to December 31, 2020. But if the city continues to waive interest and penalties on utilities, the city will have to do budget amendments. Council prefers to follow the Governor's direction.

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to delay assessing any penalties or interest on late utility payments until at least December 31, 2020 or such time as the order expires. Support by Ms. Szeliga.

Ayes: Ms. Szeliga, Mr. Carlson, Mr. Elliot, Mr. Hildebrand, Mayor Joyce
Nays: none

Department/Informational Reports (No Action Needed)

E. Accounts Payable Report (7/1/2020 – 7/13/2020)

F. Payroll Report (7/1/2020 – 7/13/2020)

G. Department of Public Works Monthly Report – June 2020

H. Police Department Monthly Report – June 2020

I. Evert Joint Fire Department Board Minutes – June 9, 2020

J. Evert Public Library Minutes – February 17, 2020

Citizens' Comments (read by Meeting Host Lockhart)

Jon's iPhone: "The feed is very choppy and hard to hear."

Robert: "Is there anything being done to enforce the blight in the city?"

Megan Erickson: (edited for space) "I am the director of the Meceola Central Dispatch serving Mecosta and Osceola counties. We are on the August 4 ballot for a surcharge renewal and increase on landlines and cell phones in both counties. This slight increase (from \$2.25 to \$3.00) would go into effect in July of 2021. This surcharge is the sole source of funding for this service, and we dispatch calls to all agencies: law enforcement, fire, medical, and DNR. In 2019 we handled over 33,000 911 calls. We would appreciate your support of this surcharge increase."

Robert: "Most of the properties have been run down for several years and who wants to live by that?"

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Motion by Mayor Joyce to adjourn. Support by Mr. Elliot.

Ayes: Mr. Carlson, Mr. Elliot, Mr. Hildebrand, Mayor Joyce, Ms. Szeliga

Nays: none

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Fiebig
City Clerk