

**CITY OF EVART
REGULAR VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING
Monday April 5, 2021 @ 8:00PM**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chris Emerick at 8:00pm.

Present (via roll call): Sean Duffy, City of Evart, Osceola County MI, attending remotely
Dan Elliott, City of Evart, Osceola County MI, attending remotely
Chris Emerick, City of Evart, Osceola County MI, attending remotely
Matt Hildebrand, City of Evart, Osceola County MI, attending remotely
Sandra Szeliga, City of Evart, Osceola County MI, attending remotely

Present: City Manager Sarah Dvoracek, Assistant City Manager/Director of Public Works Mark Wilson, Finance Director/Treasurer Pepper Lockhart, Communications Director (Meeting Host) Melissa Rohen, City Attorney James White, Chief of Police John Beam Jr., City Clerk Kathy Fiebig

Guests (per Zoom ID): Evart Farmers Market, Laurie Chase, Cathie Crew, Janet's iPad, Ralph Carlson, Sarah Molenaar

Public Hearing: Second/Final reading of the Recodification of City Ordinances

Mayor Emerick opened the Public Hearing at 8:02pm. There were no public comments. Mayor Emerick closed the Public Hearing at 8:04pm.

Citizens' Comments: *Sarah Molenaar hopes that the City will continue to broadcast meetings via Zoom after the pandemic ends as it is so convenient for the public.*

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Wilson requested that a discussion about a community clean up day be added after letter K. Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the agenda with the addition. Support by Mr. Duffy. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

Approval of Consent Agenda

B. Regular Virtual Council Minutes – March 15, 2021

C. Vendor's List \$52,429.14

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Support by Mayor Emerick. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

Unfinished Business

D. Schedule another Public Hearing for Rental Inspection Program

After discussion, it was agreed to hold two focus groups, one with tenants and the other with landlords, before scheduling a second hearing.

E. Riverside Park Improvements (*postpone*)

F. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Ms. Fiebig reminded council that there have been inconsistencies in the board and commission appointments for a number of years and recommended the following appointments in order to correct the issues:

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to appoint Jason O'Dell and Shannon Schmidt to the Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors (terms expire in 2021). Support by Mayor Emerick. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to appoint Ruth Ann Northon and Rebecca Tea to the Planning Commission (as already serving). Support by Mr. Duffy. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to reappoint Jason O'Dell to a three-year term (expiring in 2024) on the Planning Commission, as recommended by the Commission in a meeting on December 28, 2020.

Support by Mr. Elliott. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to appoint the following people to the Housing Commission: Keith Halifax to a one-year term expiring in 2022, Donald Maddern to a two-year term expiring in 2023, Mary Hooper to a three-year term expiring in 2024, Joyce Huston to a four-year term expiring in 2025 and Sandra Szeliga to a five-year term expiring in 2026. Support by Mayor Emerick. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to appoint Donald Maddern and Karen Higgins to two-year terms (expiring in 2023) on the Board of Review. Record shall reflect that Ralph Carlson's term will also end in 2023.

Support by Mayor Emerick. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to appoint Jennifer Joyce to a two-year term (expiring in 2023) and Kathy Fiebig to a three-year term (expiring in 2024) on the Historic District Commission. Support by Mr. Duffy. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to appoint Jane Hutchinson to a three-year term (expiring in 2024) on the Library Board. Support by Mayor Emerick. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

New Business

Items for Action

G. Final Amendment to Adopt Recodification of City Ordinance with Revisions - Ordinance 2021-01

Motion by Mr. Elliott to pass Ordinance 2021-01 as presented. Support by Mr. Hildebrand. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

H. Resolution 2021-06 – Approving Emergency Sewer Repair on S. Oak St. - \$4,502.22

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to approve Resolution 2021-06. Support by Ms. Szeliga. Motion passed with a roll call vote. All were in favor.

I. Bid for the Exterior Painting of the Depot

Ms. Dvoracek reminded council that the Depot was last renovated in the 1990's and shared photos showing the current deterioration of the exterior surfaces. If not addressed, the project will continue to rise in cost. The bid presented is from a firm with extensive experience working on historic properties that is lead paint certified. Mr. Elliott pointed out that this bid represents roughly 10% of what the City has already invested in the building and agrees that deferring the work will prove even more costly. Mr. Duffy remembers the earlier renovation and felt that it brought a sense of pride to the City. As the City plans to address blighted buildings, he believes it is essential that the City lead the way by repairing their own. Motion by Mr. Elliott to approve the painting bid. Support by Mr. Duffy. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

J. Requesting Permission to Publish Request for Proposals for wood floor restoration at the Depot

Mr. Wilson reminded council that city staff will be moving back into the Depot soon, and to avoid further deterioration of the floors, it would be prudent to refinish them first. The intent is to protect them, not try to restore them to a pristine state. Due to the prior use of the Depot, that would not be a reasonable goal. Mr. Hildebrand suggested using a pour on epoxy for longevity. Mr. Wilson will include that in the RFP. Mr. Duffy wondered about including the west end floors, and Mr. Wilson will ask for that as a separate item. Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to publish a Request for Proposals with the discussed options. Support by Mr. Elliott. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

K. Request for Proposal – Security Cameras

Due to continued vandalism over the years, Mr. Wilson and Chief Beam would like to see a security camera system put in place at the Depot, the airport, the Police Department, the wastewater plant, and the department of public works building. Chief Beam prefers a system that can be monitored remotely and has room for expansion. Mr. Elliott hopes the camera at the airport will cover parked planes, and believes the city needs camera coverage of the water system. Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to approve publishing a Request for Proposal for security cameras to include the suggestions discussed. Support by Mr. Elliott. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

K1. Community Clean Up Day

Mr. Wilson reminded council that this event was canceled in 2020 due to COVID concerns. He stated that this is not in the current budget and usually costs several thousand dollars. It was agreed to hold the event in early June, to attempt to try to find volunteers to help those needing trash transported, and to keep the location at the wastewater plan. Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to approve holding a community clean up day and authorizing funding not to exceed \$6,000. Support by Mayor Emerick. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.

Department/Informational Reports (No Action Needed)

L. Accounts Payable Report (3/16/2021 – 4/5/2021)

M. Payroll Reports (3/16/2021 – 4/5/2021)

N. Revenue & Expense Report – March 2021

O. Fire Department Minutes – March 9, 2021

P. Fire Department Budget Hearing Minutes – March 9, 2021

City Attorney Report/Comment: none

City Clerk Report/Comment: none

City Manager Report/Comment: Ms. Dvoracek reminded council of the meeting with the DDA and Dickinson Wright on April 15 (on Zoom from 6-8pm) to discuss the RECODIFIED TAX INCREMENT FINANCING ACT Public Act 57 of 2018. There will be a budget workshop on April 28 at 7:30pm. She announced that Evert has been officially accepted as a Certified Local Government.

Finance Director Report/Comment: none

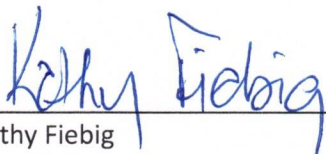
Department of Public Works Report/Comment: none

Police Department Report/Comment: Chief Beam noted that in preparation for serving blight correction notices officers have been testing various types of stickers. They have found a product that adheres well without damaging the surface it has been attached to.

Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment: Ms. Dvoracek noted that the Market Snapshot of Evert was received but uses data that is four years old since the 2020 Census figures have not been released. She will share the report with council.

Citizens' Comments: none

Motion by Mayor Emerick to adjourn. Support by Mr. Duffy. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:12pm.



Kathy Fiebig
City Clerk