

**CITY OF EVART  
REGULAR VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
Monday, May 3, 2021 @ 8:00PM**

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

**Present:** Sean Duffy, City of Evart, Osceola County MI, attending remotely  
Dan Elliott, City of Evart, Osceola County MI, attending remotely  
Mayor 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 Staff):** City Manager Sarah Dvoracek, Finance Director/Treasurer Pepper Lockhart (Meeting Co-Host), Communications Director Melissa Rohen (Meeting Co-Host), Chief of Police John Beam Jr., Lead Water/Wastewater Operator Patrick Muczynski, City Clerk Kathy Fiebig

**Guests (per Zoom ID):** Evart Farmers Market, Janet's iPad, Cathie Crew, Laurie Chase, John Tanner (OHM Engineering), Andy Campbell and Matt Feldpausch (Baker Tilly), Mom's iPhone, Ralph Carlson, Jennie, iPhone, Dennis Bryant, Jason O'Dell, Ronald, Shelby Chase

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

- B. Regular Virtual Council Minutes – April 19, 2021
- C. Special Council Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2021
- D. Vendor's List \$41,418.06

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

**Unfinished Business**

- E. Schedule another Public Hearing for Rental Inspection Program (*postpone*)
- F. Riverside Park Improvements (*postpone*)

**New Business**

**Items for Action**

**G. Housing Commission Request**

Mayor Emerick requested that this item be postponed. City Attorney James White has been out of the office and will not return until May 10. She would like to consult with him on the issue. No action taken.

**H. Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors Utility Rate Study Presentation**

Andy Campbell and Matt Feldpausch explained the utility rate study in detail. The water and sewer funds are both healthy at this point in time, as past councils have been proactive in raising rates. Both systems are being run efficiently and correctly. Mr. Hildebrand questioned the City having more cash on hand (twenty months operating expenses) than the minimum recommended (twelve months operating expenses) and wondered why the city would continue to raise rates rather than spending down the surplus. He was told that one major sewer incident could easily cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, thereby wiping out the reserve. That

minimum should be the floor, not the ceiling. Mr. Campbell recommends a 2% increase each year on the sewer commodity charge while leaving the ready to serve charge at the current rate. The City needs to continue to generate revenue for upcoming capital improvements. He pointed out that water usage has been dropping drastically over the past few years, and that must be considered, as well. Mr. Campbell briefly discussed a possible bond issue and presented scenarios for that. He encouraged council to call him with any questions.

**Department/Informational Reports** *(No Action Needed)*

**City Attorney Report/Comment** – none.

**City Clerk Report/Comment** - none.

**City Manager Report/Comment**

**M. Water & Sewer Capital Improvement Plan** – FYI

Ms. Dvoracek mentioned that there may be funding available through a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for water and sewer projects. Mr. Tanner from OHM Engineering explained the logistics of the grant and the projects that could be submitted.

**Finance Director Report/Comment:** none

**Department of Public Works Report/Comment**

Interim DPW Administrator Fiebig reported that Bill Parrish has been hired to fill in for Mike Flachs, who is now on medical leave for wrist surgery. Jim Misner has been hired to mow all areas that are not subcontracted out to Shades of Green. Bids are being gathered for street sweeping. The sidewalk inventory is underway, and we are working with the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly on the tree grant.

**Police Department Report/Comment**

Chief Beam has awarded a lifesaving award to Officer Douglas. Officer Douglas overheard an ambulance dispatch regarding a person choking and was nearby so responded. He successfully performed the Heimlich maneuver before the ambulance arrived, and no further medical treatment was necessary. The department is working on ordinance violations in addition to their normal duties.

**Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment**

Ms. Dvoracek reminded council that Director Eric Kehoe has submitted his thirty-day resignation and that the DDA meets tomorrow morning. She will report on search plans for a new director at the next council meeting.

**Citizens Comments** – none.

Motion by Mayor Emerick to adjourn. Support by Mr. Hildebrand. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm.

  
 Kathy Fiebig  
 City Clerk