CITY OF EVART
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Monday June 7, 2021 @ 8:00PM
Community Building at the Osceola County Fairgrounds
101 Recreation Ave, Evart MI 49631

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

Present (via roll call): Sean Duffy, Dan Elliott, Mayor Emerick, Matt Hildebrand, Sandra Szeliga

Present (City staff): City Manager Sarah Dvoracek, Finance Director/Treasurer Pepper Lockhart, Chief of Police John Beam Jr., City Attorney James White, City Clerk Kathy Fiebig

Guests (per sign in sheet): Jim Schwab, Sandy Keller, Angela Hunter, Eli Walters, Erica Henry, Todd Elkins

Citizens' Comments: *Sandy Keller lives in Hersey but does everything Evart. She knows there's some negativity regarding having the fireworks this year but believes that it would be positive for the community to have them anyway. She asked that council make it happen as everyone needs the boost.*

Approval of Agenda
Ms. Dvoracek added the May 17, 2021 minutes, the appointment of Sandra Szeliga and Erica Henry to the Downtown Development Authority Board, and the updated strategic plan to the agenda. Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the agenda with these three additions. Support by Mr. Hildebrand. Motion passed with all were in favor.

Approval of Consent Agenda
B. Regular Virtual Council Minutes – May 17, 2021 *(sent Friday 6/4/2021)*
C. Special Council Meeting Minutes – May 27, 2021
D. Special Council Meeting Minutes – May 28, 2021
E. Special Council Meeting Minutes – June 1, 2021
F. Requesting Approval for Budget Amendments
G. Vendor's List $50,689.41
Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the consent agenda as presented. Support by Mr. Duffy. Motion passed with all in favor.

Unfinished business
H. Schedule another Public Hearing for Rental Inspection Program (postpone)
I. Riverside Park Improvements *(postpone)*

New Business
Items for Action
J. Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Board Appointments – Shannon Schmidt and Jason O'Dell
Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to reappoint Jason O'Dell and Shannon Schmidt to four-year terms on the DDA Board with terms expiring in 2025 and to appoint Erica Henry and Sandra Szeliga to one-year terms on the DDA Board with terms expiring in 2022. Support by Mr. Elliott. Motion passed with all in favor.
K. Planning Commission appointments - Ruth Ann Northon and Karen Higgins

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to reappoint Ruth Ann Northon to a one-year term (expiring in 2022) on the Planning Commission ad Karen Higgins to a two-year term (expiring in 2023). Support by Mayor Emerick. Motion passed with all in favor.

L. Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Budget Amendments

Motion by Mayor Emerick to approve the DDA budget amendments as presented. Support by Mr. Duffy. Motion passed with all in favor.

M. Downtown Development Authority (DDA) 2021-2022 Proposed Budget

Mr. Hildebrand noted that the budget had decreased significantly, and Ms. Dvoracek explained that $8,000 had been moved to a separate account for the Farmers Market, and that revenue was down during 2020 as concerts and other special events were canceled due to COVID. Motion by Mr. Elliott to approve the DDA budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 as presented. Support by Mayor Emerick. Motion passed with all in favor.

N. Sewer Credit Request – 421 South Pine Street

Mr. Duffy noted that a previous request for a water credit had been denied by council and wondered why this request should be considered. Ms. Dvoracek explained that the earlier request was a dispute over water usage and that the city was not able to determine that the water had NOT been used. In this case, a broken pipe was involved, and the water did not enter the sewer system. City staff was able to verify the broken pipe and determine the water did not enter the sewer system The customer must still pay for the excess water usage, but since the water did not enter the sewer system, it's appropriate to waive the excess sewer charge. City staff followed Sewer Credit Policy number 2019-06 (approved by city council on September 16, 2019) by requesting sewer credit that exceed five hundred dollars to be approved by city council. Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to approve the sewer credit request for 421 S. Pine Street. Support by Mr. Elliott. Motion passed with Mayor Emerick, Mr. Hildebrand, Ms. Szeliga and Mr. Elliott in favor. Mr. Duffy was opposed.

O. July 4th Chamber Presentation

On behalf of the Evart Chamber of Commerce, Chief of Police John Beam Jr. presented a plan for a 3rd of July parade, Party in the Park and fireworks display at the airport. He noted that the Evart police department is currently understaffed and that he could only have two officers present at these events. His request for additional personnel to the Michigan State Police, Osceola County Sheriff's Department, and Osceola County Emergency Service was denied by all agencies. He reported that the Evart Fire Department and the Chamber have said they will provide adequate volunteers for all events but noted that if a fire occurs, the department will have to respond. Interim Department of Public Works (DPW) Administrator Fiebig noted that DPW is also understaffed and that while the City will provide barricades for the parade and for parking for the fireworks, she cannot commit any personnel during the fireworks. Ms. Dvoracek also voiced her concerns about how only two officers can ensure the public's safety. Dvoracek noted that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will no longer allow the public to park on airport property during the fireworks, so adequate supervision of parking is critical. Per FAA requirements, the runway must be continually policed for firework debris during and after the show, as well. She had asked permission to close the airport for the evening and that request was denied. She also noted that it's unlikely that MDOT will approve a request to close US10 for the parade as it takes at least 30 days to process such requests and suggested modifying the parade route instead. The parade would start at 7 Mile Road and N. Main Street as usual and move south, then turn west on 5th Street, ending at the Fairgrounds.

Motion by Mr. Hildebrand to approve the 3rd of July parade with the amended route avoiding use of US10. Support by Mr. Elliott. Motion passed with all in favor. Motion by Mr. Duffy to approve the 3rd of July Party in the Park. Support by Ms. Szeliga. Motion passed with all in favor. Motion by Mr. Duffy to approve the Chamber's fireworks plan as presented. Support by Ms. Szeliga. Motion passed with all in favor.

Department/Informational Reports *(No Action Needed)*
P. Accounts Payable Report *(5/18/2021 – 6/7/2021)*
Q. Payroll Reports *(5/18/2021 – 6/7/2021)*
R. Revenue and Expense Report – *May 2021*
S. Fire Department Minutes – *May 11, 2021*

City Attorney Report/Comment
Mr. White and Ms. Dvoracek are still working with Attitude Wellness on a potential land swap in the Industrial Park.
City Clerk Report/Comment: none
City Manager Report/Comment
T. Personal Property Summary Report 2021 – *FYI*
U. New Horizon Humane Society – *FYI*
V. City of Evart Water System Approval/EGLE – *FYI*
W. Michigan State Historic Preservation Office Certificate – *FYI*
X. Department of Public Works Director – *FYI*
Y. Perchlorate Update – *FYI*
Ms. Dvoracek advised council that Gerber Construction will begin the lead line replacement project on August 2. This had been scheduled to begin in early spring with completion in early July.
Finance Director Report/Comment
Ms. Lockhart noted that the sidewalk inventory has been completed.
Department of Public Works Report/Comment
Ms. Fiebig noted that the Splash Pad has been reopened and that DPW assisted with planting a number of trees throughout the City.
Police Department Report/Comment
Chief Beam noted that the department has issued 90 ordinance violation notices. He is working on filling the current officer vacancies and is compiling the department's annual report.
Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment: none

Citizens' Comments:
Jim Schwab noted that the Evart varsity boys' baseball team and girl's softball team both won their respective district titles. This is a very positive achievement and he would like the City to applaud that. It has been twenty years since the girl's softball team has won the title.
Todd Elkins introduced himself as the new editor of the Talk of the Town magazine and noted that the first issue will be out in July. He wants it to be a positive force in the community.
Elijah Walters noted that while walking in Riverside Park with his baby he noticed that the playground and splash pad are designed for older children and hopes the City will consider adding some facilities for younger youth. There are some aging swings that he believes should be checked for safety.
Sandy Keller asked if she "got it right" and everything for the 3rd was really approved. Mr. Hildebrand assured her that that was the case and reminded her that this is the Chamber of Commerce's event, not the City's. Ms. Keller also stated that her office for Michigan Potash has moved from Affordable Prints to 971 120th avenue which is right across the road from where the plant will be built. She noted that COVID has slowed the project down, but the project has not stopped and is still moving forward.

Motion by Mayor Emerick to adjourn. Support by Mr. Duffy. Motion passed with all in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

FINAL

Kathy Fiebig

Kathy Fiebig City Clerk

FINAL