

**City of Olivet
Regular Session Minutes
March 9, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.**

Council Call to Order

Present: Mayor Laura Barlund-Maas, Joe Hoffdahl, Steve Penny, Don Walker, Pam Steward-Bess, Gary Peterson

Absent: James Frohm

Mayor Barlund-Maas recognized visitors

Ashley Adams – The Shrontz family would like to hold a fundraiser at the Old Indian Creek Farm venue on June 13, 2020, to benefit the completion of the walking bridge and other improvements at the park depending on the amount raised. There are plans for a band, vendors, cornhole tournament, and live auction. Mike Martin will provide food for the event at cost. The organizers are only looking for the City's support of the event.

The City will help advertise the event in its quarterly newsletter, website, and Facebook page.

Danny LaPoint – LaPoint stated that he is in charge of this year's Firefighters' Festival parade and asked if the City Council would be interested in riding on a horse-drawn float. Council members should let him know by June if they would like to participate. LaPoint is also working on getting Veterans' groups signed up for the parade. The parade will be held on July 25 at 1:00 pm.

Approval of the Agenda

MOTION by Walker, supported by Hoffdahl, to approve the agenda with the addition of Fire Department Purchase – Turn Out Gear to New Business. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION by Penny, supported by Steward-Bess, to approve the previous minutes as presented. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Bridge Committee Update – Commissioner Penny stated that the committee received word from Eaton County that the concrete ramp option was okayed by the Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy. An Engineered Study is still needed and the person hired to do the Study would need to coordinate with Gene Bryan at the Eaton County Construction Codes Department to verify all plans are to code.

Penny stated that the concrete ramp would still require a handrail system. Danny LaPoint purchased handrails from Olivet College for less than \$100 and stated that Mike Judd has agreed to help with the handrail installation. Commissioner Peterson asked if the handrails would meet code. LaPoint stated that he would take the system to Gene Bryan at the County to confirm that they are acceptable. Penny suggested having the engineer hired to do the study look at the handrails and add them to the drawing rather than contacting the County again.

Commissioner Penny stated that it will cost between \$4,000 - \$5,000 to abandon the project, the concrete ramp will cost approximately \$5,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Northern Well Inspection Agreement – Action Item

DPW Director Staggs stated that Northern Well has done great work for the City in the past. This year's inspections were completed under the prior Agreement price of \$600.00 because the City was not made aware of the price increase. The annual price for inspections under the new agreement will be \$750.00 per year and \$35.00 per gauge for a replacement if needed.

MOTION by Peterson, supported by Walker, to approve the Northern Well Inspection Agreement at a cost of \$750.00 annually plus \$35.00 per gauge if replaced. Motion carried.

B. Investment – Action Item

Clerk/Treasurer Huepenbecker stated that interest rates for Certificates of Deposit at Independent Bank had dropped since last month's meeting. Independent Bank does offer a seven to thirty-day Certificate of Deposit and the City could choose the term. The business investment representative for Eaton Federal Savings Bank is not available to meet with Huepenbecker until April. The shortest Certificate of Deposit term advertised by Eaton Federal Savings Bank is six months.

Huepenbecker stated that it would take a couple of weeks to get the investment paperwork prepared which would be early April. She asked Council if they wanted to proceed with an investment at Independent Bank or to wait until she could meet with the representative from Eaton Federal. Commissioner Peterson stated that he would like to have the investment process started now. Commissioner Penny stated that even with the lower interest rate it is an improvement over what is earned from the checking account where the funds are currently held.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Penny, to invest \$500,000 in a 30-day Certificate of Deposit at Independent Bank. Motion carried.

C. Two Guys and a Grill Food Truck

An application was received from Kurt Dziobak requesting permission to operate his Food Truck at the City Ballpark during the Junior Eagles baseball season. Dziobak was not present at the meeting but stated in his application that he would be using a grill and canopy rather than a full food truck and would set up in the Oaklawn office parking lot. City Hall informed Mr. Dziobak that he would have to get permission from Oaklawn to use that lot.

Commissioner Steward-Bess stated that she was asked by a member of the community if the City charged Food Truck vendors a fee. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that the City is looking into an annual application or licensing fee for Food Truck vendors similar to a Special Use Permit Fee. Resident Jane Kilbourn commented that the Truckin' Awesome food truck is operating at the Double Nickel at no charge from the City which takes away business from local restaurants who are paying taxes. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that this was the reason the City is looking to create an application or licensing fee.

Councilmembers stated that there was clarification needed from Mr. Dziobak before a vote could be taken. Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Tanner will contact Dziobak and ask him to attend the April Council meeting.

D. Civic Event Center – Mega Truck Show – Informational

An application was received from Denny LaPoint for the use of the City Civic Event Center on July 18, 2020, to host a Mega Truck Show. Commissioner Penny stated that the event had already been publicized before Council approval. Penny also stated that similar events had been hosted in the past without a problem and the show generates a lot of interest. Mega Truck Shows organized by LaPoint in the past have been used as fundraisers for various charities. This application does not state if the event is being used for fundraising purposes.

Commissioner Penny commented that the application does not have an end time for the event and suggested setting an end time of 10:00 PM.

MOTION by Penny, supported by Peterson, to approve the use of the City Civic Event Center by Denny Lapoint on July 18, 2020, for a Mega Truck Show from 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM. The \$400.00 Application Fee to be waived if the event is for fundraising. Motion carried.

E. Recycle Center – Informational

County Commissioner Jim Mott stated that a meeting was held to discuss some issues occurring at the Transit Station/Recycling Center operated by Walton Township on Butterfield Hwy. Individuals are leaving trash in the recycling area on days that the Recycling Center is not open or monitored. A discussion was held at the meeting about separating the two areas so only the monitored area would be open. Walton Township would like to move the entrance gate back ten feet to allow for the truck driver to get off the road completely when unlocking the gate. Commissioner Mott will contact Walton Township to confirm that they would cover the cost of moving the gate.

F. Fire Department Purchase – Turn Out Gear - Action Item

Chief Collins stated that approximately four replacement helmets, two sets of boots and gloves are needed by members of the Fire Department.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Penny, to purchase replacement Turn Out gear not to exceed \$2,000.00. Motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ben Cwayna – Eaton County District Court Judge Candidate

Cwayna stated that he is an attorney in Grand Ledge who practices many types of law. He believes in old-fashioned values and encourages people to check him out on Facebook and his website.

County Commissioner Jim Mott – Mayor Barlund-Maas asked County Commissioner Jim Mott if he would like to address the Council. Mott stated that the Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution was voted down.

Approval of the Bills

MOTION by Steward-Bess, supported by Hoffdahl, to pay the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Department Reports

Olivet Fire Department – Chief John Collins stated that he was glad to see the snow season is coming to an end. On the Incident Report, a Heavy Rescue equals a car accident.

The County will be conducting the Weather Siren Testing on March 25 at 1:00 PM. Collins stated that the sirens are meant to alert individuals outside not ones who are in their homes.

Olivet Police Department – Chief Shawn Garcia was attending a school board meeting and therefore absent from the City Council meeting.

Department of Public Works – Director Jerry Staggs stated that the Department was able to stay within the budget for road salt this year. Danny LaPoint is working with the DPW on locating water lines in preparation for the Washington Street Improvement project. They are awaiting approval from the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to start the project. Staggs stated that he completed his first burial at Olivet Cemetery. Chail Gentile has been doing a great job while Ron Smith has been on vacation for a couple of weeks.

City Hall – Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker reminded everyone that Election Day was tomorrow and hoped to see everyone at City Hall. Property Tax season is over and payments will now need to go to the Eaton County Treasurer. Huepenbecker stated that the grant check for the Road Improvement Project was received from the State of Michigan. She will contact Independent Bank to begin the certificate of deposit process.

Commissioner Comments

Gary Peterson – Peterson had nothing to add.

Pam Steward-Bess – Steward-Bess stated that she has been working with Clerk/Treasurer Huepenbecker on ways to improve cemetery records.

Don Walker – Walker had nothing to add.

Steve Penny – Penny apologized for his attire, softball season has begun. Penny stated that Chief Garcia was absent from the City Council meeting because he was attending the School Board meetings in an official capacity. Penny thanked the visitors for attending.

Joe Hoffdahl – Hoffdahl thanked the employees for doing a great job and the visitors for attending. Hoffdahl is excited to be getting some new roads and the handicapped swing at the park.

Laura Barlund-Maas – **Barlund-Maas stated that she is meeting with City Attorney Ken O'Deen and Attorney Cliff Knaggs to discuss the Right-to-Farm Act and the Keleske Special Use Permit request on Wednesday.**

Meeting Adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Laura Barlund-Maas, Mayor

Amy Huepenbecker, Clerk/Treasurer