City of Albion

City Council Meeting

August 3, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Joseph Domingo opened the regular session at 7:00 p.m.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE TO BE OBSERVED

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ROLL CALL

Maurice Barnes (1), Lenn Reid (2), Garrett Brown (3), Rebecca Decker (4), Cheryl Krause (5), Andrew French (6) and Mayor Joseph Domingo.

STAFF PRESENT:

Sheryl Mitchell, City Manager; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Jim Lenardson, Director of Public Services; John Tracy, Building and Code Enforcement and Scott Kipp, Chief of Public Safety.

V. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes, Krause and French and City Manager Mitchell.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Big Read Parade & Music in the Park

Maddie Drury updated the Council on the Big Read Parade & Music in the Park and highlighted the following items:

* The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest.
* The novel for the Big Read Program will be Ursula Le Guin’s coming of age fantasy novel – “A Wizard of Earthsea” which will be available in September at no cost to residents that would like a copy of the book.
* The Albion Read Program has 13 students from the 8th, 9th and 10th grade.
* They meet each week and are working with Albion College.
* A leadership and how to lead program will be held at Albion College next week.
* The City of Albion is one of 75 cities that utilize this program.
* The Big Read has approximately $8500 along with matching funds for this project.
* Some of the donors to this program are Albion library, Albion Schools, Albion/Homer United Way, Rotary Club, Albion Housing, The City of Albion and others.
* On October 3, 2015 the big kickoff for the Big Read program will begin with a parade beginning at Albion City Hall going to Holland Park.
* The Holland Park celebration will include circus performers, live music, local vendors, crafts and lots of fun.
* Ms. Drury invited the Albion City Council and City Manager to a celebration of the hard work of the young people involved in The Big Read program on August 14th, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. at the Home of College President Ditzler, 501 E, Michigan Avenue, Albion.

B. Lions Club Update-Mary Slater

Mary Slater, 517 E. Michigan Avenue gave a brief update of the Albion Lions Club with the following highlights:

* The Lions Club fiscal year is from July 1 through June 30.
* The Club currently has less than 20 members
* Their funds are distributed in part to some of the following entities:

1. The Fountain Clinic-which helps residents with eye exams and glasses

2. Albion Health & Wellness

3. Forks Senior Center

4. Albion/Homer United Way

5. The Bohm Theatre

6. Sister City

* With help from the Sister Lions Club of France, they were able to plant seven trees in Victory Park.
* The Lions Club collected approximately $17,000 this year and have donated $16,000 back into the community.

VII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

No comments were received.

VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR (VV)

 (Items on Consent Calendar are voted on as one unit)

A. Approval Regular Session Minutes-July 20, 2015

Council Member Barnes asked that the July 20, 2015 minutes be updated to reflect the correct street name for LaRose Bradley. The street should be Arthur Street not Parker Street.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to Approve Regular Session Minutes-July 20, 2015 with street correction as presented. (7-0, vv)

 B. Approval Special Council Session Minutes-July 27, 2015

French moved, Barnes supported, CARRIED, to Approve Special Council Session Minutes-July 27, 2015 as presented. (7-0, vv)

IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

 A. Request Approval Resolution # 2015-21, City Inspection Services Agreement

 (RCV)

Comments were received from Mayor Domingo who asked for the following changes be made to the contract:

* 5A Compensation) -Final line should read-compensation shall be paid unless agreed upon by both parties in writing ***and approved by City Council*.**
* 6A Term) -Final line should read-mutual agreement of the parties via written agreement ***and with City Council approval***.

Additional comments were received from Council Members Brown and French, City Attorney Harkness, City Manager Mitchell and Glenn Lindsay, Cornerstone Inspection Services LLC.

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2015-21, City Inspection Services Agreement with above requested changes as presented. (7-0, rcv)

B. Request Approval Resolution # 2015-22, To Approve Appropriate Communications with Albion Housing Commission (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Member Barnes, City Manager Mitchell and Mayor Domingo.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2015-22, To Approve Appropriate Communications with Albion Housing Commission as presented. (7-0, rcv)

C. Request Approval Resolution # 2015-23, To Approve The Big Read Celebration at Holland Park and the Use of Sound Amplification Equipment (RCV)

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, To Approve Resolution # 2015-23, To Approve The Big Read Celebration at Holland Park and the Use of Sound Amplification Equipment as presented. (7-0, rcv)

D. Report from the City Manager

City Manager Mitchell reported the following:

* The Big Read Celebration will be October 3rd, 2015 with a parade from City Hall to Holland Park which will include circus performers, live music, local vendors, crafts and lots of fun
* Akaiia Ridley and 4-H youth will be performing August 18th, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Bohm theatre. Donations will be accepted at the door.
* The Jr. Optimist Club will have a leadership training event at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City on October 21, 2015. We have six participants going and they will be raising funds for the trip.
* Monday, August 3, 2015 was the groundbreaking ceremony for the Oaklawn Dialysis Center. They were appreciative of the help they received from John Tracy and the Planning Commission with the project.
* The City’s long distance telephone system is being changed over to Telnet. This will require a temporary unavailability of telephone service on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at 10 a.m. The phones are only expected to be out of service for a few minutes-for both incoming and outgoing calls. She greatly appreciates your patience and understanding.

E. Future Agenda Items

* Council Member Brown would like an EDC update.
* Council Member Barnes would like the Austin Avenue Abatements on the next agenda.
* Council Member Decker would like to discuss creating a study group for dogs left in abandoned buildings/homes and also left in vehicles on hot days added to the next agenda.
* Council Member French would like dates for the budget retreat added to the next agenda.

F. Motion to Excuse Absent Council Member (s)

No action was necessary as all members were present.

X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their

comments to agenda items and to no more than five (5) minutes. Proper decorum is required.)

Comments were received from Patricia West, 1514 Magnotta St, who expressed safety concerns pertaining to deer crossing at Cooper and Bemer Street; Council Member Barnes and Jeff Wyngarden, Fleiss & Vanderbrink with an update on the S.A.W. grant as follows:

* 450 out of 2,900 storm and sanitary sites have been completed
* They have inspected 22 structures a day
* They will begin survey in early September and will be surveying every structure with coordinates to help map where the water flows
* This process will continue on early into winter
* The sewer treatment plant detailed evaluation will begin in early September
* The council will receive a progress update every two to three months

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, to Adjourn to Executive Session (7-0, vv)

Council adjourned to Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

Council re-convened Regular Session at 7:45 p.m.

Brown moved, Krause supported, to amend agenda and add discussion of public safety officer on administrative leave. (7-0, vv)

Council Member Krause asked for update on Public Safety Officer currently on administrative leave.

City Manager Mitchell stated we have an officer currently on administrative leave as part of an internal investigation of pending employee discipline charges not criminal charges.

Council Member Decker asked if outcome of investigation would become public when completed and expressed concern over the rumors circulating throughout the city.

City Attorney Harkness stated this case is for employee discipline charges and the City needs to be cautious of not violating employees’ rights.

The Council would like to investigate a policy/resolution at a later date of what information should be released to the public regarding disciplinary actions of employees of the City.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Krause moved, French supported, CARRIED, to Adjourn the Regular Session

(7-0, vv)

Mayor Domingo adjourned Regular Session at 8:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date Jill Domingo City Clerk