City of Albion

City Council Meeting

February 1, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor 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) and Andrew French (6) and Mayor Joseph Domingo.

STAFF PRESENT:

Sheryl Mitchell, City Manager; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Tom Mead, Finance Director; Jason Kern, Public Safety Detective Sergeant; Peggy Sindt, EDC Director; Scott Kipp, Chief of Public Safety and Jack Williamson, Public Safety Sergeant.

V. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes, Reid and French.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

 A. EDC Update-Peggy Sindt

Peggy Sindt, EDC Director gave the following updates:

* The Food Hub is very close to opening. The inspections have been completed and will be open to the public once the handicap ramp is completed.
* The Downtown Hotel will be a Courtyard Marriott. The request for bids for the demolition will be going out next week. Someone will be coming in to check for lead paint and asbestos prior to the demolition, which should be complete in May, 2016. The drawings are coming along and should be available soon.
* 101 N. Superior Building has zoning approval and will be meeting with Cornerstone Inspections to look over the blueprints later this week. The mechanical and electrical blueprints are not yet complete.
* The asphalt plant will not be done until 2017
* The 425 property has received occasional inquires, however, most of the inquiries are looking for buildings not just vacant land.

EDC Goals:

* The principal goal is working on the Food Hub which is a kitchen incubator.

It will facilitate residents who may want to start a business and also businesses that may want to use the kitchen to expand another part of their existing business. They will be providing food safety and business management classes.

* Expand and double the Snap and Farmers Fresh programs for the Farmers Market.
* Work on the Market located in the Food Hub where residents may pick up small last minute type items i.e. break, milk, etc.
* Develop Food Aggregation Process, which through crop sharing will aggregate with farmers to supply local restaurants in the community.
* Increase interest in the Farmers Market from last year to this year.
* Work on the Redevelopment Ready Community to ready the City for potential developers.
* Work on Residential Development: Having homes closer to someone’s work.
* Would like to develop a workforce development plan.
* Work to make the commercial strip on Eaton Street more appealing.
* Work with business owners on maintaining and upkeep of buildings.

Comments were received from Council Members Reid, Brown and French.

 B. Homeless & Emergency Shelter Services, Vicky Clark-Summit Pointe

Vicky Clark from Summit Pointe gave a brief update on Homeless and Emergency Shelter Services for Calhoun County highlighting the following:

* She has been with the Summit Pointe for ten years, starting as a job developer then a case manager for mental health services and now a case manager for the homeless.
* Some of the criteria that may cause residents to be classified as homeless are:

 1. Fire in which they lost everything

 2. Divorce

 3. Drug Addiction

 4. Gambling Problem

 5. Not a high school graduate and unable to get a job.

There are currently no resources for the homeless in this area so Ms. Clark will be coming every third Friday to the Behavioral Services Building to help address this

Issue. If someone is homeless or being evicted, she advised calling her office located in Battle Creek to setup an appointment. She will also be taking walk-ins. She stated she would also like support from the City. The goal for this program is to help individuals find housing and a job if necessary to become housing stabilized. She will also help residents with obtaining a driver’s license.

Council Member Decker asked if a safe-house provided by the City would be helpful and how to go about getting it started.

Ms. Clark stated they can call the Summit Pointe office and the Director would work with the City to help get it started.

Additional comments were received from Council Member French and City Manager Mitchell.

Tom Hunsdorfer, Interim Director, Forks Senior Center introduced the new Interim Director, Luanne Summers who will start March 1st, 2016. Ms. Summers works for the Area Agency on Aging. She stated she was happy to be working in Albion and looks forward to working with the Forks Center to help improve their lives. She has also worked with the Albion-Marshall Connector. The Forks Senior Center offers nine (9) exercise classes for anyone 60 and older that may be interested.

VII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

No comments were received.

VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR (VV)

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

No comments were received.

A. Approval Regular Council Session Minutes-January 19, 2016

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to Approve the Consent Calendar as presented. (7-0, vv)

IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Request Approval Resolution # 2016-11, Legal Services Agreement, Keller-Thoma (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes and Brown, City Attorney Harkness, Mayor Domingo and Rick Fanning, Keller Thoma.

Council Member French stated with the increase of $10.00 per hour that is being charged; the increased amount based on an average number of billable hours over the past few years would be $383.50 per year.

 French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, To Approve Resolution # 2016-11, Legal Services Agreement, Keller-Thoma as requested. (7-0, rcv)

B. Request Approval Resolution # 2016-08, Senior Forks Center Contract (RCV)

Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell.

 French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, To Approve Resolution # 2016-08, Senior Forks Center Contract as presented. (7-0, rcv)

C. Request Approval Resolution #2016-09, City of Albion Opposition to Public Act

269 (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes, Brown and French, City Manager Mitchell, Mayor Domingo and City Attorney Harkness.

 French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, To Approve Resolution # 2016-09, City of Albion Opposition to Public Act 269 as presented. (7-0, rcv)

D. Request Approval Resolution # 2016-10, Gun Purchase Program (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes, French, Krause, Brown and Decker; Mayor Domingo; City Manager Mitchell; Chief Kipp; Sergeant Jack Williamson and City Attorney Harkness.

 French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2016-10, Gun Purchase Program as presented. (7-0, rcv)

E. Request Approval to Send Request for Proposals out for Sidewalk Replacement Program (RCV)

 City Manager Mitchell stated a Request for Proposals for the Replacement of City sidewalks will be sent out in the next few weeks.

Council Member Krause asked if the current contractor had offered to complete the sidewalk work at the cost from the previous year.

City Manager Mitchell stated the previous contractors had offered to work on the sidewalks for the same cost as the previous year but she felt it was important for the sidewalk replacement go out for bid.

Council Member Brown stated he felt it important to address residents that do not have sidewalks.

Additional comments were received from Council Member French.

F. Discussion-Set Dates for Goal Setting

City Manager Mitchell asked for Council clarification on whether the goal setting session are for the City Departments and the City Manager.

Mayor Domingo stated the goal setting session would be for both the City Departments and the City Manager. He stated some of the goals had been completed while others were still being worked on. He asked for a list of the current goals.

The consensus of the Council is to have a Study Session on City Department and City Manager goals on Monday, February 29, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Mayor’s Office. The Council also requested Department Heads attend the meeting.

G. Boards & Commission Appointments

* Scott Evans, DDA Board, Initial Appointment, Term to Expire 12-31-2019 (RCV)

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, To Approve Scott Evans, DDA Board, Initial Appointment, Term to Expire 12-31-2019 as presented. (7-0, rcv)

H. Request Approval Tentative Agreement for the POLC Union (Public Safety

 Sergeants & Lieutenants) (RCV)

 Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell and Mayor Domingo.

 French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, To **Amend** the Agenda to

 Remove (Item H-Request Approval Tentative Agreement for the POLC Union

 (Public Safety Sergeants & Lieutenants) from the agenda. (7-0, rcv)

Decker moved, French supported, CARRIED, to **REMOVE** (Item H-Request Approval Tentative Agreement for the POLC Union (Public Safety Sergeants & Lieutenants) from the agenda. (7-0, rcv)

I. Discussion-2016 Projects

Finance Director Tom Mead stated $212,000 in revenue was budgeted for 2016 and 0 dollars were budgeted for expenditures for street projects. He expects to end 2015 with a fund balance of $288,000.

The match for the 2017 Superior Street project is still unknown. We have been unable to get a commitment amount from MDOT. The City will be responsible for a 20% match for the driving lane and 100% for the parking lanes.

The City is therefore, hesitant to commit funds to local streets until the match amount can be confirmed. He also stated that once the match amount had been confirmed, the City may be able to complete a few small projects this year. Director of Public Services Lenardson is also looking into grant opportunities to help cover the match amount.

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

J. City Manager Report

City Manager Mitchell updated the Council with the following items:

* There have been several inquiries pertaining to lead in the water. A press release has been issued from the Calhoun County Public Health Department and has been distributed to the Council. It can also be viewed on the City’s website. Residents who wish to test their water can get a kit from Calhoun County Public Health Department by calling 269-381-9666.
* She noted the MLK Convocation will be held on Tuesday, February 3rd, 2016 at the Bohm Theatre at 7:00 p.m. A Q& A will be held with keynote speaker Diane Nash at Albion College, Norris 102 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Also an invitation only event will be held at the Ismon House from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
* Discussions with Albion Community Schools pertaining to the recreation department are as follows:
* Handling the physical education component for the school
* Relocation of Recreation Department to the school
* An enrichment program for arts and music for grades K-5 for the remainder of this year. This program will be donation funded and Bruce from the Michigan Department of Treasury stated a separate fund will be established and if enough funds are not raised for the program-all donations will be refunded.
* The Gap Program for the kids currently going to Marshall Schools.
* The AmeriCorps volunteers will be coming late summer and working on development and enrichment programs.
* A reminder the Presidential Primary election will be held March 8th, 2016 and February 8th, 2016 will be the last day to register to vote in the March Presidential Primary election.
* Absentee Applications for the March Presidential Primary are available in the City Clerk’s office.

K. Future Agenda Items

* Council Member Brown would like the single hauler bid process added to the next agenda.
* Council Member Barnes would like the City of Albion volunteering to help provide water to the City of Flint added to the next agenda. He also stated if residents were interested in donating water, they could drop water off on the front steps of Bethel Baptist Church or they can contact Council Member Barnes and he would pick the water up.
* Council Member Decker would like a discussion for City employees to purchase old equipment from the City and have an ordinate created outlining the process.

Comments were received from City Attorney Harkness and Mayor Domingo.

L. 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 Mike Bearman, 11016 29 Mile Rd and Jay Loomis, 408 W. Ash St.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

 French moved, Barnes supported, CARRIED, to ADJOURN Regular Session. (7-0, vv).

Mayor Domingo adjourned the Regular Session at 8:55 p.m.

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Date Jill Domingo City Clerk