City of Albion

City Council Meeting

July 5, 2017

1. Call To Order

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

1. Moment of Silence To Be Observed
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

PRESENT: Maurice Barnes (1), Lenn Reid (2), Sonya Brown (3), Marcola Lawler (4) Jeanette Spicer (5) and Andrew French (6) and Mayor Brown.

Staff Present: Sheryl Mitchell, City Manager; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Stacey Levin, Assistant City Manager; Jill Domingo, City Clerk and Scott Kipp, Chief Public Safety.

1. Mayor & Council Member’s Comments

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

French moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, to Add Sister City Presentation to the agenda. (7-0, vv)

VI. Presentations

A. Proclamation-AmeriCorps VISTA

Mayor Brown read aloud Proclamation for the AmeriCorps VISTA and presented to Council Member French, AmeriCorps VISTA Supervisor.

Comments were received from Council Member French who applauded the Albion AmeriCorps VISTA group for all of their hard work. He stated the Albion Forward Survey results have been completed and the report is available for anyone who may be interested.

B. Sister City Presentation-Mary Slater

Mary Slater, Co-Chair Person of the Sister City Committee introduced three interns from Albion's Sister City, Noisy Le Roi, France. The interns are visiting through the month of July working on various projects. Thomas Ogier is interning at City Hall in the City Manager's Office, Nathan Van Laere is interning at the Bohm Theatre, and Gregoire de Branquilanges is interning at the Chamber of Commerce. They wish to thank the Sister City Organization and their host families for their Albion visit. They are excited to learn about American culture.

VII. Public Comments (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to **agenda items only** and to no more than three (3) minutes. Proper decorum is required.)

Comments were received from Rick Lange, 810 Haven Road.

1. Consent Calendar (VV)
2. Approval Regular Session Minutes – June 19, 2017

French moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to approve the Consent as presented. (7-0, vv)

1. Items for Individual Discussion

A. Request Approval Resolution # 2017-30, To Approve Michigan Municipal League (MML) Liability & Property Insurance (RCV)

Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell.

French moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2017-30, To Approve Michigan Municipal League (MML) Liability & Property Insurance as presented. (7-0, rcv)

B. Request Approval Resolution # 2017-31, A Resolution to Approve WOW Cable Franchise Agreement (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members Reid, Spicer, Brown and French; City Manager Mitchell and Mayor Brown.

French moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2017-31, A Resolution to Approve WOW Cable Franchise Agreement as presented. (7-0, rcv)

C. Discussion-Changes/Recommendations for Council Rules of Procedure

The procedure for the changes to the Council Rules of Procedures was as follows:

* Council creates a sub-committee
* Sub-Committee meets and goes through changes/recommendations to the Council Rules of Procedures
* Sub-committee will then submit to City Attorney for recommendations
* Sub-Committee will then present to Council for discussion/approval.

The sub-committee used the following sources to make changes/recommendations

A. the City of Albion’s current rules of procedures

B. Port Huron’s rules of procedures

C. the MML‘s recommendation for rules of procedures

The sub-committee would like to change the City’s rules of procedures to mimic Port Huron’s structure. Therefore the changes/additions were made to Port Huron’s rules of procedures to incorporate Albion’s charter and framework. They felt Port Huron’s rules were a very complete document and is the direction the Mayor would like to see the Council move forward.

Comments/Questions from the Council were as follows:

* Council Members need a chance to review the document before an in depth discussion can take place
* Would like the City Attorney to review and make recommendations. City Attorney Harkness stated he would review and offer recommendations before the next Council meeting.
* Were the changes made to the original document used?
* How will the two documents align?
* Would like to see changes/recommendations in a single document.

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

D. Discussion-Victory Park Restrooms

Council Member Spicer stated she asked for the Victory Park restrooms agenda item as she was concerned about the smell of the restrooms. She stopped at Victory Park prior to the meeting and realized the problem had been resolved. She thanked City Manager Mitchell and the Department of Public Services for taking care of this problem with the use of an extra strength deodorizer.

City Manager Mitchell stated the facilities at Victory Park do need upgrades.

E. Update on Nuisance Properties Litigation

A. 1521 N. Eaton Street

B. 702 N. Albion Street

C. 608 Austin Avenue

City Attorney Harkness updated the Council on the Nuisance Property litigation as follows:

**1521 N. Eaton Street**-The City has had long time dealings with the owner of this property. When served with the lawsuit, the owner has begun the process of acquiring permits to demolish the building. This building should be demolished by September.

**702 N. Albion Street**-The City has obtained a judgement on June 30th, 2017 for this property. The owner of the property will have until July 30th, 2017 to comply with the judgment. If owners do not comply by July 30th, 2017 City Attorney Harkness will file a motion to show cause and will seek contempt charges against the owner. The owner of this residence lives in Grand Rapids.

**608 Austin Avenue**-We received a default judgement for this property. We should be receiving the actual judgement in the next several months. If the owner of the property does not comply with judgement, City Attorney Harkness will file a motion to show cause and will seek contempt charges against the owner. The owner of this property resides in Hawaii.

Comments were received from Council Member Brown.

F. Update on Crowell School Voting Location

Discussion on Crowell School was as follows:

* There are several rumors as to whether Crowell School will be closing and if so when that may take place.
* Council Member Barnes met with Superintendent Davis. Dr. Davis stated he will be making a recommendation on Crowell School in September. Council Member Barnes and a select group will be meeting the second week in August to discuss viable options to keep the school open. This is a closed meeting. If someone were interested in purchasing the building and has a viable plan of keeping it open, Marshall Schools would be willing to sell the building. An option of applying for grants from the Community Foundation is being discussed.
* The Superintendent and the Marshall School Board will make the final decision on what happens with Crowell School.
* There are infrastructure issues with the building.
* Public meetings are important to hold in the community.
* The community needs to attend these public meetings to help determine what they would like to see happen with this building.
* This building is of particular interest as it is as polling location for Precincts 1 & 5.
* If Crowell School were to close, Marshall Opportunity High may be the best option for Precinct’s 1 & 5 to use as a polling location. Changes to the polling location will not take place until we receive a definitive answer on whether or not Crowell School will close.

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes, Reid, French, Brown and Lawler, City Manager Mitchell and Mayor Brown.

X. City Manager Report

City Manager Mitchell gave the following City Manager Report:

She was able to take part in the Sister City Exchange Program in Noisy-le-Roi and Bailly. They celebrated the 20th anniversary of the City of Albion’s relationship with the sister cities. She thanked the Sister City Committee for affording her the amazing opportunity to share in the celebration.

Comments were received from Mary Slater, Co-Chair Person of the Sister City Committee who stated a group of 8th, 9th and 10th graders will be going to France in September.

City Manager Mitchell thanked the following for their participation and help with the Albion Community Visioning Celebration:

* Albion City Council for their Council Member Corner
* EDC & Staff
* Danielle Nelson
* Laura Overholt, Farmers Market
* Stacey Levin
* John Tracy
* Scott Kipp
* Food Vendors
* Double Vision
* and all those that came from the community for the celebration.

City Manager Mitchell asks everyone to work on promoting local businesses.

MDOT- Superior Street Reconstruction -Week of June 5, 2017

* The Closure of Cass Street has been delayed until Thursday, July 6th.
* Cass Street will be closed for approximately 2-3 weeks for water main connections, storm sewer installation, earth excavation, sand and gravel base course and concrete base course.
* M-99 (Superior St) Closed from Ash Street to Michigan Ave
* Erie Street to Remain Open
* Pedestrians to Cross at Cass and Erie Street
* Maintain Access to Business’ with Pedestrian Barricades
* Earth Excavation and Grading Subgrade
* Underdrain Installation
* Curb and Gutter Installation
* Bi-Weekly Update: Wednesday, July 19th at 9am, Ludington Center, 2nd Floor

EVENTS

Resilient Communities - Cronin Project

AMRCP: Community Cook Out Event NEXT Saturday, July 15th Beginning at 11:00am. Everyone is invited: Saturday at 11:00am - Community Cook Out Event for community building with fun activities at the Pavilion in Holland Park, 100 North Albion Street, Albion, Ml 49224. The AMRCP Team will provide the meal and drinks, feel free to bring chips, salads and/or dessert. Lunch will be served around noon. The Build Albion Fellows will also host their Basketball Tournament at the north end of the park during the same time

Please register by Thursday, July 13th at amrcp.org/registration/ under "7/15 - Cookout- Holland Park" in order to ensure that we have adequate resources.

XI. Future Agenda Items

* Council Member Brown would like a discussion on the Albion-Marshall Connector added to the next agenda and also an EDC update which has been scheduled for the August 7th, 2017 Council meeting.
* City Attorney Harkness asked for a Closed Session to discuss the City Attorney Evaluation.
* City Manager Mitchell asked for a discussion on the water tower so we may move forward with the grant application.
* Mayor Brown asked for status of the health care grant on the next agenda.

XII. Motion to Excuse Absent Council Member (s) (VV)

No action was necessary as all members were present.

XIII. Public Comments (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to no more than three (3) minutes. Proper decorum is required.)

Comments were received from John Dunklin, 1203 Second St; Gary Thompkins, Calhoun County Commissioner; Bill Dobbins, 15901 E. Michigan Avenue; Council Members Reid, Barnes and French; Mayor Brown and City Manager Mitchell.

XIV. Adjournment

French moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, to adjourn council session. (7-0 vv)

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

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Date Jill Domingo City Clerk