City of Albion

City Council Meeting

June 1, 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), Andrew French (6) and Mayor Joseph Domingo. Cheryl Krause (5) was absent.

STAFF PRESENT:

Sheryl Mitchell, City Manager; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Tom Mead, Finance Director; John Tracy, Director of Planning & Building; Scott Kipp, Public Safety Chief and Jack Williamson, Public Safety Sergeant.

V. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Comments were received from Council Members Reid, Barnes and

French and Mayor Domingo.

VI. 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; Janice Best, 710 S. Eaton St; Council Member French and Mayor Domingo.

VII. CONSENT CALENDAR (VV)

A. Approval of Regular Session Minutes-May 18, 2015

French moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to Approve Consent

Calendar as presented. (6-0, vv)

VIII. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Board and Commissions Appointments (VV)

* Kathleen Stimer, Initial Appointment, Albion Housing Commission, Term to Expire 12-31-2018
* Betty Branche, Initial Appointment, Board of Review, Term to Expire 12-31-2016
* Cristobal Solis, Initial Appointment, Citizen’s Advisory Committee, Term to Expire 12-31-2015
* Elizabeth Schultheiss, Initial Appointment, Citizen’s Advisory Committee, Term to Expire 12-31-2015
* Joanne Konkle, Initial Appointment, Citizen’s Advisory Committee, Term to Expire 12-31-2015
* Tamara Crupi, Initial Appointment, Citizen’s Advisory Committee, Term to Expire 12-31-2015
* Lenn Reid, Initial Appointment, Citizen’s Advisory Committee, Term to Expire 12-31-2015

French moved, Decker supported, CARRIED, to Approve Kathleen

Stimer, Initial Appointment, Albion Housing Commission, Term to Expire 12-31-2015 and Betty Branche, Initial Appointment, Board of Review, Term to Expire 12-31-15 as presented. (6-0, vv)

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, to Approve Cristobal Solis, Elizabeth Schultheiss, Joanne Konkle, Tamara Crupi and Lenn Reid, All Initial Appointments, Citizen’s Advisory Committee, Term to Expire 12-31-2015 as presented. (6-0, vv)

B. 2nd Reading & Request for Approval Ordinance #2015-02, Amendment to Ordinance #2013-04, The Chicken Ordinance (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Member Brown.

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, to Approve Ordinance # 2015-02, Amendment to Ordinance # 2013-04, The Chicken Ordinance as presented. (6-0, rcv)

C. Update on Holland Park-Council Member Reid

Council Member Reid stated that flowers had been planted around the trees in the front section of the park. The ground breaking ceremony will be on June 15th, 2015 for the children’s section and on June 17th they will be placing the playground equipment. Also on June 17th, approximately 120 people will be coming from a church in Illinois to help with the park. This will complete the children’s section of the park. They are currently raising funds to begin work on the teen and senior areas of the park.

Comments were received from Council Member French.

D. Discussion-Non-Discrimination Ordinance

Council Member Barnes asked for clarification on the “Exceptions” clause of sample ordinance.

City Attorney Harkness stated the exceptions clause was for religious organizations only and that the ordinance would apply to all public businesses.

Mayor Domingo stated he liked the idea of forming a study group and or committee along with the City Manager and City Attorney to work on the non-discrimination ordinance so that we get it right the first time.

The consensus of the council is to have the City Manager and City Attorney form a committee for the non-discrimination ordinance and report back to council the second meeting in July, 2015.

Council Members French, Krause and Decker all would like to volunteer to sit on the non-discrimination committee.

Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell.

E. Discussion/Request for Approval Delinquent Utility Bills & Abatements Added to Property Taxes (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members Brown, Decker and Barnes, Finance Director Mead; City Attorney Harkness; Mayor Domingo and Kathleen Stimer, 10600 Pulaski Rd, Hanover.

French moved, Decker supported, CARRIED, to Approve Delinquent Utility Bills & Abatements Added to Property Taxes as presented. (6-0, rcv)

F. Discussion/Ordinance for Privacy Fences with the Post Side in Towards Residence and Finished Side Facing Street

Council Member Barnes stated he would like to establish an ordinance for all new privacy fences that the post side is in towards residence and the finished side facing the street. He stated this beautify the community and make it look better as a whole. He stated that the current fences would be grandfathered. He stated this would be for residential homes only.

Council Member French asked if the properties adjoin how this ordinance would address that issue.

Building and Planning Director Tracy stated that we have an ordinance for privacy fences in the zoning ordinances but not in the actual code of ordinances. He stated he does not receive a lot of complaints on this issue. He also stated for properties that adjoin, both property owners must obtain a permit and write a notarized statement of which direction the posts will be facing.

It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with drafting language for the ordinance.

Comments were received from Council Member French; City Manager Mitchell; Mayor Domingo and Bobby Tackett, 505 Ionia St.

G. Adoption of Freedom of Information Act Procedures & Guidelines

(RCV)

Comments were received from Council Member Brown and City Manager Mitchell.

Barnes moved, French supported, to Amend Motion to - Approval of Adoption of Freedom of Information Act Procedures & Guidelines with Addition of Phone Numbers for Requests to be Submitted.

Barnes moved, French supported, CARRIED, to Approve Adoption of Freedom of Information Act Procedures & Guidelines with Addition of Phone Numbers for Requests to be submitted as amended in previous motion. (6-0, rcv)

H. Future Agenda Items

* City Attorney Harkness would like a discussion for an ordinance added to a future agenda for the issue of after-hours alcohol being served in businesses that do not have a permit to sell alcohol. The ordinance would create a disorderly conduct offense.
* City Attorney Harkness would like a discussion to change the current fireworks ordinance so that it may be enforceable by Public Safety. The change would make the property owner responsible for the fireworks and would be a disorderly establishment offense.

Comments were received from Council Members Reid, Barnes and Brown and Chief Kipp.

Council Member Barnes asked to have the previous meeting’s minutes include the statement that neither the City of Albion nor Albion Public Safety is able to obtain from the railroad a schedule of when hazardous waste will be going through town.

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

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, to Excuse Council Member

Krause. (6-0, vv)

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

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

Comments were received from Loree Grinnell, 113 W. Pine St; Bobby Tackett, 505 Ionia St.; Billy Tackett, 312 W. Erie St.; Wesley Dick, 700 E. Michigan Avenue; Mayor Domingo and Director of Planning and Building Tracy.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

(6-0, vv)

Mayor Domingo adjourned Regular Session at 8:06 p.m.

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Date Jill Domingo City Clerk