City of Albion

City Council Meeting

October 3, 2016

1. Call To Order

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

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

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

Staff Present: Sheryl Mitchell, City Manager; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; John Tracy, Director, Building, Planning & Code Enforcement and Scott Kipp, Chief Public Safety.

V. Mayor & Council Member’s Comments

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes and French and City Attorney Harkness.

 VI. Presentations

A. SAW Grant-Smoke Testing Results-Jeff Wingard

Jeff Wingard, Fleis & Vandenbrink gave the Council the following update on the SAW Grant Smoke Testing Results:

* The purpose of the smoke test is to ensure there is not a crossover of the sanitary and storm sewers. This is done using a machine to insert smoke inside the manholes and seeing if and where smoke arises.
* **Storm Catch Basin/Grates**- had approximately 30 properties. These should be disconnected from the sanitary sewer and connected to the storm sewer. This is not a high priority but can be used for future planning of projects so the problem can be corrected.
* **Sanitary Cleanout/Vent**: These do need to be capped off but is not a high priority.
* **Downspout/Roof Gutter**: The storm water is going into the sanitary sewer and residents should be notified.
* **Infiltration and/or Inflow**: This usually can be fixed fairly easily and should be used for future planning to correct the issue.
* **Inside Residence**: This is generally when there are no traps for the plumbing in the house or problems with traps. This can be a health hazard and residents should be notified to have a licensed plumber go through the house. It may not be a high dollar fix.
* Tera Environmental will be starting next week cleaning out the sewer lines and then a camera will be run through the lines.
* We are in year two (2) of a three (3) year program.
* Once all the information is received they will begin an Asset Management Plan which the City will receive in February or March, 2017.
* The rate study will be done in a month or so.
* Once the project is complete, all the information will belong to the City to use for future planning.

Comments were received from Council Members Reid, Decker and French, Director Building, Planning & Code Enforcement Tracy and Mayor Domingo.

VII. Citizen’s Comments

No comments were received.

1. Consent Calendar
2. Approval Regular Council Session Minutes – September 19, 2016

 Decker moved, French supported, CARRIED, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. (6-0 vv)

1. Items for Individual Discussion
2. City Manager Report

City Manager Mitchell updated the Council with the following:

1. The Planning Commission is moving forward with the Comprehensive

Plan. Council is invited to the upcoming meetings, including:

* 1. Sept. 20th meeting - Had presentation from Amanda Reintjes from the Michigan Historic Preservation Network on Historic Districts
	2. **Monday, November 28, 7pm** – Planning Commission, Public Hearing and **Wednesday, November 30, 6:30pm** – City Council, Adoption of Phase 1of Comprehensive Plan.

2. The **AmeriCorps/Vista** coordinating Town Halls and upcoming community discussion with the Calhoun County Land Bank on the Dalrymple School Property (tentative - 3rd week of Oct).

3. **Albion Economic Development Corporation - CEO Search** - Current CEO Peggy Sindt retired as of Sept. 29th. Expecting that the replacement will be confirmed before the end of October.

4. **Town Hall Meetings** - Oct 13th @ 7pm at Albion Community Building, 225 Watson and Oct. 27th at Lewis Chapel, 522 W. Center.

5. **Rental Registration and Certification Ordinance** - a work session on September 26 and received good feedback and suggestions from the Landlord Association.

6. **Downtown Development Authority & City Council Study Session**

 **on Downtown Parking**- Sept. 28th - recommendations for additional lighting and signage for existing lots, along with having lines to identify parking. Working with MEDC and MSU Extension on developing update for Downtown Parking Plan.

7. **Fiber Network** - meeting on Oct.3 with Albion College and Merit about a community-wide network strategy and connectivity to City offices.

8**. Consumer's Energy Easement** - project moved forward and City received

 $3,800 check today.

1. **RFP for Single Trash Hauler -**The public bid opening was September 7, 2016. Need to schedule a study session with Council.

10**.** The Big Read had an outstanding parade and Festival. The book is very popular. Two rounds have already been passed out at City Hall.

 11.The Recreation Department will be holding the Mother/Son dance on Friday, October 14th, 2016 from 7 pm to 9 pm at the Albion Community Schools.

12. The Recreation Department is currently having discussions with Marshall Schools for the use of the school building located on Watson St.

1. The Recreation Department held a basketball event last weekend with Milton Barnes.

**EVENTS:**

**a. Forks Senior Center - Lunch & Learn**, Wed., October 5, 11:30am-1pm, $3 at Holland Park with Council M ember Lenn Reid

**b. NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet** - Saturday, Oct. 8, 6pm, Bald win Hall

**c. Citizens to Beautify Albion - Potluck** - Tuesday, Oct. 11, 6pm, First Presbyterian Church, 305 E. Porter St.

**d. Redevelopment Ready Community** - Best practice training. Click [www.cvent.com/](http://www.cvent.com/) d/wvqldb to register.

**e. Mental Health Reform & Innovation Policy Meeting** - Hosted by Harry Bonner and Albion College - Wed., Oct. 12 @ 7:10pm - Bobbitt Center

**f. Lead Task Force - Awareness Event** - Thurs., October 27 at 6:30pm, Kool Center, Battle Creek

1. Future Agenda Items
* Council Member Barnes asked for an update on the business district on Austin Avenue and also demolitions and abatements.

Director of Building, Planning and Code Enforcement Tracy was able to give the following Austin Avenue update:

**600 Block of Austin Avenue:**

* 608 Austin Avenue- property owner previously complied with fencing off hazardous structure. Due to failure of property owner to contact city in July/Aug. as previously agreed to in reference to demolish structure, moving forward with legal action.
* 610 Austin Avenue- painted earlier this summer, per owner, possible tenant to use for storage.
* 614 Austin Avenue- property owners failed to follow up with abatement of debris during extended timeline, moving forward with legal action.

**Follow-up with PMC:**

As before, parking for commercial businesses in 600 block still an issue. Vacant property located on south side of 600 Block of Austin is owned by EDC, possible site for public parking if funds were available to city for improved parking surface/lot.

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

Barnes moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to excuse Council Member Brown (6-0, vv)

1. Citizen’s Comments

Comments were received from Chad Baase, 921 Burr Oak St., Council Members Barnes and French and Mayor Domingo.

1. Adjournment

 French moved, Decker supported, CARRIED, to adjourn council session. (6-0 vv)

Mayor Domingo adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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Date Jill Domingo City Clerk