City of Albion

City Council Meeting

August 21, 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; Lauren Elster, Assistant City Attorney; Stacey Levin, Assistant City Manager; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; John Tracy; Director Planning, Building & Code Enforcement; Scott Kipp, Chief Public Safety; Stacey Levin, Assistant City Manager and Harry Longon, Deputy Director Public Services.

1. Mayor & Council Member’s Comments

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

VI. Presentations

1. Commendation for PSO Officers Dan Riley and Kyle Wilson

Chief Kipp awarded PSO Officers Dan Riley and Kyle Wilson a certificate and stork pin for their delivery of a baby girl on August 4th, 2017.

1. Certificate of Appreciation-Corbett Smith Retirement

Mayor Brown read aloud the Certificate of Appreciation for Corbett Smith who will be retiring from the City of Albion on August 28, 2017 with sixteen years of service.

Mr. Smith received a standing ovation from the Albion City Council.

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.)

No public comments were received.

1. Consent Calendar (VV)
2. Approval Regular Session Minutes – August 7, 2017
3. Approval Leisure Hour DJ for Festival of the Forks

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

1. Items for Individual Discussion

A. Approve Updated 2017 Fee Schedule (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members French and Brown and John Tracy, Director of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement.

City Manager Mitchell stated for consistency purposes the lot line adjustment cost should be raised to $55.00.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, To Approve Updated 2017 Fee Schedule with the lot line adjustment cost raised to $55.00. (7-0, rcv)

B. Request Approval 1st Reading Ordinance # 2017-06, To Amend Ordinance 22-181 Sidewalk Cafes (RCV)

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

French moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, To Approve 1st Reading Ordinance # 2017-06, To Amend Ordinance 22-181 Sidewalk Cafes as presented. (7-0, rcv)

C. Request Approval of Draft of Future Land Use & Zoning Plan and Release for Public Comment (RCV)

Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to Approve Draft of Future Land Use & Zoning Plan and Release for Public Comment as presented. (7-0, rcv)

D. Discussion of Study Session Date for Charter Revision

Mayor Brown stated he had spoken with the MML general counsel for a recommendation of a charter revision consultant. The MML made a recommendation for a gentlemen that just completed the Flint Charter revision. The dates the consultant is available to meet with Council are Monday, September 25, 2017 or Thursday, September 28, 2017.

Council Comments on Charter Revision were as follows:

* Would like a consensus of the Council to determine if the majority is willing to spend the money to move forward with a Charter revision.
* The 2015 cost for the Consultant was $30,000. A current cost has not been identified. There is no charge for the Study Session consultation.
* A study session would identify the scope, process and requirements of the City.
* There is no commitment for the initial meeting with consultant.
* Is a charter revision necessary?
* The last Charter revision was in 1960 and feels it worth the cost of updating as this document is the basis of how the City operates.
* Would like opinion from City Attorney. *The Charter is outdated in many areas, however this is a policy decision to be made by the Council. There will be additional charges such as publication, wages for the committee and possible election costs.*
* Can this decision be made in the spring of 2018?
* A study session will be the initial step in the process of making a decision of whether to move forward with the Charter revision.
* Many questions can be interested in meeting with the Consultant.
* If no cost is involved, would like to see what the Consultant has to say about the process.
* City Manager Mitchell will follow up with consultant to insure there will not be a cost involved for the initial meeting.

*The consensus of the Council is to hold a Study Session for information for a Charter Revision on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 7:00 with consultant*.

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

X. City Manager Report

City Manager Mitchell reported the following:

* Thanked Chief Kipp and Albion Public Safety for the two new TV’s acquired through the military program.
* Festival of the Forks will be held on September 14, 2017. The Festival will be held in Stoffer Plaza, Lloyd Park and Rieger Park.
* The car show will be September 15, 2017 in the parking lot.
* Planning Commission approved Local Historic District Committee. Will be coming to Council to create committee and consider list of interested candidates.
* Employee Appreciation Picnic will be held Friday, August 25, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. at Victory Park. Council Members are invited to attend.
* Union negotiations have begun.
* Blue Cross Blue Shield rates will increase by 5.5%
* The City has been asked to participate in the HUD Choice Grant. The City was approached by MSU Extension for this grant along with Albion Housing. A special council meeting will need to be held before Monday, August 28th, 2017 to approve a resolution for a $10,000 match for the $1.3 million grant. Although, the grant does include displacement and demolition, that is not the intention of what the grant funds will be used for,

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes, French and Spicer and Mayor Brown.

The consensus of the Council is to hold a special meeting on Wednesday, August 23, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss/approve the HUD Choice Grant.

* Cass Street construction was a partnership with Albion College. Albion College asked the City to assist with filling potholes in their parking lots before students arrived back. Albion College paid the City $2,000 to cover the cost of the asphalt.
* Stacey Levin’s photo was chosen for the front page of the Yellow Pages phone book.

XI. Future Agenda Items

* Council Member Barnes would like the Black footprint of Albion added to the next agenda:

1. 600 Austin Avenue
2. Albion Housing
3. Double Vision
4. Albion Malleable Iron Site

* Council Member French would like the Council Rules and Procedures added to the next agenda
* City Attorney Harkness would like a nuisance property litigation update added to the next agenda
* Mayor Brown would like google docs added to the next agenda

Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell

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 2ns Street; Council Members Barnes, French, Reid, Lawler and Spicer; Mayor Brown; City Manager Mitchell; Wayne Arnold, 906 Hall St and Jay Loomis, 408 W. Ash St.

XIV. CLOSED SESSION-The City Attorney requests a Closed Session under the Open Meetings Act (Section 15.268 (a), P.A. 267 of 1976, as amended) to consider the dismissal, suspension, or discipling of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of a public officer, employee or staff member of individual agent, if the named person requests a closed hearing.

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, to adjourn to Closed Session. (7-0, vv)

Mayor Brown adjourned to closed session at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor Brown re-adjourned the regular council session at 8:52 p.m.

XV. Adjournment

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

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

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Date Jill Domingo City Clerk