

CITY OF MT. MORRIS
CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
August 26, 2013

At **6:30 p.m.**, Mayor Dan Lavelle called the Regular Council Meeting to order.

PRESENT: Dan Lavelle
Dennis Heidenfeldt
Randy Michaels
Tonya Davis
Ed Sullivan
Judd Judkins
Mark Middleton

ABSENT: None

OTHERS: City Manager Tom Darnell, City Attorney Charles Forrest, Fire Chief Damon Tobias, Assistant Fire Chief Michael Vogt, and City Clerk Tema Lucero.

The Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Council member Middleton seconded by Council member Judkins to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 12, 2013.

All Ayes
Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

No Communications.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT:

A motion was made by Council member Middleton and seconded by Council member Michaels to approve Prepaid Warrant #13-18 in the amount of \$168,302.84.

Council member Judkins asked if we had more than one postage machine.

City Manager Tom Darnell answered we have one machine and the funds are split between departments.

Council member Judkins asked about the Bruton Tree Service Bill what the split was for the tree removal and hanging the banner. There wasn't anyone local to do it.

City Manager Tom Darnell said we tried to use Ackler but he would not get back in touch with DPW Supervisor Jeff Roth in a timely manner so he found someone else. The tree removal was \$600 and the banner hanging was \$100.

Roll Call: ___7___Ayes ___0___Nay ___0___Absent

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

No Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Discussion of advancing the construction schedule for completing Saginaw St.

City Manager Tom Darnell said as of now Saginaw is on a TIP program and scheduled for 2015 engineering and construction in 2016. It will be an 80/20 split with local funds paying the 20% and MDOT paying 80%. If you've looked at the condition and the thought of three more years of deterioration even if it doesn't get worse it's not good to drive on. So we'd like to approach county planning with a letter signed by the mayor, city manager and council to get the project moved up. There's two ways for that to happen, first if more money becomes available and second another municipality backs out of a project. The only other option is to front the money for the project and get reimbursed when the time comes. We do have the funds to advance the engineering but not the construction.

Council member Heidenfeldt said if the Governor gets what he is trying for transportation there is a good chance of money coming available. In talking with Jason at planning he's very receptive of getting a letter.

Mayor Dan Lavelle said go ahead with the letter.

b. City Manager report of personnel situation in Fire Department.

The Fire Chief had a disciplinary hearing on August 20th with one of the firefighters and his counsel. Our attorney was also present. Discipline will be issued; the firefighter has the right to appeal to the Fire Chief, then to the City Manager and then to the Council if not satisfied with the outcome.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Fedejelem – 604 Walnut – Saw in the previous meeting minutes that Dancing in the Streets made money, was wondering how much of that will go towards the city. He thanked everyone involved.

Mayor Dan Lavelle answered none of the money goes towards the city; it is all put towards next years event.

Tim Elder – 567 Wilson – At the last meeting Dorothy Lindsay was appointed to the compensation committee and he was offended by her comment in the minutes. He takes being on the committee seriously and asked if he could have council and the mayor email him what they do in their position outside the meetings. For him to consider raising pay, lower pay or making it volunteer he would like to have the information to base that on.

Mayor Dan Lavelle told council that was up to them if they choose to send an email to Tim.

Dan Davis – 1009 E. Mt. Morris – Dan Kildee is speaking on September 14th about implications of municipal bankruptcy. It's a free event at the Episcopal Church in Flint, encouraged everyone to go.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Council member Heidenfeldt said regarding the insurance check for the repairs to the library and city hall do we have to go out for bid. If so, it could be time consuming, why not just get the job done that the insurance company has approved.

City manager Thomas Darnell said he's working with Charlie to see how the insurance company is handling it. They are sending the check based on the estimate that was submitted. There are downsides to going out for bids and they would require tight specs, and possibly involve Rowe Engineering which could cost even more.

City attorney Charles Forrest said it's a gray area but he believes they could go either way, it would be up to council to decide.

Council member Heidenfeldt said he would like to direct the City Manager to get it fixed so it's done quickly instead of roofing in November.

Mayor Dan Lavelle suggested putting it on the agenda for the meeting.

City manager Thomas Darnell said regarding the St. Mary's run Keith is trying to get the officers to volunteer their time for the first year. The city would not be able to authorize spending \$1000 on a fundraiser.

Mayor Dan Lavelle asked if Genesee Township has agreed yet

City Manager Thomas Lavelle said Keith plans on talking to them. The problem with the cats on Spruce St is on going, currently there is a hearing set for September 4th where the lady will have to explain why she hasn't complied.

Mayor Dan Lavelle said he hopes everyone has a safe holiday, and those that return to school next week have fun.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, the Council Meeting was adjourned at **7:05 p.m.**