

CITY OF MT. MORRIS
CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING
June 10, 2013

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

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

ABSENT: Randy Michaels (with prior notification)

OTHERS: City Manager Tom Darnell, Attorney Charles Forrest, DPW Superintendent Jeff Roth, Police Chief Keith Becker, Interim Fire Chief Damon Tobias, Interim Assistant Fire Chief Mike Vogt, and Interim City Clerk Vicki Fishell.

The Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Lavelle asked to add a letter from the Dancing in the Streets committee under new business.

There were no objections.

MINUTES:

A motion was made by Council member Heidenfeldt and seconded by Council member Middleton to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 28, 2013.

All Ayes
Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS:

No communications

APPROVAL OF WARRANT:

A motion was made by Council member Heidenfeldt and seconded by Council member Middleton to approve Warrant #13-12 in the amount of \$55,054.92.

Roll Call: ___5___Ayes ___0___Nay ___2___Absent
Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Fejedelem – 604 Walnut – mentioned that he had contacted the city regarding a street light that was out and he was referred to consumers who had it repaired in 3-5 days. He also asked if the railroad was adding gates to the crossings.

City Manager Tom Darnell stated that at the end of 2012 the city had a little over \$284,000 in nonspendable fund balance, \$72,110 in restricted fund balance, \$25,820 in assigned fund balance, and \$233,870 in unassigned fund balance.

A motion was made by Council member Heidenfeldt seconded by Council member Middleton to **close the public hearing at 6:47 p.m.**

All Ayes.
Motion carried.

b. RESOLUTION 13-31: Adoption of Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Budget.

Council member Davis questioned the salaries and the raises between last year & this year.

City Manager Tom Darnell stated that it was his decision and he looked at what non-union people had gotten compared to the union people over the past 3 years.

Council member Davis mentioned that there were a lot of raises and one position was \$7,000 from last year to this year.

City Manager Tom Darnell mentioned that there were several things he considered. That position was very under paid compared to a survey from other cities and job duties were added.

Council member Davis stated that she has never seen raises this much.

Council member Heidenfeldt mentioned that he would like to make an amendment to the budget. He would like to see \$4,000 added to their budget. He would like \$2,500 added to salaries and raise a certified fire fighter from \$11 per hour to \$12 per hour. He would also like \$1,500 added to capital outlay for the purchase of 3 chain saws.

Council member Middleton mentioned that he does not see how the city can add more without cutting something else. He stated that he agrees they need to be paid more and that they deserve chain saws.

Council member Davis stated that the fire department does need the raise. Where the raises should have been they weren't.

Council member Judkins asked if any fundraising had been done.

Mayor Lavelle stated that it can be done but it hasn't.

Council member Judkins asked if outside organizations could make a donation.

Mayor Lavelle stated yes.

A motion was made by Council member Heidenfeldt seconded by Council member Sullivan to **amend the fire department budget by \$4,000, adding \$2,500 to salaries and \$1,500 to capital outlay.**

Roll Call:	___2___Ayes	___4___Nay (Judkins) (Davis) (Lavelle)	___1___Absent (Michaels)
Motion failed.		(Middleton)	

Council member Davis asked if the property tax millage is more or less.

City Manager Tom Darnell mentioned that the millage rate is the same as last year.

Council member Judkins asked how much a mil is.

Interim City Clerk Vicki Fishell stated that a mil is \$1 per \$1,000 of taxable value.

A motion was made by Council member Heidenfeldt seconded by Council member Middleton to **approve**
RESOLUTION 13-31: Adoption of Fiscal Year 2013/2014 Budget.

Roll Call: ___5___Ayes ___1___Nay ___1___Absent
Motion carried. (Davis) (Michaels)

c. Request from Dancing in the Streets committee to close the streets on Saturday, August 10th for Dancing in the Streets.

Mayor Lavelle mentioned that every year the downtown is shut down for the car show and dancing in the streets. This year they are requesting to shut down from city limit to city limit all four ways just in case they have to start moving barricades. They will move the barricades where they will cause the least problems. This would be on Mt. Morris Rd. they could go west down to Washington. Going east they could go to Citizens Bank. He mentioned that they do not plan on extending any farther north or south.

A motion was made by Council member Davis seconded by Council member Middleton to **approve the closing of the streets for Dancing in the Streets at 7a.m. on Saturday, August 10th until Sunday morning.**

[illegible]

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Fejedelem – 604 Walnut – asked what the ordinance that adopted was for.

City Manager Tom Darnell mentioned that it allows the city to cut grass with no letter sent. The city would just publish it in the paper once.

Mayor Lavelle mentioned that it would also take care of trees on property that are a hazard.

Dan Davis – 1009 E. Mt. Morris – asked if tree roots lift the sidewalk who is responsible.

DPW Superintendent Jeff Roth mentioned that the city replaces sidewalks but if a homeowner wanted to replace it they could.

Lillian Bigelow – 381 Oak – mentioned that after the storm she had some big branches in her yard. Can she call the fire department to cut?

Mayor Lavelle mentioned they would not cut branches that are on your own property.

Sandy Fejedelem – 604 Walnut – asked if the city would be getting any of the money that Dan Kildee is getting to help fight blight in the City of Flint.

Mayor Lavelle mentioned that he has not heard anything about it.

Dan Davis – 1009 E. Mt. Morris – complimented everyone involved on the Memorial Day Parade.

Violet Lawrence – 326 Spruce – asked if anything could be done about loose cats running the neighborhood.

Mayor Lavelle stated that there are no laws anywhere for cats. He mentioned that the city would look into it.

John Fejedelem – 604 Walnut – asked about dog bite incidents.

Police Chief Keith Becker mentioned that there has been a couple in the past month.

COUNCIL MEMBER AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Council member Middleton, Council member Heidenfeldt, Council member Judkins, Council member Davis, Police Chief Keith Becker, City Manager Tom Darnell, and Mayor Lavelle thanked Fire Chief Todd Rockwell for everything he has done.

Todd Rockwell mentioned that he will still be on the department as a fire fighter.

Council member Middleton mentioned that council should discuss some of the things on Mr. Davis' list.

Council member Heidenfeldt thanked Interim Fire Chief Damon Tobias for getting him off of his roof.

Council member Judkins thanked the public for bringing their concerns before the council.

Interim Fire Chief Damon Tobias mentioned that he would be on vacation June 17-28. Interim Assistant Fire Chief Mike Vogt will be in charge during that time.

City Manager Tom Darnell welcomed Damon and thanked staff for their work they did to put together the budget.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business, the Council Meeting was adjourned at **7:45 p.m.**

Vicki Fishell, Interim City Clerk