



CITY COUNCIL

September 12, 2022

A special meeting of the City of Petoskey City Council was held in the City Hall Council Chambers, Petoskey, Michigan, on Monday, September 12, 2022. This meeting was called to order at 5:30 P.M.; then, after a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, a roll call then determined that the following were

Present: John Murphy, Mayor
Tina DeMoore, City Councilmember
Derek Shiels, City Councilmember
Brian Wagner, City Councilmember
Lindsey Walker, City Councilmember

Absent: None

Also in attendance were City Manager Shane Horn, City Clerk Sarah Bek, Public Works Director Mike Robbins, Public Safety Director Matt Breed, Parks and Recreation Director Kendall Klingelsmith, Downtown Director Becky Goodman and Finance Supervisor Audrey Plath.

Discuss Status of 2021 Action Plan and Identify Future City Goals

The City Manager briefly reviewed the City's 2021 Action Plan, status of the seven goals and was asking City Council to give clear direction to City staff and identify 5-8 new goals and priorities for the City to pursue in the near and long term.

City Council discussed highlights, accomplishments and expected timeline of certain goals; discussed potential additional revenue sources for future maintenance and upkeep associated with parks, trails, shorelines and City buildings; that maintaining a list of past awarded grants is beneficial; discussed budgeting funds and reengaging with Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (NLEA); heard an interest in having a part-time economic development professional in-house; heard concerns that there could be challenges funding in-house and a potential conflict of interest if outsource since representing other communities; discussed the possibility of merging Goal 3 Diversify and Strengthen Economic Base and Goal 6 Promote Affordable/Workforce Housing since they are intertwined; that an Economic Development Policy should be discussed along with an approach to downtown vacancies and covered parking; discussed if there was still a need for parking; heard from those supportive of a mixed-use development on the Darling Lot and the importance of public and private partnerships and that height and impact to neighborhoods should be considered when evaluating development projects; discussed sustainability measures and suggested shortening the goal and emphasize quantifiable projects and metrics and provide sustainability information on the City's website; gave kudos to the increased success of the Voluntary Green Pricing Program; and discussed affordable housing and that density and rezoning of neighborhoods should be researched to increase housing opportunities and that there are concerns on equity and condition of some rental properties and that a code enforcement system is optimal to create safe living spaces.

The City Manager further reviewed possible 2023 budgetary items including a Code Enforcement Officer, School Resource Officer (SRO), contractual partnerships with Housing North and NLEA, a community arts program and future work session meetings.

City Councilmembers concurred that a full-time code enforcer is warranted and should be included in the 2023 annual budget; discussed the importance of public safety in the schools and community and inquired on the Petoskey Public Schools' needs for an SRO and asked for clarity of role and funding mechanisms; inquired how opportunities are solved with a potential conflict of interest with contractual partnerships; heard from those in favor of having representation from the City on the Housing North and NLEA boards; that a community arts program would heighten the community and 2023 budgeted funds would provide seed money for the program and discussed the importance of grants; and that it would be beneficial to distill one item from each goal to discuss at future work sessions.

Councilmembers scheduled the next special work session for 5:30 P.M., Monday, November 14, 2022.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, this September 12, 2022, meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:06 P.M.

John Murphy, Mayor

Sarah Bek, City Clerk