



CITY COUNCIL

October 21, 2019

A regular meeting of the City of Petoskey City Council was held in the City Hall Council Chambers, Petoskey, Michigan, on Monday, October 21, 2019. This meeting was called to order at 7:00 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
Kate Marshall, City Councilmember
Suzanne Shumway, City Councilmember
Lindsey Walker, City Councilmember

Absent: Grant Dittmar, City Councilmember

Also in attendance were Clerk-Treasurer Alan Terry, Executive Assistant Sarah Bek and Downtown Director Becky Goodman.

Hear Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Proclamation

Mayor Murphy read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, many Petoskey parents and families have suffered a miscarriage, a stillbirth or the death of an infant during delivery or shortly after birth; and

WHEREAS, the City of Petoskey wishes to acknowledge the profound grief experienced by families who suffer the loss of their child; and

WHEREAS, the existence of all of our children deserves to be acknowledged, recognized and valued always; and

WHEREAS, the City of Petoskey would like to encourage support and understanding in our community by honoring these children, acknowledging their families, and the community surrounding them:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, John Murphy, Mayor of the City of Petoskey, do hereby approve this proclamation to bring awareness to the issue of Pregnancy and Infant Loss in the City of Petoskey.

Conduct Public Hearing and Approve Special-Assessment Downtown Programs & Services – Resolution No. 19334

A public hearing was held to receive comments on the proposed programs and services. The Downtown Director gave a brief presentation on the background and history of the program; how it is used as a tool; that assessments are used instead of a TIF or in association with TIF; reviewed purposes of assessments and what they are used for; reviewed goals of the DMB which is to increase number of events and quality, enhance image marketing campaign and expand beautification projects; that there have been very few increases and the cost of doing business continues to increase; that the DMB calculated the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to arrive at the 2020 increase request; reviewed basic functions for merchants; and that staff will explore a 3-year plan for future review.

City Councilmembers inquired if the increase in parking rates have helped revenue; inquired on business retention programs; and commented that budgeted revenue is always higher than actually raised and if the DMB could get closer to actual amount. The Downtown Director responded that it is too early to tell and increase in parking rates is not affecting programs and services since revenue remains in the Parking Fund; the Director arrived in 2005 when the assessment was \$0.10/square foot; that retention programs include Wakeup Downtown, various speakers on topics such as social media and storefront interiors/decorating; and that sponsorships aren't received as much as anticipated causing the budget revenues to not align with actual revenues.

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:15 P.M.

Cynthia Linn Robson, 606 Grove Street, inquired on the downtown lighting project and commented that snow removal and facades should not be taken out of the Parking Fund and that parking revenues should go towards more parking and not other services.

The Downtown Director responded that comments have been made that downtown is too dark and exploration might include extending holiday lighting, lighting alleys, parks and street trees with a nice ambiance and that the dark sky park will be considered; and that in 2015 the DMB decided to take snow removal and facades out of the Parking Fund and that clearing of parking lots have never been funded by the Programs and Services Fund.

The public hearing was closed at 7:18 P.M.

City Councilmember Marshall moved that, seconded by City Councilmember Walker adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, at its meeting of October 7, 2019, the City Council reviewed a report by the City Manager dated September 23, 2019, as required of City Code provisions, that listed proposed programs and services to be provided to property owners and tenants within the Downtown Management Board's territory during 2020 and a proposed roll of special assessments to be spread against properties within the Management Board's district at an increased rate compared to the 2019 formula, as a means of financing such proposed programs and services; and

WHEREAS, following its review of that September 23 report, the City Council scheduled a public hearing for 7:00 P.M., Monday, October 21, 2019, as required of City Code provisions, to receive comments concerning proposed Downtown Management Board programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the City Council now has conducted this October 21 public hearing to receive comments concerning proposed programs and services as recommended by the Downtown Management Board:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does and hereby approves proposed programs and services as recommended by the Downtown Management Board and costs as estimated by the Management Board to be assessed eligible property owners within the boundaries of the proposed assessment district at an increased rate compared to the 2019 formula that are coterminous to those of the Management Board's territory; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City staff be and is hereby directed to prepare a special-assessment roll in accordance with the City Council's determination and to provide such a roll with the recommended formula rate for the City Council's review at its regular meeting of November 4, 2019.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Marshall, Shumway, Walker, Murphy (4)

NAYS: None (0)

Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 19335

Following introduction of the consent agenda for this meeting of October 21, 2019, City Councilmember Marshall moved that, seconded by City Councilmember Shumway adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does and hereby confirms that the draft minutes of the October 7, 2019 regular session and October 14, 2019 special session City Council meetings be and are hereby approved; and

BE IT RESOLVED that receipt by the City Council of a report concerning all checks that had been issued since October 7, for contract and vendor claims at \$2,169,959.62, intergovernmental claims at \$870,569.10, and the October 17 payroll at \$210,581.44, for a total of \$3,251,110.16 be and is hereby acknowledged.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Marshall, Shumway, Walker, Murphy (4)

NAYS: None (0)

Hear Public Comment

Mayor Murphy asked for public comments and there were no comments.

Hear City Manager Updates

The Clerk-Treasurer reported that the downtown street paving as part of the highway project detour was complete and striping would be completed dependent on weather conditions; that West Lake Street will be milled and repaved beginning Wednesday and completed by the end of the week weather permitting; and that the Planning Commission reviewed the proposed Kalamazoo Street project last week and set up an ad hoc committee to review further.

City Councilmembers inquired if MDOT was paying for the downtown street paving project and that no City funds were being used and if the bike path near waterfront was replaced for safety or cosmetic reasons.

The Clerk-Treasurer responded that the downtown paving project was due to the detour as part of the highway project and MDOT is fixing and that the bike path was reconstructed due to erosion and for safety reasons.

Building Authority Board of Commissioners Appointments – Resolution No. 19336

Mayor Murphy reviewed that City Council consider possible reappointments to the Building Authority Board of Commissioners.

City Councilmember Shumway moved that, seconded by City Councilmember Marshall adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does and hereby approves the reappointment of Robert Englebrecht, City Assessor, and Alan Terry, Clerk-Treasurer, to the Building Authority Board of Commissioners, both for three-year terms ending July 2022.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Marshall, Shumway, Walker, Murphy (4)

NAYS: None (0)

Hear Video Highlighting the City's Efforts to Transition to Clean Energy Sources

Mayor Murphy reviewed that the video highlights the City's efforts to transition to clean energy sources as part of the CS Mott Foundation grant in collaboration with the Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation.

Council Comments

Mayor Murphy asked for Council comments and Councilmember Marshall reported that she received a letter from a downstate attorney stating she defamed Mr. Bob Berg's character, owner of 200 East Lake Street. Councilmember Marshall shared her statement with the audience regarding the defamation claim citing items stated in the letter. City Councilmember Shumway and Walker and Mayor Murphy offered their support to Councilmember Marshall.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, this October 21, 2019, meeting of the City Council adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

John Murphy, Mayor

Sarah Bek, Recording Clerk