



## CITY COUNCIL

January 4, 2021

A regular meeting of the City of Petoskey City Council was held from virtual locations on Monday, January 4, 2021. 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, as part of the City Council's annual organizational meeting, the City Clerk-Treasurer administered oaths of office to Mayor-elect John Murphy, and City Councilmembers-elect Derek Shiels and Lindsey Walker, following their elections to the City Council at the General Election of November 3, 2020. A roll call then determined that the following were

Present: John Murphy, Mayor  
Kate Marshall, City Councilmember  
Derek Shiels, City Councilmember  
Brian Wagner, City Councilmember  
Lindsey Walker, City Councilmember

Absent: None

Also in attendance were City Manager Rob Straebel, Clerk-Treasurer Alan Terry, City Planner Amy Tweeten, City Attorney James Murray and Executive Assistant Sarah Bek.

### **Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 19490**

Following introduction of the consent agenda for this meeting of January 4, 2021, City Councilmember Marshall moved that, seconded by City Councilmember Wagner adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does and hereby confirms that the draft minutes of the December 21, 2020 regular session City Council meeting 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 December 21, 2020 for contract and vendor claims at \$1,490,143.90, intergovernmental claims at \$320,977.78, and the December 24 payroll at \$201,101.11, for a total of \$2,012,222.79 be and is hereby acknowledged.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Marshall, Shiels, Wagner, Walker, Murphy (5)  
NAYS: None (0)

### **Hear Public Comment**

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

### **Hear City Manager Updates**

The City Manager reported that installation of solar panels on City Hall started last week and the contractor is waiting on more supplies to complete the install; that staff is working with Baird & Associates on a proposal to complete an inspection of the pier using underwater cameras and visual inspection of the sheet piling and concrete surfaces due to damage that occurred to Pier A in late fall of 2020 and to reduce the City's costs on the inspection, staff will be removing several 4'x4' concrete sections to better understand why certain areas are settling and causing the concrete to crack; that staff has been working with AT&T on the City's phone contract and the City will soon be realizing approximately \$58,000 in annual savings on phone bills starting in 2021 and thanked Accounts Payable Clerk Bridgette Lemieur for her efforts on this project; that Beckett and Raeder is completing draft conceptual drawings of a potential detour around the damaged trail section west of town and a meeting with all municipalities involved will occur within the next two weeks to discuss draft plans; that the ice rinks has not been open at the Winter Sports Park due to the unseasonably warm weather; and thanked the Petoskey Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation for their generous grant of \$6,000 to pay for outdoor shelters and heating units at the Winter Sports Park.

City Councilmembers commented if staff had looked into a Natural Resource Trust Fund grant to help with Little Traverse Wheelway detour expenses.

### **Elect Mayor Protempore - Resolution No. 19491**

Mayor Murphy reported that, as required by City Charter provisions, the City Council was being asked to elect from its members a Mayor Protempore who would serve in the absence or incapacity of the Mayor, and then requested nominations for this position.

Councilmember Wagner nominated Councilmember Walker to serve as Mayor Protempore.

Councilmember Walker then nominated and supported by Councilmember Shiels, that Councilmember Marshall be appointed as Mayor Protempore and that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does and hereby approves the appointment of Councilmember Kate Marshall as Mayor Protempore to the City Council for 2021.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Marshall, Shiels, Wagner, Walker, Murphy (5)

NAYS: None (0)

### **Discuss Draft Livable Petoskey Master Plan**

Mayor Murphy reviewed that City Council should discuss the draft master plan as a group and make comments prior to distributing plan to area agencies and the general public.

The City Planner gave a brief presentation and reviewed the process; that the Planning Commission completed its five-year review of the City Master Plan; that the last plan update was adopted by City Council in January 2015; that the first phase of the master plan update was the development of the sustainability framework, which was completed in December 2019; that the framework then formed the basis for the organization of the plan, to ensure that resiliency and sustainability were addressed throughout the document rather than as a stand-alone chapter; reviewed the six chapters included in the plan covering community, environmental stewardship, built environment, local economy, land use and zoning and implementation; that each chapter includes goals, strategies and actions intended to continually improve the community with both short and long-term horizons with aggressive schedules that have financial implications and will need further discussion and refinement by Council; that the Planning Commission voted to forward the complete draft to Council at their December 17 meeting; that Council must approve the distribution of the document to neighboring communities, Networks Northwest, utilities and railroad companies for comment; that after 63-day comment period, the Planning Commission is required to hold a public hearing on the draft plan and receive comments for possible changes; and that the Planning Commission has offered to hold a joint meeting with City Council to review the draft, which staff recommends occur after distribution so comments can be incorporated.

City Councilmembers indicated that it would be advantageous to discuss at Council table and come up with questions and recommendations; heard from those that had no major changes and felt comfortable distributing now and then have discussions later; and heard from those that the draft plan should not be released until discussed and possibly revised by Council.

The City Manager commented that the draft plan should have major support by City Council prior to sending out to other agencies and the community.

Councilmembers concurred to review plan by chapter and review a couple chapters at this meeting; heard some comments concerning the introduction on Petoskey residents living and working here year-round and plan should not focus solely on tourists; that "scale" should be used appropriately referring to the small size of Petoskey; inquiries on who benefits from historic preservation requirements, equity concerns and how it effects the livability concerns in the community; and heard comments that there are a lot of goals and who is responsible for completing and are they attainable.

The Downtown Director reviewed the Historic District Committee and their responsibility in regards to historic preservation.

The City Planner reviewed that there is a column listing partners on implementation plan and there was a column in the past, but was removed and could be put back in the plan.

Councilmembers further discussed to remove strategy A in Identity and Engagement regarding a Planning Commission Ad Hoc position for a Petoskey high School student; that education and training should be ensured for Planning Commission members and all Boards and Commissions; add a goal on page 14 in Public Health and Safety on mentally ill and diverting them from jail; discussed the need for better sidewalk maintenance under Recreation, Arts and Cultural Opportunities; and remove strategy in Recreation, Arts and Cultural Opportunities regarding public school funding of art education on page 18.

The City Manager suggested adding language and a new goal under citizen engagement to align with the need for education and training for Boards and Commission.

City Council will further discuss the draft plan and remaining chapters at future Council meetings.

### **Council Comments**

The Mayor and Councilmembers welcomed Councilmember Shiels. Councilmember Walker would also like a goal setting session this year with Council. Councilmember Shiels commented that he was happy to serve on Council and represent the community.

### **Adjourn to Closed Session – Resolution No. 19492**

City Council was being asked to adopt a resolution that would adjourn to a closed session pursuant to Section 8(e) and 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, to consult with its attorney regarding strategy in connection with specific pending litigation and consider material exempt from disclosure.

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

WHEREAS, the City Manager has requested that the City Council adjourn to a closed session, pursuant to Section 8(e) and 8(h) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, to consult with its attorney regarding strategy in connection with specific pending litigation and consider material exempt from disclosure, at the City Council's regular meeting of January 4, 2021:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does and hereby authorizes to adjourn to a closed session, to consult with its attorney regarding strategy in connection with specific pending litigation and consider material exempt from disclosure.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Marshall, Shiels, Wagner, Walker, Murphy (5)

NAYS: None (0)

There being no further business to come before the City Council, this January 4, 2021, meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

John Murphy, Mayor

Alan Terry, Clerk-Treasurer