



CITY COUNCIL

January 18, 2021

A regular meeting of the City of Petoskey City Council was held from virtual locations on Monday, January 18, 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, 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, Public Works Director Michael Robbins and Executive Assistant Sarah Bek.

Hear Housing Partnership Presentation

Emily Meyerson, on behalf of Little Traverse Bay Housing Partnership, Emmet County housing group and Housing North, gave a presentation on housing needs in Petoskey and Emmet County; reviewed rental and homeowners needs; reviewed minimum wage and affordable rent for renters; reviewed the housing demand in a changing economy; reviewed some examples of why there is such a problem due to high construction and infrastructure costs, zoning restrictions, long-term rentals leaving the market to become short-term rentals, change of demographics and many more reasons; and reviewed potential solutions to the housing crisis in the area.

City Councilmembers commented that the hourly wage rate may need to be increased; commented on housing with shared spaces and facilities; inquired if statistics were estimates on current population; commented that mixed-use zoning is helpful and could be beneficial in industrial corridor areas; and inquired on missing middle housing types and if housing partnerships are advocating tearing down existing homes or new construction.

Ms. Meyerson responded that estimates are based on current population and that missing middle housing types could be obtained with new construction in vacant areas.

Mayor Murphy commented that he is in support in working towards affordable housing and that it is one of City Council's goals to promote affordable/workforce housing in the community as adopted in the 2020 Action Plan.

Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 19493

Following introduction of the consent agenda for this meeting of January 18, 2021, City Councilmember Marshall moved that, seconded by City Councilmember Shiels adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does and hereby confirms that the draft minutes of the January 4, 2021 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 January 4, 2021 for contract and vendor claims at \$2,041,463.90, intergovernmental claims at \$0, and the January 7 payroll at \$216,639.64, for a total of \$2,258,103.54 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 the local Jaycees after many years of hosting the July 4th fireworks no longer want to organize the fireworks for 2021 and future years and that local Rotary Clubs are interested in undertaking this event starting in 2021 and City staff offered to continue to assist in logistical support for the event; that a final environmental study has been completed on the rail section starting at Emmet Street to continue the Greenway Corridor sometime in the future with no significant environmental issues associated with the land and that the City has filed the final paperwork and sent the \$28,500 check to MDOT to purchase the railroad right-of-way; that representatives from Resort Township, Emmet County, MDOT, Trails Council and the City met last week to discuss draft conceptual drawings for a detour of the Little Traverse Wheelway between East Park and the City and members unanimously agreed to the initial design concept and will be finalized in the coming two weeks and anticipate discussion at the February 1, 2021 Council meeting; that tomorrow the DMB will discuss a resolution to recommend to City Council continuance of dining decks on a temporary basis for 2021 only and if resolution is approved by City Council, the dining deck program will be reviewed later in Fall of 2021 to determine if the program should continue on a permanent basis; that the Public Safety Director attended the introductory meeting for the Stepping Up Technical Assistance program last week which is a program that provides alternatives to incarceration for those suffering with mental health or substance abuse issues and that most of the burden rests on the Emmet County Sheriff's Office, but that the City will help in any way; that the Health Department of Northwest Michigan is encouraging all members of groups 1A and 1B who have not received a COVID vaccination to pre-register through their website and reiterated for citizens to continue to practice the utmost vigilance and wear masks, practice social distancing, stay home when sick and wash hands frequently especially with a new COVID strain being discovered; reviewed that a representative from Baird & Associates inspected Pier A last week to examine the cause of cracking of concrete surfaces, inspected the vertical sheet piling below the water line and found the structural integrity of the pier to be very good and not in need of replacement at this time and the City will address these issues in April; that all solar panels have been installed on City Hall and staff anticipates the solar system will be operational in 3-4 weeks and staff will be working on a monitoring kiosk inside City Hall to show solar output of the system sometime this month; and that some members of City Council have voiced an interest in pursuing continuing education/training opportunities to better acquaint themselves with a number of issues associated with local government operations and reviewed that Executive Assistant Sarah Bek will highlight the Michigan Municipal League's website identifying several training options and resources at the completion of the City Manager's report.

Approve Board Appointments – Resolution 19494-19498

Mayor Murphy reviewed that City Council consider the following appointments.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does and hereby approves the reappointment of Kim Block, 502 Grove Street, to the District Library Board for a four-year term ending January 2025.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

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 approves the appointment of Amy Janssens, 1021 East Mitchell Street, to the District Library Board for a four-year term ending January 2025.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does and hereby approves the reappointment of John Smith, 815 Lindell Avenue, to the District Library Board for a four-year term ending January 2025.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

City Councilmember Wagner 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 Ken Turk, 506 Morgan Street, to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a two-year term ending January 2023.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

City Councilmember Shiels 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 Sharon Walker, 421 Wachtel Avenue, to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a two-year term ending January 2023.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Discuss Draft Livable Petoskey Master Plan

City Council continued review of the draft Livable Petoskey Master Plan specifically Chapter 2 Environmental Stewardship and Chapter 3 Built Environment.

The City Planner briefly reviewed the goals and strategies within Chapter 2 pertaining to resource use reduction and climate resilience and natural resource management.

City Councilmembers commented on circular economy and that there should be more information on this item; recommended to add community awareness as it relates to circular economy; heard comments on the importance of preserving water and protecting Little Traverse Bay; discussed what the City uses for fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides; that there should be a goal to reduce chemical use community-wide and increase education and awareness of public use of chemicals; discussed that reduction of greenhouse gas emissions could begin at the household or business level though the installation of solar panels and net metering and promotion of solar projects and/or programs should occur on a local, regional and statewide level and barriers be removed to allow more opportunities; discussed balancing and reducing carbon footprint with new infrastructure such as a new parking structure; that a strategy be added to form a task force to focus on sustainability in the community beginning with exploring 100% renewable energy; that a strategy be added for the City to continue to promote citizen participation in the Voluntary Green Pricing Program; and discussed having a public/private collaboration supporting greenhouses and area municipal tree nurseries.

The City Planner briefly reviewed the goals and strategies within Chapter 3 pertaining to infrastructure optimization, transportation and mobility options and neighborhoods for all.

City Councilmembers commented on strategy (h) in Infrastructure Optimization pertaining to working with Michigan Public Power Agency (MPPA) to reach the community target of 100% renewable energy and the possibility of collaborating with other communities to achieve goal by 2035; supported transportation and mobility option strategies; discussed looking at parking restrictions as it pertains to strategy (f) in neighborhoods for all concerning zoning requirements; discussed the need for a zoning enforcement person to address code enforcement issues; and concurred to add a strategy in neighborhoods for all to increase code enforcement.

City Council will further discuss the draft plan and remaining chapters at the next Council meeting.

Approve Revised Ballot Language for Mayor and Councilmembers Terms of Office – Resolution No. 19499

The Clerk-Treasurer reviewed that City Council adopted a resolution on September 21, 2020 providing ballot language that would revise City Charter provisions establishing a two year term of office for Mayor and three year term of office for Councilmembers; that the ballot language was reviewed by the State's Office of Attorney General who found a minor conflict between the proposed language for Section 4.2 Terms of Office and existing Section 3.12 General Elections; that Section 3.12 General Elections calls for an election each year, while the proposed Section 4.2 Terms of Office will result in no election being held every six years; that a revision to Section 3.12 is necessary to eliminate the annual election provision; and that the proposed resolution includes revised ballot language and would allow the ballot language to be placed on the November 2, 2021 General Election ballot, unless City Council elects to hold a May special election or one called by another entity.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Petoskey, Michigan as follows:

1. The said City Council by vote of 5-0 of its members-elect, pursuant to the authority granted by Act 279 of the Public Acts of 1909, as amended, proposes that sections 3.12 and 4.2 of the Charter of the City of Petoskey shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 3.12. General Elections.

Nonpartisan general elections shall be held in the City on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November. The city council shall designate a convenient place in each ward for voting. Each voter shall vote in the ward in which the voter resides.

Section 4.2. Terms of Office.

The mayor shall be elected for a term of one (1) year. For the mayoral term of office beginning in 2023, and for each term of office thereafter, the mayor shall be elected for a term of two (2) years. The councilmembers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years and the terms shall be arranged so that two (2) wards elect a councilmember each year. For councilmember terms beginning in 2023, and for each term of office thereafter, councilmembers shall be elected for a term of three (3) years. Terms shall begin on January 1 of the year following the election.

Provisions of existing sections 3.12 and 4.2 of the Charter of the City of Petoskey to be altered by such proposal, if adopted, currently reads as follows:

Section 3.12. General Elections.

Nonpartisan general elections shall be held in the City on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November each year. The city council shall designate a convenient place in each ward for voting. Each voter shall vote in the ward in which the voter resides.

Section 4.2. Terms of Office.

The mayor shall be elected for a term of one (1) year. The councilmembers shall be elected for a term of two (2) years and the terms shall be arranged so that two (2) wards elect a councilmember each year. Terms shall begin on January 1 of the year following the election.

2. The City Clerk shall forthwith transmit a copy of the proposed amendment to the Governor of the State of Michigan for his/her approval, and transmit a copy of the foregoing statement of purpose of such proposed amendment to the Attorney General of the State of Michigan for his/her approval, as required by law.
3. The proposed charter amendment shall be, and the same is hereby ordered to be, submitted to the qualified electors of this City at a general election to be held in the City of Petoskey, the 2nd day of November, 2021, and the City Clerk is hereby directed to give notice of the election and notice of registration therefore in the manner prescribed by law and to do all things and to provide all supplies necessary to submit such charter amendment to the vote of the electors as required by law.
4. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors in the following form, to wit:

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SECTIONS 3.12 AND 4.2 OF THE
CHARTER OF THE CITY OF PETOSKEY

Shall Sections 3.12 and 4.2 of the Charter be amended to change the terms of the mayor from one year to two years and councilmembers from two to three years, beginning with the terms of office starting January 1, 2023, while continuing annual city elections in November of each year, except in 2027 and every 6th year thereafter?

Yes () No ()

5. The proposed amendment shall be published in full together with the existing charter provisions altered thereby in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan and the Charter of the City of Petoskey.
6. The canvass and determination of the votes of said question shall be made in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan and the Charter of the City of Petoskey.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Approve Motor Pool Purchases – Resolution No. 19500

The Public Works Director reviewed that the 2021 Budget and CIP allocated \$507,000 within the Motor Pool Fund to purchase certain vehicles and equipment; reviewed five proposed vehicles and equipment that make up a portion of purchases for 2021; and that staff is currently working on specifications which will establish final pricing for the remaining purchases including a flusher truck and staff vehicle.

City Councilmembers commended staff for purchases being under budgeted amounts.

City Councilmember Wagner moved that, seconded by City Councilmember Marshall to authorize purchases for the following vehicles and equipment under the Mi-Deal State of Michigan purchasing contract and contracting with Sutphen Corporation, Dublin, Ohio:

- Bobcat Toolcat Utility Work Machine with attachments from Clark Equipment Company at a cost not to exceed \$67,852.56.
- Dodge Charger patrol units from LaFontaine Dodge Fleet Sales of Lansing, at a cost per unit not to exceed \$30,361.
- Two-wheel-drive, heavy-duty GMC 3500 Cab & Chassis from Todd Wenzel Buick GMC Fleet Sales, Westland, at a cost not to exceed \$29,841.75. Contracting with Truck and Trailer Specialties, Boyne Falls, for a stainless steel dump body box, rear hitch assembly and safety lighting at a cost not to exceed \$15,772.00.
- Four-wheel-drive, 3/4 ton, GMC Pick-up from Todd Wenzel Fleet and Commercial Truck Sales, Westland, at a cost not to exceed \$31,761.90.
- Contracting with Sutphen Corporation, Dublin, Ohio, for the refurbishment of Fire Apparatus Unit #4503, a 70-foot ladder truck with an estimated cost of \$90,000.

Said motion was adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

Council Comments

Mayor Murphy asked for Council comments and Councilmember Shiels read aloud a Martin Luther King quote and thanked the citizens that volunteer and provide service to the Petoskey community. Councilmember Walker commented that MML's The Review Magazine is a great resource and highly recommends the most recent issue pertaining to diversity, equity and inclusion. Mayor Murphy commented that he enjoys working with the current City Council and the diversity is good for everyone.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, this January 18, 2021, meeting of the City Council adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

John Murphy, Mayor

Alan Terry, Clerk-Treasurer