



## CITY COUNCIL

March 21, 2022

A regular meeting of the City of Petoskey City Council was held in the City Hall Council Chambers, Petoskey, Michigan, on Monday, March 21, 2022. 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  
Tina DeMoore, City Councilmember  
Derek Shiels, City Councilmember  
Brian Wagner, City Councilmember  
Lindsey Walker, City Councilmember

Absent: None

Also in attendance were Interim City Manager/Clerk-Treasurer Alan Terry, Public Safety Director Matthew Breed, Library Director Valerie Meyerson, Finance Supervisor Audrey Plath and Executive Assistant Sarah Bek.

### **Hear District Library Presentation**

District Library Director Val Meyerson made a brief presentation concerning the Petoskey District Library and reviewed 2021 statistics and operations; that overall patronage decreased; reviewed outreach programs and partnerships including home delivery service and partnering with the Emmet County jail; reviewed grant monies received; reviewed 2022 projects including a capital improvement/assessment plan for the Carnegie and Library buildings; and that the website will be updated including a catalogue application.

City Councilmembers thanked Ms. Meyerson for the presentation; that programs have been a huge success and innovative in the most positive way including BiblioBags and access to books for jail inmates; inquired on the purpose of Amazon purchases; gave kudos to staff for removing obstacles to provide access to services and programs to community members; inquired on the management and relationship of the Library and Carnegie building; and applauded the leadership and friendly staff.

Ms. Meyerson responded that the Library uses Amazon Capital Services, a corporate account, to purchase items which cannot necessarily be purchased locally or for cost savings; and reviewed that Crooked Tree Arts Center used to manage the Carnegie Building, but both entities utilize the building so the Library manages the reservations and works together with the Arts Center.

### **Consent Agenda - Resolution No. 19646**

Following introduction of the consent agenda for this meeting of March 21, 2022, City Councilmember DeMoore 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 March 7, 2022 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 March 7, 2022 for contract and vendor claims at \$449,814.95, intergovernmental claims at \$15,777.32, and the March 17 payroll at \$212,676.81, for a total of \$678,269.08 be and is hereby acknowledged.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: DeMoore, 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 reviewed that the new City Planner Zachary Sompels began work today; that four candidates for the City Manager position have accepted to participate in interviews beginning at 9:00 A.M., Wednesday, March 23 and that the public will have an opportunity to meet the candidates at an informal public gathering at Stafford's Perry Hotel tomorrow night from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M.; and that the East Lake Street project is expected to begin next week.

### **Approve Traffic Order 3-137 at Woodland & Michigan Street & Woodland & State Street – Resolution No. 19647**

The City Manager reviewed that staff studied traffic concerns at intersections of Woodland and Michigan Street and Woodland and State Street; that Cincar Consulting Group, Detroit, performed the traffic and safety study of location; that the location does not meet traffic or accident volumes to warrant stop signs; that pedestrian volume in proximity to the Central Business District could warrant four-way-stop-signs to help minimize vehicle and pedestrian conflicts; and that the City will perform speed studies on Michigan Street this spring to analyze traffic movement following the addition of stop signs.

City Councilmembers inquired if roundabouts were considered and that a solution should be considered at Waukazoo and Jennings intersection due to excessive speed; if speed study will be followed up at Kalamazoo and Lockwood; if there will be an increase in police presence when school ends; inquired on the process and implementation of speed monitoring system; heard from those cautioning basing decisions on data and that safety should rule above data; that additional data and speed study will be interesting to see suggested outcomes; and that gathering data slowly should be done in order to get the right results.

Chief Breed responded that roundabouts were considered, but size is an issue in the area and staff did not want to lose parking spaces; that increased police presence has already begun; and that too many mobile speed units installed would lose effectiveness and that the Public Safety Department has smaller units that are not as visible and could provide more accurate data.

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

WHEREAS, the City's Department of Public Safety staff has reviewed existing traffic control devices at the intersection of Woodland Street and Michigan Street as well as Woodland Street and State Street; and

WHEREAS, the City consulted with Cincar Consulting Group, Detroit, who specializes in traffic and safety studies, regarding vehicular and pedestrian safety at these two locations; and

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the traffic consultant and the review by the Department of Public Safety, staff has determined that there would be justification to permanently upgrade the intersections of Woodland Street and Michigan Street as well as Woodland Street and State Street from two-way stops to four-way stop intersections; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Public Safety has requested that the City Manager recommend that the City Council implement a traffic order that would call for the addition of stop signs for eastbound and westbound traffic at both above mentioned locations thus transforming the intersections to four-way stop intersections:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Petoskey City Council does and hereby confirms Traffic Order 3-137 that would designate the Woodland and Michigan as well as the Woodland and State intersections as four-way stop intersections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Manager be and is hereby directed to arrange for necessary signs to be permanently installed at these intersections.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

**Approve Contract for Bayfront Park Clock Tower Upgrades – Resolution No. 19648**

The City Manager reviewed that City staff was to perform additional maintenance on the 30-year old Bayfront Park Clock Tower this spring with the Verdin Company, out of Grand Rapids and Ohio; that upon inspection City staff decided the fixtures are outdated and working poorly and should be replaced now rather than 2023 when planned; that funds are available in the TIFA Fund and Electric Fund to perform the upgrades this year; that there are concerns of waiting another year due to increasing product cost and availability of materials; that Verdin Company originally built and installed the clock in the tower; and that the clock is a visual landmark of Petoskey and staff strives to keep it looking well.

City Councilmembers inquired how long the clock would be down; inquired how costs would be funded; heard concerns from those on the relevance of the clock; and the purchasing process for this type of project.

City staff responded that the vendor would repair and convert to LED Lights by mid-summer; that Verdin Company maintains other clocks in town; that TIFA and Electric monies will finance the cost; that the clock tower is part of Petoskey's uniqueness and waterfront and a beacon from the water; and that Verdin Company provides professional services to the City with ongoing maintenance.

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

WHEREAS, the City of Petoskey City Council hereby recognizes the need to keep the 30-year-old Bayfront Clock Tower functional and supports the need to upgrade the clock tower; and

WHEREAS, the City of Petoskey has an established maintenance agreement with Verdin Company, who installed the clock tower:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Petoskey City Council does and hereby confirms its intent to approve the proposal from Verdin Company for \$49,154 to upgrade the current monofilament lighting to LED, replace three time pieces, install new clock hands and provide a new controller with a battery backup; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Petoskey City Council hereby confirms its intent to authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to serve as the City of Petoskey's representative for the Clock tower upgrade project.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: DeMoore, Shiels, Wagner, Murphy (4)

NAYS: Walker (1)

**Discuss National Flood Insurance Program, Floodplain Ordinance Introduction & Approve Intergovernmental Agreement with Emmet County – Resolution No. 19649**

The City Manager reviewed that the City participates in the National Flood Insurance Program which is run through FEMA; that floodplain maps have been updated; that FEMA is now requiring an ordinance be approved by the City and an agreement with Emmet County since the County performs this service; that this is the first discussion of the floodplain ordinance, but the intergovernmental agreement could be approved at this meeting; that the intergovernmental agreement will also need to be approved by Emmet County following City approval; and to continue to participate in the program each municipality must adopt a floodplain ordinance prior to June 1, 2022.

City Councilmembers inquired if the purpose of this program is to provide less expensive insurance for those that need it; inquired if new residents would have to apply under new requirements; and inquired if this program impacts public infrastructure and applies to the City's insurance.

The City Manager responded that approval of these documents would provide less expensive insurance for those that need it; that new residents would not have to apply for insurance, but those with specific federal loans and that this does not affect the City's insurance.

The proposed floodplain ordinance will be further discussed at the next regular City Council meeting.

City Councilmember Shiels moved that, seconded by City Councilmember Walker to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement with Emmet County concerning the National Flood Insurance Program.

Said motion was adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYS: None (0)

**Council Comments**

Mayor Murphy asked for council comments and Councilmember Shiels thanked taxpayers for supporting him attending the Michigan Municipal League Capital Conference and reviewed that this is a unique time with the influx of federal money, and that municipalities capitalize on funding opportunities. Councilmember DeMoore encouraged citizens to attend tomorrow night's City Manager meet and greet and welcome's community input on the next City Manager. Mayor Murphy reminded citizens to attend the City Manager meet and greet at Stafford's Perry Hotel, that interviews are scheduled to begin 9:00 A.M., Wednesday, March 23, and that hiring a City Manager is the most important decision for City Council.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, this March 21, 2022, meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

John Murphy, Mayor

Alan Terry, Clerk-Treasurer