



## CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

City Hall, 222 South Maple Street, Fennville, MI 49408  
Monday, November 4, 2019  
7:00 p.m.

### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pantelleria at 7:00 pm.

Present: Almquist, Hageman, Machan, Pantelleria, Suerth  
Absent: Brien, Hayden

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

### 3. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved as presented.

### 4. Public Comments

Pam Wyman addressed the Commission to show support for the idea of bringing a skate park to the City and is willing to help fundraising for the project. John Jamros also voiced support for the skate park.

Diana Decker addressed the Commission on behalf of her client who is concerned with the cost to install sewer at two lots at the west end of Walter Street. She asked if the City could provide any relief to her client. The Mayor suggest she speak with the City Administrator to work out a payment plan to help ease the financial burden. The Commission asked for the attorney to draft a statement speaking to the City's liability in regards to information provided by contractors.

Frutose Marquez inquired of the Commission of the side setbacks and directional placement for the manufactured home that is being put on Landsburg Road. The Mayor is checking the zoning requirements.

Sigfredo Arriola inquired of the Commission the status of the lease with Michigan Works for the 220 Main Street Building. Mayor Pantelleria encouraged him to attend the next DDA meeting.

### 5. Approval of the following City Commission Minutes:

- a. Regular Meeting: October 21, 2019

Moved by Suerth, seconded by Pantelleria, to approve the minutes of October 21, 2019 as presented. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

### 6. Reports & Minutes

None

### NEW BUSINESS

### 7. The City Commission will be asked to consider the following options related to the Recreational Marihuana legislations:

- a. **Consider introducing an ordinance to prohibit recreational marijuana establishments in the City of Fennville.**
- b. **Consider introducing an ordinance to prohibit recreational marijuana establishments and consumption in public places in the City of Fennville.**
- c. **Consider directing the Planning Commission to develop rules and regulations on recreational marijuana within the City of Fennville.**

#### Background Information

Earlier this year the City Commission had a brief discussion about the recent changes to the recreational marijuana legislation. At that time the Commission decided to wait until the rules and regulations had been finalized before taking any action.

The attorney informed us during the last meeting that the State will begin accepting applications for recreational marijuana facilities on November 1. The City's rules and regulations adopted as of the date the application is filed will be what the State follows for issuing the license. With the State beginning to accept applications the Commissioners asked the attorney to draw up a draft ordinance for opting out and also asked that all the options be placed on the agenda for discussion.

During the meeting, the City Commission will be asked to move forward with one of the following:

- Consider introducing an ordinance to prohibit recreational marijuana establishments in the City of Fennville.
- Consider introducing an ordinance to prohibit recreational marijuana establishments and consumption in public places in the City of Fennville.
- Consider directing the Planning Commission to develop rules and regulations on recreational marijuana within the City of Fennville.

If the Commission moves forward with one of the two ordinances, the ordinance will need to be introduced during the meeting on November 4 with final adoption at the following commission meeting.

If the Commission does not move forward with opting out, they should consider directing the Planning Commission to develop rules and regulations regarding the establishments within the City. It would be suggested to schedule a special meeting of the Planning Commission to begin these discussion as soon as possible. We will work to draft thorough policies under the City Attorney's guidance, but will also work to draft the policies quickly given the fact that the State has already begun accepting applications.

Since there is an election tomorrow for the open City Commission seats, the Mayor is tabling the issue. However, the Mayor asked the Commissioners for their individual positions on the topic. Erik Almquist feels the Commission needs to respect the voters and their approximately 70% vote in favor of recreational marijuana establishments/use and allow them in the City; Scott Hagemen says there are different licenses available to limit what is allowed in the City limits; Shawn Machan is in favor of allowing recreational marijuana establishments with ordinance(s) in place; Mayor Pantelleria is in favor of prohibiting the establishments in the City limits since the City's two largest employers, the FPS and ConAgra prohibit marijuana use for employment; Jim Hayden would support establishments/use in the City with ordinance(s) in place. After the election, the Commission will move forward with making a formal decision.

**8. The City Commission will be asked to approve the Holiday Celebration Special Event Request for Saturday, December 7, 2019.**

The Holiday Celebration committee has submitted a special event request for the use of City Property for their event scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2019. The event is very similar to those in the past and includes a day full of children's activities throughout the City, a lighted parade down Main Street at 6:00 p.m., followed by a tree lighting ceremony which includes an appearance from Santa and entertainment from local schools groups.

The request is for the use of the DDA parking lot area for the majority of the evening activities, the closure of South Maple Street from Main to West Fennville Street for set up and during the event. It also includes the closure of Main Street for the parade. The Police Department and Department of Public Works have reviewed the application and have no concerns. We have not received any feedback from the Fire Department at this time but don't anticipate any issues.

Moved by Machan, seconded by Almquist, to approve the Holiday Celebration Special Event scheduled for Saturday, December 7, 2019. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

## **9. The City Commission will be asked to consider a request to construct a skateboard park on the lot north of the current City Hall.**

### Background Information

During the last City Commission meeting, a group of citizens spoke with the City Commission to express their interest in fundraising to build a skateboard park in the vacant lot next to the current City Hall. Based on their interest, the Commission asked to have the item placed on the next City Commission agenda for consideration.

Prior to moving forward with any approval, it was suggested that the City Commission request a more formal proposal from the interested citizens. That proposal should include at a minimum the following:

- A list of possible locations with the pros and cons of each location. The list can contain their location preference.
- A list of neighboring communities with skateboard parks. The list should contain the City official to contact for each of those communities to discuss their experiences
- Project plan that includes key stakeholders, a proposed timeline, anticipated project budget and expenses.
- Detailed fundraising plan and organization in charge of administering the fundraising efforts.
- Anticipated annual maintenance plan with estimated expenses for at least the first 10 years after construction.

Discussion of using the vacant lot next to City Hall for the skateboard park. Questions arose if the property would be more valuable left vacant to a potential buyer of City Hall; questions of formal plans, maintenance costs, funding, liability etc. Commissioner Machan inquired if getting the input of other Cities that have skateboard parks would be valuable.

Moved Pantelleria, seconded by Machan, to allow Commissioner Hageman to begin with a review of the property next door to City Hall to determine if it is a feasible location to develop a skateboard park. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

## **10. Reports of Standing Committees:**

- a. Finance/Personnel: The Personnel committee met the candidates for the open DPW position.
- b. City Services (Police, Ambulance & Fire): Financing has been obtained through Allegan Credit Union for the new Fire truck.

- c. City Properties: Suggestion to turn the current City Hall into a City museum instead of selling the property.
- d. Ordinances/Community Relations: No report.
- e. Planning: No report.
- f. Administrative/DDA: Collecting donations for Amy Cook; DDA meets Weds at 7:00 pm.

#### **11. Miscellaneous**

#### **12. City Administrator Report**

- Election Information

#### **13. Approval of Bills**

Moved by Machan, seconded by Almquist, to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$8,996.05. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

#### **14. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Perez  
City Clerk/Treasurer