



CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

City Hall, 125 South Maple Street, Fennville, MI 49408
Monday, October 19, 2020
7:00 p.m.

In light of the recent orders to limit social interactions due to COVID-19, the City Commission will allow for participation through a virtual meeting site or by telephone.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

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

Roll Call:

Present: Almquist, Bolles, Hayden, Jamros, Machan, Suerth, Pantelleria
Absent: None

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approval of Agenda

Agenda approved as presented with the addition of 6(b): ORV Resolution.

4. Public Comments

Dan Jenkins addressed the City Commission with a major concern that as the result of a Fire Department training, that involved the rapid opening and closing of a fire hydrant, the water levels in the water tank were bouncing and water pressure levels were spiking. Commissioner Machan will address Jenkins' concern with the Fire Chief prior to their next training exercise.

5. Approval of the following City Commission Minutes:

- a. Regular Meeting: [October 5, 2020](#)

Moved by Suerth, seconded by Jamros, to approve the City Commission Minutes of October 5, 2020 as presented. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

6. Reports & Minutes

- a. Michigan Township Services – September 2020
- b. ORV Resolution

MTS Report reviewed.

Scott Beltman addressed the City Commission with a request that the City approve a county wide uniform resolution regarding the use of ORVs (Off Road Vehicles) within the County. The Mayor tabled the discussion to gauge the public's interest in such a resolution.

ZONING BOARD

- 7. The City Commission will be asked to consider the following regarding a variance request at 310 W Main Street:**
- a. **Hold a public hearing regarding the request.**
 - b. **Consider the variance request for 310 W Main Street.**

Background Information:

The owners of the former Su Casa building would like to request the City consider a variance to the zoning code to allow them to place a sign on the side of their building. Currently, the code allows for a 40 square foot sign. They are asking for a variance to allow them to place a 48 square foot sign at that location.

Moved by Suerth, seconded by Machan, to open the Public Hearing at 7:24 p.m. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

Discussion of variance request regarding sign placement at 310 W. Main Street.

Moved by Suerth, seconded by Jamros, to close the Public Hearing at 7:37 p.m. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

Moved by Machan, seconded by Pantelleria, to grant the Variance request for the placement of a sign at 310 W. Main Street, with a proposed size of 48 square feet and placement above a second floor window. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

Matter will be referred to the DDRRC for approval of the sign itself.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- 8. The City Commission will be asked to introduce the following ordinances:**
- a. **An Ordinance to amend the Zoning Ordinance to remove the allowance of Storage facilities.**
 - b. **An Ordinance to adopt an updated zoning map.**

Discussion on removing the allowance of storage facilities in the City limits from the Zoning Ordinance. After further discussion, if the Ordinance change is approved, the current storage facility would become a non-conforming use in the future, it was decided that no action will be taken.

Moved by Bolles, seconded by Jamros, for approve the first reading of Ordinance to adopt an updated zoning map. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

- 9. The City Commission will received an update on the discussion with the Financial Advisor about millage requests.**

Background Information:

During the last meeting in September, the City Commission was approached about the possibility of adding a full time police officer to the department. Of course funding was a big

concern. After much discussion, the Commission asked that the Mayor speak with the school regarding contributing to an officer's wages. The Commission also asked that a meeting be held with the financial advisor to discuss the impacts on the budget and the potential of a millage request.

Staff and members of the personnel/finance committee have met with the financial advisor. With several City millages up for renewal over the upcoming years, including Public Safety and Fire millages, the Financial Advisor is recommending a Charter Amendment to allow the City to levy up to 20 mills. Tabled for further discussion.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- a. Finance/Personnel: No report.
- b. City Services (Police, Ambulance & Fire): Fire Board will meet 10/27/20; moving toward the full time person being a FAFB employee; updating the FAFB/Fire Dept handbook. Machan will address the problem with the hydrant use during training.
- c. City Properties: City Administrator is in touch with the project manager regarding the street lights/school cross walk light outages.
- d. Ordinances/Community Relations: Hayden is continuing efforts to get information from the Library for a 60th City anniversary/new City hall dedication event.
- e. Planning: Next topic is to address the sale of marijuana paraphernalia
- f. Administrative/DDA: The tree lighting plan for the holidays will be discussed; there will be a reverse parade, merchandise sale, candy for the elementary kids and drive-in movies to celebrate the "upside down" Goose Festival.

11. Miscellaneous: None

12. City Attorney Report: No report

13. City Administrator Report.

The attorney shared a memo regarding the Open Meetings Act and virtual meeting attendance. DPW has begun leaf pickup and the DPW will be flushing hydrants on the 29th during the night. New phones have been installed at City Hall, the IRP and the Police department. The City has officially been awarded the MEDC grant. Sewer projects are moving forward and the contractors are mobilizing equipment. The City received a grant to purchase new equipment and supplies for the upcoming election.

14. Approval of Bills

- a. Pay Application from Ferguson Waterworks for USDA Water Projects – Contract 2 for \$91,393.94
- b. Invoices - \$57,781.48

Moved by Machan, seconded by Suerth, to approve the pay application from Ferguson Waterworks for USDA Water Projects – Contract 2, for \$91,393.94. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

Moved by Machan, seconded by Bolles, to approve payment of invoices totaling \$57,781.48. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

15. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Perez
City Clerk/Treasurer