



CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

City Hall, 125 South Maple Street, Fennville, MI 49408
Monday, February 15, 2021
7:00 p.m.

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

Minutes

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Pantelleria.

Present: Almquist (7:02), Bolles (8:18), Hayden, Jamros, Machan, Suerth, Pantelleria
Absent: None

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Approval of Agenda

Agenda was approved with the addition of item 7.5 regarding marijuana dispensing at a local business.

Erik Almquist joined meeting at 7:02 p.m.

4. Public Comments

During this time, members of the public will be given an opportunity to speak on items not on the agenda. Please remember that comments are limited to 5 minutes and should be directed toward the Mayor. If you wish to speak to an item on the agenda, you will be given the chance to do so before the Commission discusses the item.

No public comment at this time.

5. Approval of the following City Commission Minutes:

- a. Regular Meeting: [February 1, 2021](#) – Click on link to view draft minutes

Moved by Machan, seconded by Jamros to approve the minutes of February 1, 2021 as submitted. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

6. Reports & Minutes

- a. Downtown Development Authority: [Minutes, February 3, 2021](#)

Minutes of the DDA meeting were reviewed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

7. The City Commission will be asked to approve Ordinance 2021-01: An Ordinance to amend Section 34-216 and 34-218 of the Code of Ordinances to remove reference to marijuana paraphernalia.

Background Information: Sections 34-216 & 218 of the Code of Ordinances read as follows:

Sec. 34-216. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES – DEFINITIONS.

The following words and phrases when used in this division shall, for the purposes of this division, have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Cocaine spoon. Means a spoon with a bowl so small that the primary use for which it is reasonably adapted or designed is to hold or administer cocaine, and which is so small as to be unsuited for the typical, lawful uses of a spoon. A cocaine spoon may or may not be mechanized on a chain and may or may not be labeled as a cocaine spoon or coke spoon.

Controlled substance. Means any drug, substance, or immediate precursor enumerated in schedule 1-5 of MCL 333.7210 35 seq.,

Marijuana pipe or hashish pipe. Means a pipe characterized by a bowl which is so small that the primary use for which it is reasonably adapted or designed is the smoking of marijuana or hashish, rather than the lawful smoking of tobacco, and which may or may not be equipped with a screen.

Paraphernalia. Means an empty gelatin capsule, hypodermic syringe or needle, cocaine spoon, marijuana pipe, hashish pipe, or any other instrument, implement, or device which is primarily adapted, or designed for the administration or use of any controlled substance.

Sec. 34-218. Sale, display of paraphernalia prohibited; exceptions.

It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, or offer for sale, display, furnish, supply, or give away any empty gelatin capsule, hypodermic syringe or needle, cocaine spoon, marijuana pipe, hashish pipe, or any other instrument, implement, or device which is primarily adapted, or designed for the administration or use of any controlled substance as enumerated in schedules 1-5 of MCL 333.7210 et seq.,

The City Commission asked the City Administrator to prepare an ordinance to remove reference to marijuana in these sections of the code. This ordinance was introduced at the meeting on January 19, 2021 and is now ready for approval. If approved, the ordinance would take effect after publishing in the newspaper.

Moved by Hayden, seconded by Almquist to approve Ordinance 2021-01: An Ordinance to amend Section 34-216 and 34-218 of the Code of Ordinances to remove reference to marijuana paraphernalia. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

7.5 Marijuana dispensing at a local business

The City Commission was informed of activity occurring at a local business in which marijuana is being distributed. However this activity is being done within the constraints of the law. Questioned what could be done to stop this type of activity from occurring.

Moved by Pantellearia, seconded by Jamros to draft a letter a letter to the prosecutor and to the State Representative to let them know the type of activity that is occurring the potential

impact on legitimately licensed businesses. Voted Yes: Almquist, Jamros, Suerth, Pantelleria. Voted No: Hayden, Machan. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

8. The City Commission will be asked to set a public hearing date of March 1, 2021 for a grant application to the DNR related to one phase of the Paradise Park Master Plan.

Background Information: The current City Commission priorities state that priority #2 is to: Begin planning process for improvements to Paradise Park by:

- Updating and submitting new Recreation Plan so the City will be eligible for grant funding through the DNR.
- Develop a Master Plan for Paradise Park and prepare a grant application to the DNR for park and field improvements.

The Planning Commission worked through the Recreation Plan Process and the plan was approved by the DNR.

The next step in the process was to develop a master plan for the park in preparation for submitting a grant application for the park and field improvements. The City engaged MCSA Group in 2020 to develop the Master Plan for the park. The process included public input sessions, working with staff to determine community needs and receiving input from the schools. Now that the master plan is complete, the City Commission can move forward with submitting a grant application.

Specific focus of priority #2 is on field improvements, so staff is recommending that the City Commission consider moving forward with a grant application for the Project Phase that includes the ballfields. If an application is submitted in 2021, work would not begin until 2023.

To apply for a grant, the City Commission must hold a public hearing and then approve a resolution authorizing the grant application. For tonight's meeting, the City Commission is being asked to schedule the public hearing for Monday, March 1, 2021. A representative from MCSA Group will attend the meeting to walk the Commission through the park design.

Moved by Machan, seconded by Almquist to set a public hearing date of March 1, 2021 for a grant application to the DNR related to one phase of the Paradise Park Master Plan. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

9. The City Commission will be asked to review information from the Police Department for an eTicket system.

Commissioner Machan explained that the police department is down to only 25 paper tickets. The ticket books are \$20.00 for a book of 25 with a 40 book minimum. They would like the commission to consider the purchase of an eTicket system.

Moved by Hayden, seconded by Jamros to approve the purchase from Lexus Nexus and Great Lakes Upfitting as recommended by the chief if paid for within the constraints of the department amended budget as currently approved with the chief to follow up with the commission on the activity where he intends to reduce expenditures. Voted Yes: Almquist, Hayden, Jamros, Suerth, Pantelleria. Voted No: Machan. Motion carried.

10. Reports of Standing Committees:

- a. Finance/Personnel: Will work with City Administrator to prepare information on budget and projects.
- b. City Services (Police, Ambulance & Fire): Fire Board held a workshop to discuss the personnel handbook. Board had discussion on the Fire Chief compensation for the next fiscal year. Nothing beyond previous discussion for the police. Again was asked to have the Chief to get a list of street lights out prepared for the office staff.
- c. City Properties: Nothing to report. Commissioners are happy with the snow removal.
- d. Ordinances/Community Relations: Nothing to report.
- e. Planning: Nothing to report. The Mayor reported that Commissioner Bolles will be moving outside of the City Limits and would no longer be able to serve on the Commission upon his move.
- f. Administrative/DDA: Nothing to report.

11. Miscellaneous

None at this time.

12. City Attorney Report

Will have a draft contract with Conagra to City Administrator by the end of the week.

13. City Administrator Report

Priority sitting will be held on March 9, 202 at 6:00 p.m.

14. Approval of Bills

- a. Payment Request from Emily Pantera for MEDC Grant Work totaling \$5,112.50
- b. Invoices – totaling \$49,130.63.
A copy of the invoice report will be sent to the City Commission by email for review on meeting day and the agenda packet online will be updated to include the information

Moved by Pantelleria, seconded by Jamros to approve a payment Request from Emily Pantera for MEDC Grant Work totaling \$5,112.50. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

Morgan Bolles joined the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Moved by Machan, seconded by Jamros to approve invoices totaling \$49,130.63. Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Morgan
City Administrator.