

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Commission held Monday, April 23, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., in the City Commission Room.

Mayor Joslin called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Joslin and Vice Mayor Bissell; Commissioners Holton, Kilmer, McGuire, Moreno and Spycher

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Grinzinger, City Clerk Flynn and City Attorney Romashko

Proclamations and Presentations

Mayor Joslin read and presented to Ms. Marydeana Duckworth a proclamation in support of Historic Preservation Month – May 2007.

Mayor Joslin read a proclamation in support of Nursing Home Week – May 14-18, 2007.

Commander John Smith presented recognition of Mt. Pleasant Police Department for their support of the Sea Cadet Program to Officer Mike Covarrubias representing Public Safety.

Additions to Agenda

City Manager Grinzinger added item #24 – Request to go into closed session.

Public Input on Agenda Items

Forrest Robinson, 1202 Tomah Dr.; Mary Johnson, 605 Hopkins and Stephen Scherer, 802 S. University spoke regarding the rezoning of the property at Broomfield and Crawford.

Received the following communications and petitions:

1. Letter of appreciation from Central Michigan University for Mt. Pleasant Fire Department assistance
2. Request to amend Zoning Ordinance (Mayor Joslin asked staff to prepare information for review by the Commission on this matter.)
3. Correspondence regarding planning and zoning issues
4. Capital Projects Status Report (April)
5. Investment Report (First Quarter 2007)
6. Street Department and Motor Pool (March)
7. Wastewater Treatment Plant (March)
8. City Manager's Status Report (April)
- 8b. Additional correspondence from Jamie and Chris Brown, Mr. Kelley Lawrence, and Ms. Frances Lichtman regarding the rezoning issues at Broomfield and Crawford.

Moved by Commissioner Holton and supported by Commissioner Spycher to approve the following items on the Consent Calendar:

1. Minutes of the regular meeting held April 9, 2007.
2. Bid from Musson Brothers, Inc. of Rhinelander, WI in the amount of \$87,350 for the relining of private sanitary sewer leads along Broadway Street, in the downtown area.
3. Request from Habitat for Humanity of Isabella County and Child and Family Enrichment Council for one-day liquor license on May 4, 2007.
4. Access Recreation Grant Resolution
WHEREAS, The Mt. Pleasant Parks and Recreation Commission has identified universal accessibility in park facilities and recreation programs as a high priority; and

WHEREAS, The improvements planned to the Mt. Pleasant River Walk Trail known as the Access Adventure Trail Project exemplify the City's commitment to universal accessibility for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, Monies for such development and endowment are available through a grant from the Access to Recreation Program and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in partnership with the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation; and

WHEREAS, The City of Mt. Pleasant has committed \$200,000 from city funds as a match for construction and the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation has committed \$120,000 as a match for endowment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Manager is authorized to prepare and submit an application in partnership with the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation in the amount of \$760,000 for the Access Adventure Trail Project located at Chipp-A-Waters Park.

5. Public, Educational and Governmental (PEG) Channels Resolution

WHEREAS, The City has had a long and very successful history of supporting the operation of Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) access programming, made possible in large part by the current system of local cable franchise fees; and

WHEREAS, The City has a fully functional Public Access Channel, and operational Educational and Governmental Channels; and

WHEREAS, The City operates the PEG channels through the cooperation of the Mid Michigan Area Cable Consortium for the benefit of the member communities and their residents; and

WHEREAS, It is determined by the City of Mt. Pleasant that any cable franchise agreement or video service provider agreement that is executed by the City shall assure that this service will not be eliminated; and

WHEREAS, Our community believes that all residents should have access to local Public, Educational, and Governmental channels in the future as they have in the past;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City of Mt. Pleasant hereby affirms its support for the operation of the current PEG channels; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to our current cable operator and to any video providers as they apply for franchises.

6. Payrolls dated April 13 and April 20, 2007, check numbers 060709--060968, and warrants dated, April 12, 2007, check numbers 056752--056901, all totaling \$849,299.67.

Motion unanimously adopted.

A public hearing was held on proposed ordinance to enact a new Housing Licensing Code. There being no public comment or communications received the Mayor closed the hearing.

Moved by Commissioner Moreno and supported by Commissioner Holton that proposed ordinance to enact a new Housing Licensing Code excluding portions of §152.005 Section A; all of §152.005, Section L; and portions of §152.006, Section K which refer to mold and mildew (an ordinance to repeal Title XV, Chapter 152, "Housing Licensing Code") having been introduced and read, now be passed, ordained and ordered published.

AYES: Commissioners Bissell, Holton, Kilmer, McGuire, Moreno and Spycher

NAYS: Commissioner Joslin

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

A public hearing was held on CBD TIFA Plan. There being no public comment or communications received the Mayor closed the hearing.

Moved by Commissioner Holton and supported by Commissioner Kilmer to adopt the CBD TIFA Plan as amended to add the 500 blocks of West Broadway Street. Motion unanimously adopted.

Moved by Commissioner Holton and supported by Vice Mayor Bissell to set a public hearing on conditional rezoning of property at the southwest corner of Broomfield and Crawford Street for May 14, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Motion unanimously adopted.

Vice Mayor Bissell read the following recommendations from the Appointments Committee for appointments to boards and commissions:

	<u>Term To Expire</u>
<u>AIRPORT ADVISORY BOARD</u>	
Mike Verleger	January 31, 2008
<u>CHIPPEWA RIVER DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES</u>	
Susan Pyecroft	December 31, 2009

Moved by Vice Mayor Bissell and supported by Commissioner McGuire to approve the Appointments Committee's recommendations as presented. Motion unanimously adopted.

Mayor Joslin also noted additional vacancies to the public.

Moved by Commissioner Holton and supported by Commissioner Spycher to set special meeting for 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 22, 2007 to discuss the creation of a family center. Meeting location to be determined at a later date. Motion unanimously adopted.

City Manager Grinzinger read the following resolution regarding the State budget crisis.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, After seven straight years of state budget deficits and four years of budget cuts, we are facing yet another \$3 billion shortfall in state revenue for the current and 2007-08 fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, \$3.6 billion has been cut from the state's budget over the past four years, and the state is operating with fewer state employees than in the 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Funding for local governments has been cut by \$2 billion the last five years, resulting in a loss of over 1,600 police officers and 2,000 firefighters statewide, compromising the safety of our local communities; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's major taxes have been cut over 32 times in the past decade, our unemployment rate remains one of the highest in the country, and our auto industry continues to struggle; and

WHEREAS, The Single Business Tax (SBT), the primary tax paid by businesses in Michigan, will be entirely phased out by the end of the year with no replacement for the \$1.9 billion in revenue generated from this tax; and

WHEREAS, Higher education in Michigan has already been cut by \$250 million which has resulted in college students and their families having to pay double digit tuition increases and a college education moving further out of reach for the state's middle class; and

WHEREAS, Further cuts to state safety net programs for food assistance, childcare and health care will only result in a shift of demand to already overburdened county and municipal programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City of Mt. Pleasant cannot sustain further cuts in essential services and that further funding cuts will result in a loss of quality of life for the citizens of our community and this state and an inability to retain and attract new business; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Michigan Legislature must demonstrate bipartisan leadership by 1) identifying a full replacement for the SBT and, 2) affirming its commitment to finding funding solutions to address the budget deficit in a manner that will move Michigan into a sound economic future and ensure a high quality of life for our residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Representative Caul, Senator Cropsey, Governor Granholm, and the Michigan Municipal League.

Moved by Commissioner Spycher and supported by Commissioner Moreno that the resolution regarding State budget crisis be adopted.

AYES: Commissioners Bissell, Joslin, Kilmer, McGuire, Moreno and Spycher

NAYS: Commissioner Holton

ABSENT: None

Resolution adopted.

Moved by Vice Mayor Bissell and supported by Commissioner Holton that the City Commission enter into closed session to consult with the City Attorney regarding trial strategy in connection with pending litigation, as an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect on the litigation position of the City.

AYES: Commissioners Bissell, Holton, Joslin, Kilmer, McGuire, Moreno and Spycher

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion unanimously adopted.

Announcements on City-related Issues and Concerns

Commissioner Moreno requested City Planner Kulick prepare information regarding the comparison of conditional rezoning of 12 acres at Broomfield and Crawford Streets with the Stadium Mall property.

Commissioner Kilmer asked Commission and public to remember the importance of City approved resolution regarding support for public, educational and governmental channels.

Commissioner McGuire and City Clerk Flynn announced school election to be held on May 8, 2007.

Mayor Joslin read letter from Airport Manager John Benzinger praising Mr. Bob Gorby, who passed away recently, for his volunteer service to the City.

Public Comments on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Jim Kostrava and Dr. David Kinney spoke to the Commission regarding the Young Teens Network Program.

Mr. Tom Gay and Ms. Kim VanPlew, 915 W. Michigan spoke to the Commission regarding their request to amend or delete a zoning ordinance pertaining to vehicles over 2 ton storage capacity.

The meeting recessed at 8:06 p.m. and reconvened and went into closed session at 8:14 p.m. and back into regular session at 8:37 p.m. A separate set of minutes was taken for the closed session.

Moved by Commissioner Holton and supported by Vice Mayor Bissell that the meeting be adjourned at 8:38 p.m. Motion unanimously adopted.

Jon Joslin, Mayor

Robert J. Flynn, City Clerk