

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Commission held Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Room.

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

Commissioners Present: Mayor Holton and Vice Mayor Kilmer; Commissioners Joslin, Ling, McGuire, Palmer and Tilmann

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Grinzinger, City Clerk Howard and City Attorney Smith

Proclamations and Presentations

Mayor Holton proclaimed May 24-30, 2009 "Special Olympics Michigan Week".

Presentation of 2008 Audit Report was postponed until June 8, 2009.

Resource Recovery Director Amy Shindorf and Environmental Education Specialist Stephanie Carroll gave a report on the business plan for the Material Recycling Facility over the past year.

Mayor Holton presented a \$500 Neighborhood Mini Grant to the Pheasant Run Neighborhood Watch/Kids Club.

Mayor Holton presented a \$500 Neighborhood Mini Grant to Downtown Gardens.

Additions to Agenda

Add item 12 a. "Consider setting a second public hearing for comment on the 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Plan for June 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.".

Add item 22 "Consider approval of a contract with Spicer Engineering to prepare bid documents for repair and possible replacement of Oak Street Bridge".

Add item 9 a. "Receive petition and letters from citizens on cell tower placement in Chipp-A-Waters Park".

Public Input on Agenda Items

Al Kaufman, 2901 Billbrael; Joe Somick, 569 S. Leaton Rd.; Laura Gonzales, 1206 E. High St.; Hunter Genia, 1509 E. Bellows St.; and Shannon Martin, 1206 Harold spoke in support of White Bison Resolution and encouraged participation.

Received the following petitions and communications:

1. Capital Projects Status Report (May)
2. Correspondence from M.C. Kostrzewa regarding Spray Park
3. 2008 Audit Report
4. Comments from Planning Commission on Proposed 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Plan
5. Petition and letters from citizens on cell tower placement in Chipp-A-Waters Park

Moved by Vice Mayor Kilmer and supported by Commissioner Tilmann to approve the following items on the Consent Calendar:

1. Minutes of the regular meeting and the closed meeting of the City Commission held May 11, 2009.
2. Minutes of the special meeting of the City Commission held May 13, 2009.
3. Bid of Greenside Up Landscaping of Alma, Michigan in the amount of \$14,852.97 for airport terminal landscaping.

4. Bid of McGuirk Sand – Gravel of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan in the amount of \$207,095.85 for local street reconstruction.
5. Bid of Central Asphalt of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan in the amount of \$246,763.15 for the 2009 Street Mill and Overlay Project.
6. Bid of Isabella Corporation of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan in the amount of \$71,250 for rehabilitation of the University Park lift station.
7. Bid of Etna Supply Company of Mt. Pleasant, Michigan in the amount of \$13,108.78 to replace a section of water main on Lincoln Road at Leroy Lane.
8. Bid of SLC Meter of Davisburg, Michigan in the amount of \$36,426 for replacement of water meters.
9. Payrolls dated 05/15/09 and warrants dated 05/11/09 thru 05/21/09 all totaling \$680,197.66.

Motion unanimously adopted.

A public hearing was held on proposed 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Plan. There being no public comments or communications Mayor Holton closed the public hearing.

Moved by Commissioner Joslin and supported by Vice Mayor Kilmer to set a second public hearing for public comment on the 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Plan for Monday, June 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Motion unanimously adopted.

Moved by Commissioner Tilmann and supported by Commissioner Ling to approve the following resolution of the Isabella County Human Rights Commission supporting White Bison, Inc., the Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness, and National Forgiveness Month.

WHEREAS, on May 16th, 2009, White Bison, Inc., an American Indian non-profit charitable organization, began a 40-day, 6800 mile cross-country journey to present and former Indian School sites with the goal of promoting awareness, dialogue and forgiveness among Native peoples for the historical trauma of the Indian Boarding School Era which began in 1879; and

WHEREAS, the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial Boarding School operated in Mount Pleasant, MI from 1893 - 1934. The school opened with 59 students and 9 grades, beginning with kindergarten. By 1911, there were 11 buildings and annual enrollment grew to 300 students; and

WHEREAS, unresolved grief among school survivors and/or their descendants may still be carried from trauma experienced at many of these schools; and

WHEREAS, an increasing body of evidence shows that intergenerational trauma is connected to suicides, substance abuse, domestic violence, child sexual abuse, family break-ups and diabetes which continue to plague Native American communities today. The Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness will help begin the healing process in Native communities around the country; and

WHEREAS, between 1879 to 1934, Native children were removed from their homes to attend one of 500 schools run by the government and churches to assimilate Native people; and

WHEREAS, at these schools, children were severely punished for speaking their native language and practicing their traditions and cultural ways; and

WHEREAS, widespread physical and sexual abuse against children occurred at many schools and has been documented. Many died there. Their bodies remain in marked and unmarked graves; and

WHEREAS, while most of these schools had shut down by 1940, others stayed open and loopholes in the law allowed abuses to continue into the 1980s; and

WHEREAS, the Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness has designated June as National Forgiveness Month; and

WHEREAS, on June 17th, 2009, in conjunction with The White Bison 2009 Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness, The Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan will host the journey with a Sunrise Ceremony at Tribal Operations that will be followed by a Three Fires Confederacy Walk to the Mount Pleasant Indian Industrial School; and

WHEREAS, June 17th, 2009 will also include a day of guest speakers, panel discussions, a film screening, prayer vigil, and healing ceremony;

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Mt. Pleasant City Commission, do hereby proclaim our support for the White Bison's 2009 Wellbriety Journey for Forgiveness and strongly encourage residents of Mt. Pleasant to join together to participate in the event and the ongoing healing and reconciliation process in our community.

AYES: Commissioners Holton, Joslin, Kilmer, Ling, McGuire and Tilmann

NAYS: Commissioner Palmer

ABSENT: None

Resolution adopted.

Moved by Commissioner Ling and supported by Commissioner Tilmann to approve the following resolution requesting that the Michigan Department of Transportation consider a slower design speed for Mission Street when designing future projects.

WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Pleasant City Commission is desirous of a safe, business friendly, and attractive Mission Street (BR 127) in the City of Mt. Pleasant; and

WHEREAS, Mission Street is economically critical to the City of Mt. Pleasant, surrounding region, and provides vital transportation access to and from Central Michigan University; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Pleasant City Commission, Planning Commission, and the Downtown Development Authority have placed a high priority on the improvement of Mission Street through budgeting, planning and zoning efforts, access management, and overall increased community awareness of the function of Mission Street in the town; and

WHEREAS, in late 2008 - early 2009 the City sought the advice of experts to aid in its efforts to reinvent Mission Street and, as part of that endeavor, had several stakeholder meetings to identify issues with Mission Street; and

WHEREAS, the consensus opinion of the stakeholders and experts is that the traffic speeds on Mission Street are too fast, that the street is dangerous, and as there is a significant amount of pedestrian traffic crossing the street; and

WHEREAS, based on expert advice, visual observation, crash data, research and stakeholder input, the current speed limit on Mission Street is set too high; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation has a project planned from Mission Street which provides a critical opportunity to design a street that will function properly, meets the needs of the community and have a proper speed limit;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mt. Pleasant City Commission, requests that the Michigan Department of Transportation design Mission Street in a way that provides slower speeds (30-35 mph), meets the needs of the City, University, and Region, and provides the catalyst for the redevelopment and improvement of Mission Street.

AYES: Commissioners Holton, Joslin, Kilmer, Ling, McGuire and Tilmann

NAYS: Commissioner Palmer

ABSENT: None

Resolution adopted.

Moved by Vice Mayor Kilmer and supported by Commissioner McGuire to receive request from Mr. Wally Link to create an Industrial Facilities Tax Abatement District for 1200 N. Fancher, and set a public hearing on same for Monday, June 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Motion unanimously adopted.

Moved by Commissioner Joslin and supported by Vice Mayor Kilmer to accept bid of Miracle of Michigan of Okemos, Michigan in the amount of \$195,000 for the construction of a spray park to be located in Island Park.

AYES: Commissioners Holton, Joslin, Kilmer, McGuire and Palmer

NAYS: Commissioners Ling and Tilmann

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Vice Mayor Kilmer and supported by Commissioner McGuire to approve a contract with Glatting Jackson Kercher Anglin, Inc., of Orlando, Florida in an amount not to exceed \$12,500 funded by the Major Street or General fund undesignated fund balances to complete a conceptual design for an improved campus to downtown connection and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign said contract.

AYES: Commissioners Holton, Joslin, Kilmer, Ling, McGuire and Tilmann

NAYS: Commissioner Palmer

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner McGuire and supported by Commissioner Palmer to receive recommendation from Planning Commission on rezoning a portion of Chipp-A-Waters Park, and set public hearing on same for Monday, June 22, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Motion unanimously adopted.

Moved by Commissioner Joslin and supported by Commissioner McGuire to adopt a user fee of "\$300 per park used with a not to exceed amount of \$800" for each vendor/concessionaire wishing to use the river for commercial river access. Discussion ensued.

Moved by Commissioner Ling and supported by Commissioner McGuire to postpone action on river access fee until next meeting when staff can bring back additional information. Motion unanimously adopted.

Moved by Commissioner McGuire and supported by Vice Mayor Kilmer to approve contract with Spicer Engineering of Saginaw, Michigan in the amount of \$11,000 for design and specifications for both the potential rehabilitation and the removal and placement of a new Oak Street Bridge and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the contract.

AYES: Commissioners Holton, Joslin, Kilmer, Ling and McGuire

NAYS: Commissioners Palmer and Tilmann

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Announcements on City-Related Issues and Concerns

Commissioner Tilmann asked that the meeting agenda be posted the Friday before a Monday meeting.

Commissioner Ling thanked Isabella Bank for the improvements they have made to their buildings at 401 N. Main Street and on Broadway St.

Commissioner McGuire thanks the VFW, American Legion and others for parade downtown on Memorial Day.

Mayor Holton asked Lisa Hadden to give an update on Le Tour de Mont Pleasant. Lisa Hadden gave an update on the Le Tour de Mont Pleasant.

The Commission recessed at 8:45 p.m. and went back into session at 8:51p.m.

Work Session - Proposed 2010-2014 Capital Improvement Plan

Finance Director/ Assistant City Manager Ridley gave presentation on information contained in Capital Improvement Plan and answered questions Commissioners had given to staff. Discussion ensued.

Work Session - Federal COPS grant program

Public Safety Director Bill Yeagley gave a presentation on COPS grant program. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Holton adjourned the meeting at 9:24 p.m.

James Holton, Mayor

Jeremy Howard, City Clerk