Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Commission held Monday, November 9, 2015, 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 Rautanen; Commissioners Joslin, Kulick, Ling, Sous and Verleger

Commissioners Absent: None

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

Proclamations and Presentations

City Manager Ridley introduced newly hired Technology and Elections Specialist Matt Baker.

Jim McBryde, President, Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC) gave a quarterly update on the status of MMDC.

Receipt of Petitions and Communications

Received the following petitions and communications:
1. City Manager report on pending items.
3. Parks and Recreation Commission Minutes. (September)

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

1. Minutes of the closed session of the City Commission held October 12, 2015.
2. Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Commission held October 26, 2015.
3. Minutes of the closed session of the City Commission held October 26, 2015.
6. WHEREAS, the Traffic Engineer of the City of Mt. Pleasant requests that the City Commission issue Traffic Control Order No. 8-2015: Sign removals and sign installation for 2015 Washington Street and Main Street 2-Way Conversion Project.

Washington Street

1. Remove (2) “END ONE WAY” signs between Bellows St. and Gaylord St.
2. Remove “LEFT TURN MUST TURN LEFT” sign at Bellows St. and Washington St. intersection (north leg).
3. Remove “STOP” sign and “DO NOT ENTER” sign at Bellows St. and Washington St. intersection (north leg)
4. Remove “STOP” sign and “DO NOT ENTER” sign at High St. and Washington St. intersection (north leg).
5. Remove all “ONE WAY” signs on Washington St. from Bellows St. to Illinois St.

Main Street

1. Remove (2) “WRONG WAY DO NOT ENTER” signs at Main St. and High St. intersection (south leg).
2. Remove “WRONG WAY DO NOT ENTER” sign at Main St. and Maple St. intersection (south leg).
3. Remove “WRONG WAY DO NOT ENTER” sign at Main St. and Locust St. intersection (south leg).
4. Remove “STOP AHEAD” and “WRONG WAY” sign on Main St. between Locust St. and Illinois St.
5. Remove “STOP” sign and “DO NOT ENTER” sign at Main St. and Illinois St. intersection (south leg).
6. Install “STOP” sign at the Main St. and Bellows St. intersection (north leg).
7. Remove all “ONE WAY” signs on Main St. between Bellows St. and Illinois St.
   Said traffic control order was presented to the City Commission on November 9, 2015, for review and after reviewing said control order and being fully advised in the premises, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission approves traffic control order No. 8-2015 as a permanent traffic control order.

7. Receive recommended Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) plan amendment and set public hearing for December 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. on same.
8. Receive proposed ordinance to amend section 131.01 and add new sections 131.14 and 131.15 of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Mt. Pleasant to update regulations of offenses affecting the public peace and set a public hearing on same for December 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
9. Resolution recognizing The John H. Goodrow Fund as a non-profit organization for the purpose of obtaining a charitable gaming license.
10. Memorandum of Understanding between the City and MEDC related to participation in the Redevelopment Ready Communities program.
11. Payrolls dated October 23, 2015 and warrants dated October 21 and 29, 2015 all totaling $574,948.93.

Motion unanimously adopted.

Public Hearing on Special Assessment #1-16 and consider approval of Resolution #5 for approval of the roll and setting of payment terms for the Special Assessment District.

E-mail correspondence in opposition to Special Assessment #1-16 was received from Mike and Kriss Roethlisberger, Ace of Diamonds; Cathy Smith, Basketree; Dan Pulver, Guys and Dolls Photography; Thomas Horgan, 122 and 126 S. Main St.; and Jeff Jakeway, downtown property owner.

Petro Tolas, 306 E. Broadway St., spoke in opposition of Special Assessment #1-16; Damian Fisher, 215 W. Broadway St., spoke in support of Special Assessment #1-16; Glenn Erwin, 123 Broadway St. asked the Commission to postpone the decision on Special Assessment #1-16 to look into some questions.

There being no additional public comments or communications the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Moved by Commissioner Ling and supported by Commissioner Sous to approve Resolution #5 for approval of the roll and setting of payment terms for Special Assessment District 1-16.

Moved by Commissioner Joslin and supported by Vice Mayor Rautanen to postpone action on Special Assessment District 1-16 until the next City Commission meeting to get further staff recommendations on possible alternatives.

AYES: Commissioners Joslin, Rautanen and Verleger
NAYS: Commissioners Holton, Kulick, Ling and Sous
ABSENT: None

Motion failed.
Consider original motion to approve Resolution #5 for approval of the roll and setting of payment terms for Special Assessment District 1-16.

AYES: Commissioners Kulick, Ling and Sous
NAYS: Commissioners Holton, Joslin, Rautanen and Verleger
ABSENT: None

Motion failed.

Moved by Commissioner Kulick and supported by Commissioner Verleger to schedule a joint meeting with Downtown Development Board to further discuss the Special Assessment District 1-16 before the next City Commission meeting in November. Motion unanimously adopted.

A public hearing was held on proposed text change to subsection 154.021(A) of the Mt. Pleasant Zoning Ordinances to increase maximum allowable front and side street side yard fences and walls. There being no public comments or communications the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Moved by Commissioner Kulick and supported by Vice Mayor Rautanen that Ordinance 1004, an Ordinance to amend subsection 154.021(A) of the Mt. Pleasant Zoning Ordinance to increase maximum allowable front and side street side yard fences and walls having been introduced and read, now be passed, ordained and ordered published. Motion unanimously adopted.

A public hearing was held on proposed text change to subsection 154.095 of the Mt. Pleasant Zoning Ordinances to provide for a minimum setback for properties abutting the U University Zoning District. There being no public comments or communications the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Moved by Commissioner Kulick and supported by Commissioner Sous that Ordinance 1005, an Ordinance to amend subsection 154.095 of the Mt. Pleasant Zoning Ordinances to provide for a minimum setback for properties abutting the U University Zoning District having been introduced and read, now be passed, ordained and ordered published. Motion unanimously adopted.

A public hearing was held on proposed text change to Sections 154.162 through 154.166, and Section 154.171 of the Mt. Pleasant Zoning Ordinances to define the powers and jurisdiction of the Zoning Board of Appeals. There being no public comments or communications the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Moved by Commissioner Kulick and supported by Commissioner Verleger that Ordinance 1006, an Ordinance to amend Sections 154.162 through 154.166, and Section 154.171 of the Mt. Pleasant Zoning Ordinances to define the powers and jurisdiction of the Zoning Board of Appeals having been introduced and read, now be passed, ordained and ordered published.

AYES: Commissioners Holton, Joslin, Kulick, Rautanen, Sous and Verleger
NAYS: Commissioner Ling
ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Ling and supported by Commissioner Sous to allow City Commission to review revised ZBA application and applicant guidance documents before they are implemented and released to public.

AYES: Commissioners Holton, Kulick, Ling, Rautanen, Sous and Verleger
NAYS: Commissioner Joslin
ABSENT: None

Motion carried.
A public hearing was held on the proposed 2016 Operating Budget. There being no public comments or communications the Mayor closed the public hearing. No action is required at this time.

Moved by Vice Mayor Rautanen and supported by Commissioner Ling to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign a contract with CMU for a contribution from CMU toward the cost of pedestrian lighting installation. Motion unanimously adopted.

Moved by Vice Mayor Rautanen and supported by Commissioner Sous to authorize the Mayor to execute the contract with Middle Michigan Development Corporation (MMDC) as presented. Motion unanimously adopted.

Moved by Commissioner Kulick and supported by Commissioner Ling to set a public hearing for Monday, November 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. to receive public input on mosquito control.

AYES: Commissioners Holton, Kulick, Ling, Rautanen, Sous and Verleger
NAYS: Commissioner Joslin
ABSENT: None
Motion carried.

Announcements on City-Related Issues and Concerns

Commissioner Kulick commented that the articles on alcohol abuse in The Morning Sun were good and the Commission and City will continue to try and address the issue.

Commissioner Ling asked staff to find out more information to share with the Commission on HB5041 which limits communities’ ability to grandfather non-conforming rentals. She also commented on Washington and High Street lights and how nice they look.

Public Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Petro Tolas, 306 E. Broadway St., spoke on some recent issues he experienced during the City Commission election.

Rick Swindlehurst, downtown business owner, spoke on concerns with the special assessment.

Ian Elliot, CMU Student Government Association Liaison Officer, commented that he appreciates the additional lighting being put in. He invited the Mayor and/or other Commissioners to Student Government Association next Monday at 8:00 p.m. in UC auditorium to discuss student/city relations.

The Commission recessed at 8:45 p.m. and returned to open session at 8:53 p.m.

WORK SESSION: 2016 Proposed Operating Budget discussion

City Manager Ridley led a discussion on next steps for the Mt. Pleasant Center.

Discussion ensued.

Staff will gather information for further discussion in 2 weeks

Mayor Holton adjourned the meeting without objection at 9:43 p.m.

Jim Holton, Mayor
Jeremy Howard, City Clerk