



CITY OF IONIA
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
7:00 PM, DECEMBER 1, 2020
ELECTRONIC MEETING VIA ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Dan Balice called the regular meeting of City Council to order at 7:00 PM and led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Roll call revealed Councilmembers John Milewski, Jeff Winters, Tim Lee, Richard Starr, Tom Millard, Janice Gustafson, Troy Waterman and Mayor Dan Balice present. Councilmember Gordon Kelley joined the meeting at 7:05 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilmember Milewski, seconded by Councilmember Winters to approve the meeting minutes for the November 3, 2020 regular meeting minutes and the November 4, 2020 special meeting minutes.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Lee, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None
 MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Appointment– Interim City Manager

Mayor Dan Balice asked for Council’s approval in drafting a contract between the City and Gregg Guidance, LLC which will appoint Gregg Guetschow as Interim City Manager.

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Winters to authorize the Mayor to appoint Gregg Guetschow as Interim City Manager under the terms and conditions specified in the contract.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Winters, Kelley, Lee, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None
 MOTION CARRIED

Approve – Revisions to Policy No. 1-013 – Property Taxes – Poverty Guidelines

The City Manager reported that Public Act 206 of 1893, as amended (General Property Tax Act) requires municipalities to set the poverty guidelines and asset guidelines to be observed by Boards of Review in determining if a property owner should be granted an exemption from paying property taxes on an owned property. Although the Statute states that municipalities must follow the federal poverty and asset guidelines it does not adopt them by reference but instead requires the local governing board to adopt the guidelines from time to time.

The City Assessor recommended that Council approve an update to the City’s current policy for use by the Board of Review.

It was moved by Councilmember Milewski, seconded by Councilmember Millard to amend General Policy 1-013, Property Taxes – Poverty Guidelines establishing updated poverty guidelines and poverty asset guidelines for 2021 assessments as required by PA 206 of 1893, as amended.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Kelley, Lee, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski, Winters and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None
 MOTION CARRIED

Approve – Revisions to Personnel Policy No. 350 – Insurance Programs

The City Manager reported that Personnel Policy No. 350 entitled Insurance Programs establishes the hospitalization insurance program parameters for non-union employees. The policy includes the process and associated payment for an employee to “opt out” of the City’s hospitalization insurance program if they receive insurance coverage through a spouse. Periodically, Council approves revisions to the policy so that the amount paid to an employee for not duplicating coverage (opting out of City coverage) stays in-line with increases in the cost of insurance coverage and keeps pace with the collective bargaining agreements covering the various union employees.

The amount paid to an employee who opts out is currently \$5,200, which went into effect January 1, 2020. It is proposed that Policy No. 350 be amended to incorporate the following payment amounts:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| January 1, 2021 | \$5,400 |
| January 1, 2022 | \$5,500 |
| January 1, 2023 | \$5,600 |
| January 1, 2024 | \$5,700 |
| January 1, 2025 | \$5,800 and thereafter |

For reference, for two-person coverage based on 2021 rates/HSA contribution, the net savings to the City is \$17,799.72 by permitting an employee to opt out.

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Winters to amend Personnel Policy No. 350 entitled Insurance Programs revising the amount paid an employee for opting out of the City's hospitalization insurance program as outlined in Paragraph III(F) of the Policy.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Lee, Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski, Winters, Kelley and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None
 MOTION CARRIED

Approve – Introduction and First Reading – Ordinance No. 549 – Zoning – Adult Use Marihuana

The City Manager reported that earlier this year Council tasked the Planning Commission with drafting and proposing an adult use marihuana “opt in” ordinance as permitted by the Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marihuana Act. The Commission has worked diligently on the ordinance and completed its work one month early with the conducting of the Public Hearing at its November 12, 2020 meeting. After receiving comments, the Commission voted to recommend that the City Council adopt the attached draft.

The proposed ordinance, in many respects, mirrors the medical marihuana ordinance in terms of the zoning districts in which the many different uses are permitted, buffering requirements from parks, churches, schools, etc., and the planning process (site plan approval/special land use permit approval) that is followed when granting approval.

In addition to “opting in” and establishing the standards for adult use marihuana in the City, the ordinance also repeals the “opt out” (Chapter 816 – Recreational Marihuana Establishments – Prohibition) ordinance that was enacted by Council late last year.

It was moved by Councilmember Starr, seconded by Councilmember Gustafson to permit the record to reflect the introduction and first reading of Ordinance No. 549 which, if approved, repeals Chapter 816 (Recreational Marihuana Establishments – Prohibition) and enacts a new Chapter 1290 which establishes the standards associated with permitting Adult Use Marihuana businesses in the City and to schedule a Public Hearing on the proposed ordinance for 7:00 PM, Tuesday, January 5, 2021 in the Council Chamber at City Hall or electronically via Zoom depending on gathering restrictions.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Starr, Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Lee and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None
 MOTION CARRIED

Accept – Bid for Wastewater Treatment Plant Valve Replacement Project

The City Manager reported that the FY20-21 IRUA Fund budget contains funds to replace several tower pump and return valves. The majority of these valves were installed in 1991 and the most recent wastewater treatment master maintenance plan identified the need for replacement. With the assistance of Fishbeck, bid specifications were recently prepared, the project advertised and bids opened on Tuesday, November 24th with the following bids received:

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|---|-----------|
| DHE Plumbing and Mechanical, Grandville | \$189,400 |
| Franklin Holwerda, Grand Rapids | \$189,500 |
| Allied Mechanical, Grand Rapids | \$209,400 |

After review of the bids, Fishbeck has recommended that the low bid submitted by \$189,400 be accepted.

Once the contract documents are signed, it will take until late summer 2021 for the valves to be manufactured with installation occurring shortly thereafter.

It was moved by Councilmember Kelley, seconded by Councilmember Winters to accept the bid submitted by DHE Plumbing and Mechanical, Grandville, for \$189,400 for the wastewater treatment plant valve replacement project and authorize the Finance Director to sign the necessary contract documents.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Millard, Gustafson, Waterman, Milewski, Winters, Kelley, Lee, Starr and Mayor Balice
 Nays: None
 MOTION CARRIED

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Balice: Stated that he is impressed by the knowledge and experience of new Interim City Manager Gregg Guetschow and is looking forward to working with him.

Gustafson: Reminded Council and the public of downtown’s Christmas on the Bricks event on Saturday, December 5 from 6-8 PM.

Millard: Encouraged everyone to support small businesses by buying gift cards and staying local.

Starr: Mentioned that he is pleased with the work that the Planning Commission put into the recreational marihuana ordinance and is in support because of job creation and the revenue it will bring the community.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Councilmember Waterman, seconded by Councilmember Lee to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:51 PM.

By Voice Vote: MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted:

Ally H. Cook, City Clerk