



CITY OF IONIA

CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES 7:00 PM, TUESDAY – August 4, 2020 ELECTRONIC MEETING VIA ZOOM

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Daniel 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 Jeff Winters, Gordon Kelley, Richard Starr, Tom Millard, Janice Gustafson and Mayor Balice present. Councilmembers Tim Lee and Troy Waterman were excused. Councilmember John Milewski joined the meeting at 7:01 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilmember Millard, seconded by Councilmember Kelley to approve the July 7, 2020 regular meeting minutes.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Accept – Bids for Public Safety Department Grass/Brush Truck

The City Manager reported that, consistent with the 2020 Strategic Plan for Fire Apparatus Replacement approved by Council at the March 3rd meeting, the FY20-21 Public Safety Vehicle Replacement Fund includes \$65,000 to replace Squad #1 which is currently the secondary grass fire truck utilized by the Department. The primary unit utilized by the Department in fighting grass/brush fires is Squad #2 (purchased by the City in 2012). Through the State purchasing program, bids were recently solicited for a heavy-duty four wheel drive crew-cab truck with the low bid available through Berger Chevrolet, Grand Rapids, for a 2021 Chevrolet 3500HD Crew Cab 4x4 for \$35,909.00.

The City Manager also reported that in addition to purchasing the pick-up truck, a tank/pump/engine unit (sometimes referred to as a “skid unit”) needs to be purchased. The skid unit slides into the box of the pick-up and contains the tank for water (200 gallons), the pump and the engine that runs the pump. Based on the difficulty in finding multiple vendors, he

recommended that this purchase be “sole sourced” and the bid submitted by CET Fire Pump Manufacturing for \$13,614.00 be accepted.

It was moved by Councilmember Starr, seconded by Councilmember Kelley to authorize the City Manager to purchase a 2021 Chevrolet 3500 HD Crew Cab 4x4 from Berger Chevrolet for \$35,909.00 and to authorize the City Manager to purchase a grass/brush fire fighting skid unit from CET Fire Pump Manufacturing for \$13,614.00.

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

Approve – Pension Plan – Corrective Action Plan Monitoring Application for Certification of Compliance

The City Manager reported that pursuant to the “Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act” the City was required to submit to the Department of Treasury a “corrective action plan” outlining the City’s plan to attain a minimum funding level of 60% in its MERS pension plan. At the time the City’s plan was “assessed” by Treasury the funding level was at 50%. Council approved the corrective action plan at its September 4, 2018 meeting. The approved plan called for closing the remaining open defined benefit pension program for new hires (completed January 31, 2019) and contributing an additional \$250,000 per calendar year to MERS beginning in 2019 and continuing through 2022 (\$250,000 was contributed in 2018 and \$1,125,000 in 2019).

The Act requires the State’s Municipal Stability Board to monitor each underfunded local government’s compliance with the Act and individual approved corrective action plan at least every two years to certify that the underfunded local government is in substantial compliance with the Act and it’s plan. The Board recently requested that the City provide an update via completing and submitting an “application for certification of compliance”.

It was moved by Councilmember Milewski, seconded by Councilmember Millard to approve the “Protecting Local Government Retirement and Benefits Act – Corrective Action Plan Monitoring Application for Certification of Compliance” and authorize the City Manager to sign the Application on behalf of the City.

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

Approve – General Engineering Services Agreement - Fishbeck

The City Manager reported that Fishbeck currently serves as the City’s engineer of record. In this position City staff periodically calls upon Fishbeck to provide advice on engineering matters ranging

from site plan reviews to offering recommendations for resolving a drainage problem on a street. Fishbeck's performance in this role is governed by the General Engineering Services Agreement dated December 13, 2002, as amended. The City contracts separately with Fishbeck, or other engineering firms, on a project by project basis for larger improvement projects the City undertakes.

The City Manager stated that it is necessary to amend the General Engineering Services Agreement with Fishbeck to incorporate their new rate schedule. Fishbeck traditionally revises their rate schedule each June/July. Fishbeck continues to provide the City with a 3%-4% discount off their standard rates.

It was moved by Councilmember Gustafson, seconded by Councilmember Winters to approve the amendment to the General Engineering Services Agreement between the City and Fishbeck which incorporates the rate schedule dated June 13, 2020 and authorize the City Manager to sign the amendment on behalf of the City.

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

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Millard: Happy to see the McDonald's fundraiser for the fair go over so well and looks forward to seeing other businesses stepping up to do the same.

Milewski: Stated that the schools are working hard to see what the plans will be for the upcoming school year.

Balice: Thanked various people who have actively been working hard to fundraise for the Fair and maintain the fairgrounds. He encouraged anyone who may be interested in helping out the Fair to look for volunteer opportunities.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Starr, seconded by Winters to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:22 PM.

By Voice Vote: MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully Submitted:

Ally H. Cook, Clerk