

## OFFICIAL MINUTES – VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING JULY 6, 2015

The July 6, 2015 meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Decatur, Michigan was called to order by Vice-President Ali Elwaer at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge of allegiance. Roll call was taken by Village Clerk/Treasurer Aaron Mitchell; Patrick Richardson, Robert Mead Jr., Tom Stull, Norma Strickler, and Ali Elwaer were present, and Carl Wickett and Mike Heflin were absent. Also present was Village Manager James Krizan and Village Clerk/Treasurer Aaron Mitchell, outgoing Village Treasurer Roberta Rex, Police Chief David McLeese, Director of Public Works Dale Avery, Village Attorney Matt Cooper and 12 additional visitors.

Public Comments: Jim Abshagen commended a great job for everyone involved in the parade. Believed the Sirens were excessive. Feels like the Fire Department are making him out to be the bad guy, because he has questioned the need for the constant sirens throughout the whole parade. Sites the PD as an example of only using sirens briefly. Feels personally attacked due to the Fireman who came over to his family and gave them ear plugs, felt like it was more of a demeaning action than a helpful one.

Bobbie Rex thanked the Village for such a beautiful welcoming sign on 51. However, is upset to see all the wonderful service organization signs that are laying down on the ground that they took down. Mentions the DDA's plan to put them at the north entrance of town, but disagrees with that plan. Council said they will look into it.

Rosemary Stull thanked the DPW for a great job cleaning up the Raider Romp and putting down fresh mulch.

Consent Agenda: Motion to approve Agenda made by Tom and seconded by Norma, all voted yes. Corrections to the June 1 meeting minutes, correcting Kim Danielson's name from Kim Rouse in VA Cooper's report. Motion to approve minutes with corrections from June 1, 2015 regular meeting made by Bob and seconded by Pat, all voted yes. Motion to approve bills in a total of \$251,929.57 by Tom and seconded by Bob, all voted yes.

Communication: Mr. and Mrs. Ralston spoke about the letter they sent to VM Krizan pertaining to the amount of dying trees that have limbs falling out of them onto the sidewalk. They stressed the danger of their sidewalk, when there are many parents that push strollers along that stretch as well as the use by the track team. Believes that someone could die if they are hit with the falling branches. VM states he is checking with AEP due to intermingling with power lines.

Officer Reports: There were no questions for VT Rex.

No questions for Chief McLeese.

Public Works Director Avery was asked by Vice-President Elwaer for an update on the Leaf Vac. He is expecting an early October delivery.

VC Mitchell was asked by Vice-President Elwaer how the taxpayers are aware of the new methods of tax payments at Village Hall. VC Mitchell explains the changes were listed on the actual bills sent out.

VA Cooper asked the council how they wanted to proceed with the Hurd property. Hurd doesn't want a lien on his property. Cooper advised that the 15<sup>th</sup> deadline to clean up the Bergen Building will expire

next week. If the Community center does not clean the property, the village will be able to demolish it and place a lien on the property. The lien can be foreclosed on in 180 days. VM suggests a special meeting, the council agrees.

VA also mentions the process of trying to deal with the "Lion's Club" property case in small claims court for \$3,600. The claim is for the storage of snow on the property. VA is working to get case dropped.

VM Krizan mentions the fact that we did not receive the grant he applied for to demo the old Community building. He currently has 1 bid for the demo, and is waiting on two additional companies' bids.

New Business: Jim Frenndt, CPA from Abraham & Gaffney, P.C. presents the 2014-2015 Financial Audit. He is impressed with the standing of the Village. All numbers are well above the satisfactory level. He attributes the addition of Cargill personal property as a big reason for the increase in revenue.

Open Burning Ordinance would consolidate all 4 previous established burning ordinances. VA and VM discuss how much to penalize, considering the fact that this is now classified as a misdemeanor. After concerns by Councilwoman Norma Strickler about the possibility of a first time offender, VM will set dollar amount/jail time up to a number and not mandatory, to allow discretion by the officer.

Resolution 2015-07 Decatur Day closing of Phelps St.: Motion made by Norma and seconded by Tom, all voted yes.

DPW Plow/Dump Truck: Eric Shultz from Freightliner of Kalamazoo explains the assembly and the schedule for delivery, which will be around Thanksgiving. Motion to purchase the truck made by Bob and seconded by Patrick, all voted yes.

Personnel Policy: VM explains procedure that would take place (review, update, revise). Norma makes motion to proceed with plan, seconded by Tom, all voted yes.

FOIA Policy: Tom made motion and Bob seconded, all voted yes.

Sealcoat project: Norma made motion and Tom seconded, all voted yes.

Earnie Best: Norma made the motion to hire him for the rate of \$1200 for each of the two properties he sells, and seconded by Bob, all voted yes.

DPW Shop Quote: VM believes the contractor may be able to trim a bit off of the bid, and VM will ask him about that. Norma made motion for up to \$4100, and seconded by Tom, all voted yes.

Mechanical Inspector: Motion made by Norma and seconded by Bob, all voted yes.

Budget Amendments: Motion to accept by Bob and seconded by Tom.

Sidewalk Fence: After some discussion between Councilman Tom Stull and Jim Abshagen there was a consensus that the fence was put up at a time when the sidewalks were being used for children going to school. That is no longer the case. And there was no intention of the council being responsible for up keep. Motion to have VM tell homeowners that we are not going to fix the fence and hand over any fence panels we had from the section that has fallen down was made by Norma and seconded by Pat, all voted yes.

Public Comment: Charlene Jackson believes the website needs updating, it still has items from 2013.

Robin Siegel wants to bring attention to the fact that there is a dangerous dog at 209 Beers St. There was an attack on June 1. However no one showed up at the show cause hearing, so nothing happened to the dog.

Norma wants to schedule a special meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m., to deal with the passing deadline on the Bergen Building property.

Bob would like to bring to the board's attention that there currently are no sidewalks on the west side of the schools. VM proposes building new sidewalks instead of replacing old ones around the village, there is not a big difference in price.

Motion to adjourn made by Tom and seconded by Pat, all voted yes at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Mitchell,

Village Clerk/Treasurer