

**CITY OF EVART
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

December 16, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: **Council** - Dan Elliott, BJ Foster, Casey Keysor (Mayor proTem), Gregg Sherman; **City Clerk** – Seraphim Leemon; **City Manager** – Zack Szakacs; **City Treasurer** – Sarah Bigelow. Absent: **Mayor** - Eric Schmidt

Guests: Patrick Muczynski – DPW, Ryan Douglas, Miranda Lorenz, Melora Theunick – Director LDFA, Jim White – City Attorney, Mark Wilson – Director Park & Recreation, Adam Zinger, Nolan VanOrder, James Holihan, Neda Grable

Citizenry Comments:

(no remarks)

Moved by Sherman, seconded by Foster to accept agenda without amendment ...
Passed unanimously

Moved by Foster, seconded by Sherman to approve the minutes of December 2, 2013
Passed unanimously.

The LDFA - Director Melora Theunick reports:

Chamber of Commerce set Awards Banquet for January 18, 6:00 p.m./Social Hour, 6:30/Program + Dinner; ticket prices approximately \$20 per person.

Emphasizes that the LDFA regular meetings are held 7:30 a.m. on second (2nd) Wednesday of each month.

The DDA – Director AI Weinberg not in attendance.

City Manager remarked:

1) Despite his serving on the DDA Board, Szakacs himself was not notified about a special DDA meeting which was held on December 10. It had been called in the wake of the previous Council Meeting agenda that questioned preservation of both DDA & LDFA. City Manager recommended Council ask Weinberg about this at January 6 Council meeting.

2) Szakacs just received word that DDA board member Mark Corey is opting not to renew his term on the Board and will need to be replaced upon expiration.

Unfinished Business:

- **L DFA / DDA Future Budgetary Concerns**

All discussion postponed until after the fact-finding Special Council Meeting of January 8, 2014.

- **Appointments to Boards & Commissions**

City Clerk wonders if remaining Boards need not be addressed. Szakacs states that only expiring posts remain for review and this is best suited to January Council consideration.

New Business:

- **Election of Mayor ProTem.** Due to oversight, vote was not taken at debut meeting of newly elected body. City Manager asked if in light of Mayor's absence they wished to postpone and merely rely on the "carry over proTem authority" which had previously empowered Keysor. Foster emphatically called for addressing the issue without delay. **Moved** by Foster, seconded by Elliott to elect Councilman Casey Keysor for another term as Mayor ProTem. **Passed** unanimously

- **Treasurer – Sarah Bigelow reported:**

- 1) Alerts Council to new state law granting veterans (those officially classified as 100% disabled), the erasure of 100% of their Summer and Winter property tax obligations, into perpetuity. City Clerk inquires as to the extent of retro-active reach. "The Summer of 2013 Tax Roll is the first eligible for refund." State statute requires eligible veterans to apply through City Assessor. City Attorney remarked that there couldn't be that many who qualify. Bigelow and City Manager counter by saying there are more than one would expect, guestimating an annual revenue loss not exceeding \$10,000. Szakacs adds his hope that this does not consume the City's \$5,000 reserve. Leemon asks about the long term eligibility of the spouse following the veteran's death. Bigelow clarifies that widows (-ers) are also absolved of same tax obligation until their own death, unless/until they remarry; residency need not remain the same.

- 2) Submission of Manual Check Report November 27 through December 4; Cash Transactions Report; summary of Funds as of November 31, 2013, and Vendor List. **Moved** by Elliott, seconded by Sherman to accept Vendor List as submitted **Passed** unanimously

- **DPW – Written Report submitted:**

November hourly allocations; well water volume figures (city & Ice Mountain); electrical water/sewer comparatives to November 2012.

In absence of DPW Manager, Patrick Muczynski was asked if he had anything to share.

- 1) Pilot valve (for water tower on US 10) successfully installed pre-freeze.

- 2) Foster inquired as to the activity earlier in the day near Recreation Drive. Turns out that manhole covers (one at Mishler's Drive-in, one at Britz Realty) had been paved over in a previous era, leaving the only access points to the sewer line at US 10 at

Cherry Street and Recreation Drive. DPW was attempting to run cameras to assess the status of the lines. This is especially in anticipation of Family Dollar's 2014 relocation, which will require feed lines. There were feeds discovered but there remain some discrepancies among maps showing leads across US 10.

- **Police Department – Written report submitted:**

No Community Watch meetings until January. Police department engaged in a friendly rivalry (Osceola & Mecosta countywide) to collect food donation for Reed City Food Pantry. Training seminars in both forensics and breathalyzer calibration. Chief had leadership presentation to Evert Girl Scout troop where a visit with officer Yogi (canine) was requested for 2014.

In absence of Chief Backing, City Manager reported execution of two successful "Lock Down Drills"; Girl Scout speech at Elementary school; investigation continues without any public tips as to the shooting of elementary school windows.

- **City Manager – Zack Szakacs Reported:**

- 1) Points out that Michigan Municipal League offers online options for newly elected officials.

- 2) Glitch with the DIG Grant; DDA request rejected by State Historical Preservation Officer until Evert DDA is able to address "historical significance" issues outlined in State's rejection letter.

- 3) Deeply concerned that Sewer Fund remains critically low and repeats his forecast that City is more likely to generate only \$400,000 by yearend versus budget's \$568,000.

- 4) Shared various TIF (Tax Incremental Financing authority) articles for council review in advance of LDFA/DDA vote. Szakacs emphasizing that it is the economics of TIF that bother him the most.

- 5) Celebrated Park & Rec receipt of boat launch grant.

- **Parks & Recreation – Mark Wilson Reported:**

- 1) State of Michigan notified us we received the Passport Grant which had been applied for last spring. Of the 19 recipients, Evert tied for 5th place in terms of merit. Of the \$761,600 being awarded, Evert receives \$42,300 with these dollars targeted for the Riverside boat ramp repair/sprucing-up. City Manager reassured Council money is already set aside to meet the "matching funds" requirements, & that at future meeting he will call for Council votes to authorize the spending of it.

- 2) Written Report addressed: non-quorum attendance at November Park & Rec Committee meeting; debut Hunter Ed class saw 29 student participants with some training aides being loaned by DNR; DEQ has received permit request for camping at Riverside East; State Representative Joel Johnson attended city's Veteran's Day ceremonies; Photography Club meets alternating Thursdays.

- **City Attorney – Jim White Reported:**

Quite a few Evert DUI's. Some "interesting" disorderly conducts from "indecent exposure" category (romantic encounters vs. exhibitionist). No response yet from Dean's regarding unpaid Sewer fees. Channel 9/10-Cadillac is poised for big story on River City Bottling's arrival in town; station called earlier in the day.

Additional Remarks:

Theunick requests that she and DDA Director be cc'd on all documents/reports pertaining to January 8 Special Meeting.

Moved by Elliott, seconded by Foster ...

... Adjournment at 7:20 p.m.

Passed unanimously