

The regular meeting of the Harrisville City Council was held on February 8, 2021 at the City Office. This was a virtual Zoon meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Gehring and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present: Mayor Gehring, Treasurer Luenberger, Clerk Pierce, Council Members: Schwanz, Kaiser, Peterson, Mason, Bean and Attorney Cook.

Motion by Kaiser, support by Bean to approve the minutes of January 11, 2021. Motion carried 5-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Bean, Peterson. Nay: 0.

Motion by Peterson, support by Kaiser to pay the bills in the amount of \$33,460.60. Motion carried 5-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Bean, Peterson. Nay: 0.

Mayor Gehring addressed correspondence from an interested resident of Harrisville as to his ideas for increased activities to attract more visitors to the city as well as engaging residents in seasonal activities. Discussion.

Mayor Gehring added that the city DPW crew has been working on an ice rink at the basketball courts at the Department of Health on Lake St.

In Old Business Mayor Gehring updated council of progress of playground. New bids are out for the project.

Motion by Kaiser, support by Peterson to set the Tax Board of Review dates as follows:

Organizational Meeting: March 2, 2021, 10:15 A.M.

March 9, 2021: 3:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. March 11, 2021: 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

July 20, 2021: 9:00 A.M. (If needed). December 14, 2021: 9:00 A.M. (If needed).

Motion carried: 5-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Bean, Peterson. Nay: 0.

Mayor Gehring presented Actions for Consideration from the Harbor Commission. Upon recommendation of the commission, they request the appointments of Joe Lukasiewicz and Michael J. Hamather to serve three-year terms ending December 31, 2023.

Motion by Bean, support by Peterson to appoint Joe Lukasiewicz and Michael J. Hamather to serve as harbor commissioners, terms ending December 31, 2023. Motion carried: 5-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Bean, Peterson. Nay: 0.

The harbor commission requests the city to approve a loan of at least \$5,000.00 to the harbor commission to enable early 2021 operating expenses.

Motion by Bean, support by Peterson to authorize a loan of \$5,000.00 to the harbor commission for early start-up funds for the 2021 season. Motion carried: 5-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Bean, Peterson. Nay: 0.

Mayor Gehring requests council approve city clerk placing ad in local newspaper for summer help, 2021. The employee must be 18 years old. The employee will work a total of 300(+) hours for the season. The summer work includes, but not limited to, grass cutting, trimming, and general maintenance.

Motion by Peterson, support by Kaiser for clerk to place ad in local paper for summer help. Motion carried: 5-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Bean, Peterson. Nay: 0.

Motion by Mason, support by Kaiser to set the 2021/2022 General Fund Budget and the Annual Truth and Taxation Hearing for March 8, 2021. Hearing to start at 7:15 P.M. Clerk to publish notice. Motion carried 5-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Bean, Peterson. Nay: 0.

REPORTS

Mayor Gehring presented a request to council from Sue Schaffluetzel, owner of the Widow's Watch on Lake Street, and opened discussion of her submittal of tree trimming priorities of the city trees on the property.

Motion by Mason, support by Schwanz to deny the request of Sue Schaffluetzel to trim city trees on the property. Motion carried: 5-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Bean, Peterson. Nay: 0.

Mayor Gehring reports the annual Rosemary Myrick Memorial Run 5K is scheduled for June 26, 2021.

Mayor Gehring would like to thank our City maintenance crew, Tom Keerl and Allen Kay, for their prompt attention to the snow removal and maintenance of the city streets and sidewalks this past week.

Clerk Pierce reports that the Summer Concert Series, as of this date, is still open for determination.

Treasurer Luenberger reports she is currently working on the budget for this coming fiscal year.

Harbor Commission will meet on March 4, 2021 at 6:30 pm.

Planning Commissioner J. Schwanz reported on Consumers Energy proposal to partner with the city on becoming a "Green City" designation. The Planning Commission meeting, February 10, 2021 at 6:30, will be a Zoom meeting to continue work on updating the city's Master Plan. Alderman Schwanz and L. Schwanz continue to attend virtual meetings in connection with the "Up Northeast" initiative for promotion of the area.

County Commissioner Thompson reported on the Recreation Survey being conducted by Alcona County in conjunction with NEMCOG in assisting the county in updating their Recreation Master Plan. County Commission meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 1:00 pm virtually. County Wide Clean Up will be held Saturday, May 15, 2021 at the ARA Site in Lincoln, MI. The County Fair Committee has designated the dates of May 21-23, 2021 for a Food Fair. The County Tree Sale will take place on May 8, 2021 and Alcona Recycle is the second Saturday of each month. He also discussed the designation of an area for an Industrial Truck recharging station in advance of the many freight truck companies beginning to use electric transport vehicles.

Fire Department Chief Klukowski asked council for approval of a pay increase for volunteer fighters that are on a fire run for longer than three hours. The increase would go from \$25.00/run to double pay (\$50.00/run, total) on any run lasting longer than three hours.

Motion by Schwanz, support by Bean to approve pay increase for volunteer firefighters responding to a fire run lasting longer than three hours to \$50.00/run, total. Motion carried: 5-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Bean, Peterson. Nay: 0.

Council's Last Comments-Alderman Schwanz discussed Consumers Energy initiative to increase city electrical usage for governmental properties to 85% green power sources. An estimated \$1600.00 increase/year for cost/usage to the city would be incurred. The EV charging stations would eventually cover this cost. A "Green City" designation is a very viable marketing tool for attracting new visitors and residents to Harrisville.

Mayor Gehring moved meeting to be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 P.M.

Next City Council meeting March 8, 2021. Published prior to council approval.

Mayor _____ Clerk _____

