

City of Albion
Council Session Minutes
April 1, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Atchison called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE TO BE OBSERVED

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Vicky Clark (1), Lenn Reid (2); Marcola Lawler (4); Jeanette Spicer (5); Shane Williamson (6) and Mayor Atchison.

ABSENT: Sonya Brown (3) was absent.

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Kipp, Acting City Manager/Chief Public Safety; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; Tom Mead, Finance Director; Kent Phillips, Acting Interim Public Services Director and John Tracy, Director Planning, Building & Code Enforcement.

V. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA (Includes any proposed additions, deletions or other changes to the agenda)

Williamson moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, to Approve the Agenda as presented. (6-0, vv)

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation of Mayor & Council Recognition Day for National Service

Mayor Atchison read aloud Proclamation for Recognition Day for National Service and presented to AmeriCorps Vista members that were present at the meeting.

VII. PUBLIC HEARINGS-None

VIII. PUBLIC Comments (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to agenda items and to no more than three (3) minutes. Proper decorum is required.)

Comments were received from Andrew French, 702 E. Erie St; Joseph Verbeke, 1217 E. Porter St and Jim Haadsma, 62nd State Representative.

IX. CLOSED SESSION-None

X. CONSENT CALENDAR (VV) Items on the Consent Calendar are voted on as one unit)

A. Approval Regular Session Minutes, March 18, 2019

B. Assembly Permit for Swingin' at the Shell-Victory Park Band Shell, July 21-September 15, 2019

C. Approval of Lion's White Cane Sales on May 3rd & 4th, 2019

Lawler moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to Approve the Consent Calendar as presented. (6-0, vv)

XI. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Request Approval for Mechanical Amusement Devices for:

- Albion College
- Leisure Hour Club
- Redbox Automated
- Spartan Stores/Family Fare

Lawler moved, Reid supported, CARRIED to Approve Mechanical Amusement Devices as presented. (6-0, vv)

B. Request Approval Garbage Licenses for:

- Republic Waste
- Waste Management
- Granger Container Service

Comments were received from City Attorney Harkness.

Williamson moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to Approve Garbage Licenses as presented. (6-0, vv)

C. Request Approval to Excuse Council Member Brown from the March 18th, 2019 Council Meeting

Comments were received from Council Member Williamson

Lawler moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, To Excuse Council Member Brown from the March 18th, 2019 Council Meeting as presented. (6-0, vv)

D. Discussion/Approval 1st Reading Ordinance # 2019-03, An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 58-166, Possession and Use of Marijuana

Comments were received from Council Members Reid, Clark and Williamson; Mayor Atchison; City Attorney Harkness and Interim City Manager/Chief Public Safety Kipp.

Lawler moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, to Approve 1st Reading Ordinance # 2019-03, An Ordinance to Amend Ordinance 58-166, Possession and Use of Marijuana as presented. (5-1, rcv) (Williamson dissenting).

****Council Member Lawler asked to amend the agenda and move Discussion/GovHR to agenda Item E.*

Williamson moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, To Amend the Agenda and Move Discussion/GovHR to Agenda Item E. (6-0, vv)

E. Discussion-GovHR

Comments pertaining to GovHR were as follows:

- They do provide a warranty for the actual executive search which is approximately \$14,000 so the City would have the additional \$6,000 fees that would need to be paid
- No faith in company as a candidate that was chosen had credit issues that the City was not made aware of
- Allegations and complaints were received with chosen candidate early on
- Doesn't feel candidates were vetted thoroughly
- Feels that GovHR is being held accountable for a decision that was made by Council
- GovHR misrepresented their approval of credit and background checks
- GovHR did not live up to their responsibilities

Comments were received from Council Members Lawler and Williamson; Mayor Atchison and City Attorney Harkness.

F. Discussion/Action City Manager Search RFP

Mayor Atchison stated there are three issues that Council needs to decide:

1. Does the Council want to put out an RFQ for all firms to bid on?
2. Does the Council want to put out a targeted RFQ that would be the five companies that previously bid?

3. Does the Council want to shorten the length of the time for the bids from 30 days to 2 weeks?

Comments were received from Council Members Spicer, Williamson and Lawler; Interim City Manager/Chief Public Safety Kipp; City Attorney Harkness and Mayor Atchison.

Spicer moved, Lawler supported, **FAILED**, to Approve an RFQ for City Manager Executive Search Firm Services and Allow All Search Firms to submit a bid. (2-4, rcv) (Reid, Clark, Williamson & Mayor Atchison dissenting).

Williamson moved, Reid supported, **CARRIED**, to Approve an RFQ for City Manager Executive Search Firm Services to the Targeted Group that Previously Submitted Bids and Allow for 30 Days for Bids to be Received. (4-2, rcv) (Lawler and Spicer dissenting).

G. Request Approval Resolution # 2019-11, To Declare the Annual Recognition of Indigenous People's Day

Comments were received from Council Member Williamson and Mayor Atchison.

Williamson moved, Reid supported, **CARRIED**, to Approve Resolution # 2019-11, To Declare the Annual Recognition of Indigenous People's Day as presented. (5-1, rcv) (Mayor Atchison dissenting).

H. Request Approval Resolution # 2019-12, To Increase the City Wastewater Rates 7.5 % Each Year Commencing January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024

Comments were received from Council Member Williamson, Mayor Atchison and Acting Interim Director Public Services Phillips.

Williamson moved, Lawler supported, **CARRIED**, to Approve Resolution # 2019-12, To Increase the City Wastewater Rates 7.5 % Each Year Commencing January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024 as presented. (6-0, rcv)

I. Request Approval Resolution # 2019-13, To Increase the City Wastewater Rates 5.9 % Each Year Commencing January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024

This item was not voted on.

J. Request Approval Boards & Commissions Appointments & Reappointments:

- Al Henson, Initial Appointment, Local Officers Compensation Commission, Term to Expire 10-1-2022
- Kay Knight, Initial Appointment, Local Officers Compensation Commission, Term to Expire 10-1-2023
- Mark Lelle, Initial Appointment, Zoning Board of Appeals, Term to Expire 12-31-2020
- Joseph Verbeke, Initial Appointment, Zoning Board of Appeals, Term to Expire 12-31-2021
- Gregg Strand, Reappointment, Planning Commission, Term to Expire 12-31-2021
- Tom Pitt, Reappointment, Planning Commission, Term to Expire 12-31-2021

Comments were received from Council Members Lawler and Spicer.

Reid moved, Williamson supported, CARRIED, To Approve Al Henson, Initial Appointment, Term to Expire 10-1-2022; Kay Knight, Initial Appointment, Term to Expire 10-1-2023 and William Stoffer, Initial Appointment, Term to Expire 10-1-2019 to the Local Officers Compensation Commission as presented. (6-0, vv)

Lawler moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, To Approve Mark Lelle, Initial Appointment, Term to Expire 12-31-2020 and Joseph Verbeke, Initial Appointment, Term to Expire 12-31-2021 to the Zoning Board of Appeals as presented. (6-0, vv)

Reid moved, Williamson supported, CARRIED, To Approve Gregg Strand, Reappointment, Term to Expire 12-31-2021 and Tom Pitt, Reappointment, Term to Expire 12-31-2021 to the Planning Commission as presented. (6-0, vv)

K. Request Approval Interim City Manager Contract

Comments were received from City Attorney Harkness

Williamson moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, To Approve Interim City Manager Contract as presented. (6-0, rcv)

L. Request Approval for Lease of New ADPS Police Vehicle

Comments were received from Council Member Lawler and Interim City Manager/Chief Public Safety Kipp.

Williamson moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, To Approve Lease of New ADPS Police Vehicle as presented. (6-0, rcv)

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Council Member Lawler asked for a discussion/approval of additional funding for the Albion-Marshall Connector
- Council Member Clark asked for a presentation on grant writing
- Council Member Reid asked for City-Wide Clean-Up dates and a Council Study Session for Council Priorities and Goals-Tentative Date-Monday, April 29th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ludington Center
- Mayor Atchison asked for the following:
 - Approval for American Legion to place flags on veterans' graves on May 4th, 2019
 - Discussion-Change Council Meeting Dates
 - Discussion-No cell phones at Council meetings
 - Discussion-tree dump
 - Discussion/Action pursue reimbursement from GovHR

XIII. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to no more than three (3) minutes. Proper decorum is required.)

Comments were received from David Abbott, 412 S. Clinton St; Calhoun County Commissioner Gary Tompkins and Council Member Lawler.

XIV. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Acting City Manager Kipp provided the following City Manager Report:

- Assistant City Manager Snyder is currently working on a bridge grant for Albion Street through MDOT
- MDOT will resurface Austin Avenue from W. Eaton St. to 25 ½ Mile Rd. They would also like to pursue the Road Diet on Austin Avenue which would change from four lanes to three lanes like they did on Superior Street
- No leaves and grass clippings are currently being allowed in the tree dump. This issue is being worked on.
- The leaf pickup began on April 1, 2019 through Granger Container Service and will be picked up city-wide on Wednesdays
- A coalition has been formed to help with the direction of the Recreation Department due to the retirement of Larry Williams, Recreation Director. A partnership with the Battle Creek YMCA is being considered. The coalition is also seeking grant funding to help set up the program. Larry Williams, Recreation Director has agreed to stay on temporarily and continue the programming currently in place.

Comments were received from Council Members Reid and Spicer; Acting Interim Director Public Services Phillips and Calhoun County Commissioner Gary Tompkins.

XV. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Comments were received from Council Members Clark, Lawler and Williamson.

XVI. EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBER (S)

Spicer moved, Lawler supported, CARRIED, To Excuse Council Member Sonya Brown (3). (6-0, vv)

XVII. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Vicky Clark (1), Lenn Reid (2), Marcola Lawler (4), Jeanette Spicer (5), Shane Williamson (6) and Mayor Atchison.

ABSENT: Council Member Sonya Brown (3)

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

Spicer moved, Williamson supported, CARRIED, to adjourn the regular session. (6-0, vv)

Mayor Atchison adjourned the Regular Session at 8:50 p.m.

Date

Jill Domingo
City Clerk