

City of Albion  
City Council Meeting  
November 16, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Domingo opened the regular session at 7:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Maurice Barnes (1), Lenn Reid (2), Garrett Brown (3), Rebecca Decker (4), Cheryl Krause (5) and Andrew French (6) and Mayor Joseph Domingo.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE TO BE OBSERVED

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

Sheryl Mitchell, City Manager; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; John Tracy, Director, Building, Planning and Code Enforcement and Scott Kipp, Chief of Public Safety.

V. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes and French.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Replacement of City Welcome Signs-Marie Macone

Marie Macone, Albion French Intern invited the community to attend a vigil being held for France on Wednesday, November 18, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Victory Park. She highlighted the following items for the replacement of the City Welcome Signs:

- The current sign and new sign's frame and size will remain the same.
- The signs will be located at the following locations at the City limits
  1. The intersection of E. Michigan and N. Clark St.
  2. South Superior Street
  3. Austin Avenue
- The Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau has requested permission to replace the current signs with redesigned signs.
- They are also requesting permission to use the name of the City, approval of content and approval for placement.

- The total cost of the three signs is \$15,300. The Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau and the Albion Community Foundation will be raising funds for this project.

Comments were received from Council Members French and Decker; City Manager Mitchell and Mayor Domingo.

#### B. Update on Food Hub/Farmers Market-Patrick Lopez

Patrick Lopez, Manager of the Food Hub and Farmers Market highlighting the following items:

- The Food Hub is located at 112 E. Erie Street and is approximately 80% complete. The drywall is complete and painting has begun. The flooring just began. The building will allow for office space for the Manager of the Food Hub and also for Albion Innovation.
- Would like to create a year round Farmer's Market.
- The marketplace will sell year round produce and items produced in the kitchen.
- The freezers and coolers have been purchased and are in the process of being assembled and should be complete by mid to late December.
- The kitchen is a full industrial kitchen and will available to rent in blocks of time. Rates are being developed.
- The hope is to remove barriers for citizens that would like to start a new business without the overhead. It is also an opportunity to receive response and interest from the community in their products.
- Would like to open the Food Hub somewhere around mid-January.
- Signage and a logo for the Food Hub are being developed.
- The Point of Sale for the Marketplace is in process.
- The goals for the Farmers Market are:
  1. Double the amount spent with EBT dollars and the SNAP program.
  2. Develop a plan to deliver items to customers.
  3. Eventually work into a co-op program.

Comments were received from Council Member French and Mayor Domingo.

#### C. Residential Side Lot Program-Amy Rose

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to **TABLE** Residential Side Lot Program Presentation until Next Month. (7-0, vv)

#### D. Albion Community School Update-Jessica Thomas

Jessica Thomas presented the following information pertaining to the Albion Community Schools:

- The Citizen Advisory Committee for the Albion Community Schools recommended Jessica Thomas work as a liaison with the committee and the school.
- Albion Community Schools have very serious issues with a deficit of approximately \$2 million dollars. The cause of this deficit is being investigated and is unknown at this time.
- The Department of Treasury is looking into the state of the schools finances at this time and is expected to give a report in the next week.
- One of the choices for the schools at this time is annexation. The question arises as to how the debt would be managed.
- The debt will stay with the district. This debt will be paid back by the taxpayers in the district.
- This is not just a school issue but a community issue.
- Everyone is entitled to ask questions and receive an answer.
- She would like the community to be able to move forward.
- Several rumors throughout the community concerning the schools. She stated the school will not close in January. The school will need a short term loan to finish out the 2015-2016 school year.
- The bonded debt for the schools is taken care of by the millage but the new debt will fall to the citizens to be paid.
- The State is being supportive but also wants the local unit to be proactive.
- The State would be responsible for enacting an Emergency Manager which would give the District additional time to make choices the school.

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes, Brown, French and Decker and Mayor Domingo.

#### VII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

No comments were received.

#### VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR (VV) (Items on Consent Calendar are voted on as one unit)

- A. Approval Regular Session Minutes-November 2, 2015  
Approval Budget Study Session Minutes-November 9, 2015

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to Approve the Consent Calendar as presented. (7-0, vv)

#### IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

- A. Request Approval Resolution # 2015-28, To Approve Replacement of City Welcome Signs (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes and French; Marie Macone, Albion French Intern and City Manager Mitchell.

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, to Approve Replacement of City Welcome Signs as presented. (7-0, rcv)

B. Request Approval for Assignment of Easement for Oaklawn Hospital (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Member French and City Manager Mitchell.

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, To Approve Approval for Easement for Oaklawn Hospital as presented. (7-0, rcv)

C. Request Approval Resolution # 2015-26, Poverty Exemption Guidelines (RCV)

Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell.

French moved, Barnes supported, CARRIED, To Approve Resolution # 2015-26, Poverty Exemption Guidelines as presented. (7-0, rcv)

D. Request Approval Resolution # 2015-27, Increase Solid Waste Millage 1 Mill to Make a Full 3 Mills (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members French and Brown and City Manager Mitchell.

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, To Approve Resolution # 2015-27, Increase Solid Waste Millage 1 Mill to Make a Full 3 Mills as presented. (7-0, rcv)

E. Discussion-Austin Avenue Initiative

Council Member Barnes thanked John Tracy and Glen Lindsay, Cornerstone Inspection Services for their efforts working with the Austin Avenue Initiative. He also asked that an inspection be done on the two buildings on the end of Austin Avenue.

F. Discussion-Purchase of Vacant Land from Grant Funded Property Demolitions

City Manager Mitchell stated the vacant land will be available for purchase early fall of 2016 and will cost approximately \$200.00 per lot. The property can't be sold until the grant has completed its cycle.

Comments were received from Council Members French and Barnes and Director, Building, Planning and Code Enforcement Tracy.

- G. Request Approval to Purchase 2014 Chevy Express 3500-15 Passenger Van-  
Purchase Price-\$26,175.00 for Recreation Department (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members French, Barnes, Decker and Brown; City Manager Mitchell; City Attorney Harkness and Mayor Domingo.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to **TABLE** the Purchase of 2014 Chevy Express 3500-15 Passenger Van-Purchase Price-\$26,175.00 for Recreation Department until the next meeting when City Manager has complete bids and financing information. (7-0, vv)

- H. Request Approval to Sell 1999 Recreation Van (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes and French, City Manager Mitchell, Mayor Domingo and Art Kale, College Chevrolet.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to Approve the Sale of 1999 Recreation Van as presented. (7-0, rcv)

- I. Request Approval of Vehicle for Hire License, Maxie Transportation for Partial Year License from November 17, 2015 through March 31, 2016 (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes and French, City Manager Mitchell, City Attorney Harkness and Mayor Domingo.

Additional comments were received from Emery Bates, owner of Maxie Transportation, 808 E. Broadwell St. who stated the hours of operation would be 5 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Sunday. The phone number is 517-465-7095. The rates are as follows:

Point A to Point B \$5.00

Point A to Point B and back to Point A with a ten minute wait time is \$7.00. All rates are based on a 30 mile radius.

- J. Request Approval Resolution # 2015-29, Dog Park Rules

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes, Decker and Reid; City Manager Mitchell; City Attorney Harkness and Mayor Domingo.

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2015-29, Dog Park Rules with the following corrections:

- Children under the age of 17 are permitted in the Dog Park if they are under the supervision of an adult.
- Add-Gate must be closed at all times except for entering and exiting the Park.

(5-2, rcv)(dissenting Barnes and Decker).

- K. Request Approval Resolution # 2015-30, Designating SAW Grant Authorized

Representative (RCV)

Barnes moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2015-30, Designating SAW Grant Authorized Representative as presented. (7-0, rcv)

- L. Request Approval to Authorize the City Manager to Engage Others on the City's Behalf Regarding the Albion School District (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes, Brown and French.

Brown moved, Decker supported, CARRIED, to Authorize the City Manager to Engage Others on the City's Behalf Regarding the Albion School District as presented. (7-0, rcv)

- M. City Manager Report

City Manager Mitchell highlighted the following items:

- Joe Pace is the November Employee of the Month
- They are trenching at 101 N. Superior St. for the sound system
- The Christmas Tree is up at Moulder Park and we will have a tree lighting ceremony on Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup> following the parade. The parade starts at 6:30 p.m.
- Christmas carolers will be an upcoming event

Comments were received from Council Members Decker and Barnes and Mayor Domingo.

- N. Future Agenda Items

- Council Member Brown would like the street detours for the 2017 Downtown Street Project added to a future agenda.
- Mayor Domingo would like to have the sound system checked as there have been reports of no sound on the televised council meetings on WOW cable.
- Council Member Barnes would like Albion Housing providing bus shelters for kids for the winter.
- City Attorney Harkness would like the Taxi Ordinance added to the next agenda.

- O. Motion to Excuse Absent Council Member (s)

No action needed as all members were present.

- X. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to agenda items and to no more than five (5) minutes. Proper decorum is required.)

Comments were received from Albion College Students: Robert George, Madison Bough and Evan Reid; Council Members French, Brown, Decker and Reid and Mayor Domingo.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Krause moved, French supported, CARRIED, to ADJOURN Regular Session. (7-0, vv).

Mayor Domingo adjourned the Regular Session at 8:40 p.m.

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Date

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Jill Domingo  
City Clerk