

City of Albion
Council Session Minutes
February 19, 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); Sonya Brown (3); Marcola Lawler (4); Jeanette Spicer (5); Shane Williamson (6) and Mayor Atchison.

ABSENT: All members were present.

STAFF PRESENT:

Tom Mead, Acting City Manager/Finance Director; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Scott Kipp, Chief Public Safety; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; Haley Snyder, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer and John Tracy, Director Planning, Building & Code Enforcement.

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

Council Member Lawler asked to modify the agenda and add Discussion-Study Session on Thursday, February 21, 2019 as Item A under Items for Individual Discussion.

Lawler moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to Modify the agenda and add Discussion-Study Session on Thursday, February 21, 2019 as Item A under Items for Individual Discussion. (7-0, vv)

Spicer moved, Lawler supported, CARRIED, to Approve the Agenda with the above addition adding Study Session on Thursday, February 21, 2019 as Item A under Items for Individual Discussion. (7-0, vv)

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Oath of Office for Vicky Clark-Precinct #1

City Clerk Domingo administered the Oath of Office to Vicky Clark, Council Member Precinct #1.

B. Proclamation Recognizing February 2019 as Black History Month

Mayor Atchison read aloud the proclamation recognizing February 2019 as Black History Month.

C. Proclamation Recognizing March 2nd, 2019 as Darrington Lovelace Day in Albion

Barongiere and Linda Lovelace gave a brief overview of “Darrington’s Gift” which is a non-profit organization established in the memory of Darrington Lovelace.

Mayor Atchison read the Proclamation Recognizing March 2nd, 2019 as Darrington Lovelace Day in Albion and presented to Barongiere and Linda Lovelace.

D. Update on Zoning Re-Write

John Tracy, Planning, Building & Code Enforcement Director stated the Planning Commission will be meeting on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 to continue with the zoning re-write update. Director Tracy stated the re-write was scheduled to be completed in January, 2019 but the committee is running about four months behind. It is anticipated to be complete at the end of May or first of June.

Comments were received from Council Member Williamson

E. AMRCP Story Circle

Ronnie Sims stated a Story Circle is a small group of individuals sitting in a circle, sharing stories from their own experience and that are focused on a common theme. Everyone has a story to tell. All that’s required for a story to be complete is a beginning, middle and an end.

Mr. Sims stated he would like to see the Council become involved in a Story Circle and there are facilitators available if they are interested.

F. S Squared Project, Emily Smith, AmeriCorps VISTA

Emily Smith, AmeriCorps VISTA gave the following update on the S Squared project:

- The S Squared project which is a sidewalk and sign project
- The project kicked off on February 15th, 2019
- A community canvass event will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2019 from 1-5:00 p.m. at Sterling Books and Brew. The rain date will be Saturday, March 23, 2019
- You can either access the S Squared program through the website (<https://arcg.is/ojfqPH>) or the QR code
- Emily provided a short video on how to access the program

Comments were received from Council Members Lawler and Spicer and Mayor Atchison.

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 Bill Dobbins, 15901 E. Michigan Avenue and Garrett Brown, 1016 N. Superior St.

IX. CLOSED SESSION-The City Attorney requests a Closed Session under the Open Meetings Act (Section 15.268 (h), P.A. 267 of 1976, as amended) to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal law.

Williamson moved, Lawler supported, CARRIED to adjourn to Closed Session. (7-0, rcv)

Mayor Atchison adjourned to closed session at 7:38 p.m.

Mayor Atchison re-convened the regular session at 8:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Vicky Clark (1); Lenn Reid (2); Sonya Brown (3); Marcola Lawler (4); Jeanette Spicer (5); Shane Williamson (6) and Mayor Atchison.

All members were present.

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

- A. Approval Study Session Minutes, February 4, 2019
- B. Approval Regular Session Minutes, February 4, 2019

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

XI. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Discussion-Study Session on Thursday, February 21, 2019

Council Member Lawler stated it was important for all members of the Council to attend the training and asked if the Council would be willing to change the start time to 6:30 p.m.

Comments were received from Mayor Atchison.

Brown moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, To Change the Start Time of the February 21, 2019 Study Session to 6:30 p.m. (6-1, rcv) (Williamson dissenting)

B. Discussion/Action City Manager Leave Status

Comments were received from City Attorney Harkness

Lawler moved, Williamson supported, CARRIED, To Change the City Manager Leave Status to Unpaid Leave Effective Immediately. (7-0, rcv)

C. Discussion/Approval Resolution # 2019-02, A Resolution for Review of Facilities Authorized by the Michigan Regulation & Taxation of Marihuana Act

Comments were received from Mayor Atchison and City Attorney Harkness.

Williamson moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2019-02, A Resolution for Review of Facilities Authorized by the Michigan Regulation & Taxation of Marihuana Act as presented. (7-0, rcv)

D. Request Approval Resolution # 2019-04, A Resolution to Approve Contract # 19-5026 with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Authorize the Mayor and Clerk to Sign the Contract for the City of Albion

Comments were received from Acting City Manager Mead and City Attorney Harkness

Brown moved, Williamson supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2019-04, A Resolution to Approve Contract # 19-5026 with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and Authorize the Mayor and Clerk to Sign the Contract for the City of Albion as presented. (7-0, rcv)

E. Request Approval Resolution # 2019-05, To Set Compensation for Acting City Manager

Williamson moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2019-05, To Set Compensation for Acting City Manager as presented. (7-0, rcv)

F. Request Approval Resolution # 2019-06, Resolution to Approve Contract with Maner Costerisan for Fiscal Year 2018 Auditing Services

Comments were received from Acting City Manager Mead and Mayor Atchison

Reid moved, Williamson supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2019-06, Resolution to Approve Contract with Maner Costerisan for Fiscal Year 2018 Auditing Services as presented. (7-0, rcv)

G. Discussion/Approval MuniCode Update

Comments were received from Council Member Lawler; City Attorney Harkness; Director of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement Tracy; Acting City Manager Mead and Mayor Atchison

Williamson moved, Lawler supported, CARRIED, to Approve MuniCode Update as presented. (7-0, rcv)

H. Discussion City-Wide Clean-Up Dates

Council Member Reid asked if the city-wide clean up could be done in June instead of the end of July.

Acting City Manager Mead stated he will reach out to Granger for potential dates in June and bring back to Council for approval.

I. Discussion/Approval Rollback of Park Pavilion Rental Fees

Council Member Reid asked to have the park pavilion rental fees changed back to the 2018 fee schedule.

Comments were received from Council Members Clark, Williamson and Brown and Acting City Manager Mead

Reid moved, Williamson supported, CARRIED, To Change the Park Pavilion Rental Fees back to the 2018 Fee Schedule. (7-0, rcv)

J. Discussion to Designate a City Council Member as Liaison to the Albion Housing Commission

Council Member Brown asked to designate a City Council Member as a liaison to the Albion Housing Commission to help bridge the communication flow. The liaison would attend the Albion Housing Commission meetings and then report back to Council.

Mayor Atchison agreed this was a good idea and asked for a Resolution to be prepared for Council approval.

K. Discussion Council Sub-Committees

Mayor Atchison stated the Charter prohibits standing committees of the Council. He is aware of only one sub-committee at this time which is the Rental Certification Committee which consists of Council Members Reid, Spicer and Lawler. He has asked for an update from this committee at a future Council meeting.

He would also like to create a new sub-committee which would be the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) who's purpose is to be responsible for developing a data-based recommendation to the Albion City Council to consider establishing a local tax increment financing authority (TIFA) to correct and prevent deterioration in residential, commercial and industrial areas, to promote economic development and funding infrastructure improvements in the Austin Avenue-Eaton Avenue commercial areas.

He would like the sub-committee to consist of the following members:

Council Member Clark (Precinct 1)
Council Member Reid (Precinct 2)
Mayor Atchison

L. Request Approval Appointments & Reappointments Boards & Commissions

- Betty Branche, Board of Review, Initial Appointment, Term to Expire 12-31-2020
- Barbara McAllister, Board of Review, Reappointment, Term to Expire 12-31-2020
- Emily Verbeke, DDA, Initial Appointment, Term to Expire 12-31-2022

Williamson moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to Approve Betty Branche, Board of Review, Initial Appointment, Term to Expire 12-31-2020 as presented. (4-3, rcv) (Brown, Lawler and Spicer dissenting)

Williamson moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to Approve Barbara McAllister, Board of Review, Reappointment, Term to Expire 12-31-2020 as presented. (7-0, rcv)

Comments were received from Council Members Clark and Spicer and City Attorney Harkness.

Williamson moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, To Approve Emily Verbeke, DDA, Initial Appointment, Term to Expire 12-31-2022 as presented. (5-2, rcv) (Clark and Brown dissenting)

XII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Council Member Brown asked for the following:

- Opportunity Atlas for Albion
- Council Code of Ethics

City Attorney Harkness asked to add Criminal Ordinances for Medical Marihuana

Council Member Williamson asked for a Proclamation for Kids N Stuff

Council Member Lawler cited Privilege and left at 9:20

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 Al Smith, 1209 Adams St.

XIV. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Acting City Manager Mead's report was as follows:

- He asked for citizens patience pertaining to snow removal as the City has new drivers and problems with equipment.
- We are wrapping up the downtown Peabody project. We met with the project owner, MEDC and the grant administrator and went through the MEDC project wrap up checklist. To complete this, some action from Council will be required in the near future.
- The funding for the Irwin Street project is moving forward without complications. The project appears to be on track.
- We reached out to the engineering firm who performed the sewer system infrastructure study under the SAW grant and asked them to look into the sewer issues experienced by the residents located on the east end of Irwin Street.

- We are making preparations for the repair of one of the two main wells that supply the water to the water tower. We do not anticipate any significant disruptions to the City's water supply.
- We are dealing with some issues with AT&T phone service. For the City, it affects a few key alarm lines. For the residents, we are being told they could be a few cities blocks without service for a few weeks.
- We hope to start seeing new street lights at various locations around the City within 30 to 45 days or so. The replacement project is moving forward.
- I'll wrap up with a quick update on the financials as they currently stand. To date, things are looking relatively positive.

Comments were received from Council Member Spicer and Chief Kipp

XV. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

Comments were received from Council Members Reid and Brown and Mayor Atchison.

XVI. EXCUSE ABSENT COUNCIL MEMBER (S)

Council Member Lawler cited Privilege and left at 9:20 p.m. All other members were present.

Comments were received by Calhoun County Commissioner Tompkins

XVII. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Vicky Clark (1), Lenn Reid (2), Sonya Brown (3), Jeanette Spicer (5), Shane Williamson (6) and Mayor Atchison.

ABSENT: Council Member Lawler cited Privilege and left at 9:20 p.m.

XVIII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Atchison adjourned the Regular Session at 9:50 p.m.

Date

Jill Domingo
City Clerk

