

City of Albion  
Study Session Minutes  
June 17, 2019

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Atchison opened the study session at 6:00 p.m.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Lenn Reid (2), Jeanette Spicer (5), Shane Williamson (6) and Mayor Atchison. Vicky Clark (1) arrived at 6:13 p.m.

ABSENT: Sonya Brown (3) and Marcola Lawler (4) were absent.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

*Mayor Atchison asked to modify the agenda to add Kids at Hope under Recreation Program.*

*Spicer moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to Add Kids at Hope under Recreation Program. (4-0, vv)*

IV. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Recreation Program

Mayor Atchison stated that one of the City Council goals was for a more vibrant recreation program. He would like to hear what ideas Council has to add to the recreation program.

Council Member Reid stated she would like to see more activities in the parks such as a reading program a few days a week and having someone available to work with kids on the exercise equipment. She also suggested looking into the programs that Kalamazoo currently has in place to see if we may be able to utilize some of those programs and to check with local businesses to participate and donate money.

Council Member Spicer asked what the Recreation program has currently. She stated although Recreation has a limited staff, she would like to see Junior Tennis and Junior Golf.

Mayor Atchison stated there is currently a Junior Golf program in the area.

Interim City Manager/Chief Public Safety Kipp stated some of the Recreation programs are as follows:

- Open Gym
- Water Aerobics
- Swim classes for young people
- Summer Dreams
- Peapods
- Free movie Fridays at the Bohm Theatre

Maurice Barry, representing Kids at Hope stated they have provided the kids with a Fashion/Talent Show this past weekend working in conjunction with the Recreation Department; a theatrical event that the kids really enjoyed participating in; The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Block Party will be held on August 31<sup>st</sup>. Kids at Hope would like to continue partnering with the Recreation Department on some of these types of events.

Council Member Williamson stated he would like to see the following:

- Publicly available fitness center
- Health & wellness programming
- Robust continuous programming in the summer
- Mommy and me swim classes
- Age appropriate programs
- Splash Pad
- Consider having an outside entity do the programming
- Recycle bike parts

Council Member Clark stated she would like to see Free Family Movies in the park.

Mayor Atchison stated it may be a challenge for the free family movies in the park pertaining to cost and whether the Bohm has the equipment.

The City needs to advertise and promote activities in the community. Performing Arts will attract people.

Interim City Manager/Chief Public Safety stated there will be a Health and Safety Fair on Saturday, June 22, 2019 at the Fire barn. Four (4) free bikes

will be given away. He also stated that all of the above ideas are possible but it will come down to budget and staff along with securing additional grant funds.

Council Member Reid will take the lead on this goal with assistance from Council Members Spicer and Williamson.

## B. Code Enforcement-City Clean-Up

John Tracy, Director Planning, Building & Code Enforcement gave the following overview and answered questions for Code Enforcement:

- The Calhoun County Land Bank owns 150 properties in town
- The Zoning re-write is nearly complete
- Working with the City Attorney on codification of ordinances
- Are County sites cited if they don't abide by the ordinances and is there more leeway for them than residents? *The procedure for non-compliance is the same for residents and the County.*
- Warning for refuse container storage location between scheduled pick-up:
  - Sent out on back of City water billing, last mailing going out 6-12-19, total to date 2,800
    1. Notice-friendly warning is being placed on refuse containers left at curb
    2. Non-compliance to be followed-up with written notice-order to abate
    3. Non-compliance to notice-order to abate. First fine offense is \$50.00. Repeat offense (or any subsequent) \$100.00
- Due to cost restrictions/current budget, there are a number of residential structures, commercial structures and properties that cannot be fully abated and or demolished by the City.
- Can demolition costs or orders for work be charged back to the property owner? *Yes, the cost can be added to their property taxes if not paid, however, if they don't pay their property taxes and they get sent to the County then back charges the City for the cost.*
- Before being charged a fee for trash, do residents receive a warning? *Yes, residents do receive a warning before being issued a fine.*
- The City-wide trash pick-up will be held on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 9am to 3 pm at Ketchum Field and Harris Field.

Comments were received from Council Members Williamson, Reid and Spicer and Interim City Manager/Chief Public Safety Kipp.

## V. 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 Staci Stuart, 205 W. Oak St and Jim Stuart, 205 W. Oak St.

VI. CITY MANAGER REPORT-None

VII. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

No Mayor and Council comments were received.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Spicer moved, Williamson supported, CARRIED, to adjourn the study session.  
(5-0, vv)

Mayor Atchison adjourned the Study Session at 6:58 p.m.

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Date

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Jill Domingo  
City Clerk