

City of Albion
Council Session Minutes
July 2, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Brown 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: Maurice Barnes (1), Lenn Reid (2), Sonya Brown (3), Marcola Lawler (4), Jeanette Spicer (5), Andrew French (6) and Mayor Brown.

ABSENT: All members were present.

STAFF PRESENT:

Scott Kipp, Interim City Manager; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Jill Domingo, City Clerk and Jim Lenardson, Director Public Services.

Mayor Brown asked to make the following changes to the agenda:

- Add Item B-Presentations-Visiting French Intern, Nicolas Schwindling
- Move City Manager Report and Council Comments to Item VIII after second Public Comment.

Brown moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to add Item B to Presentations for Visiting French Intern, Nicolas Schwindling. (7-0, vv)

Lawler moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, to Move the City Manager Report and Council Member Comments to Item VIII after Second Public Comment. (5-2, rcv) (Barnes and French dissenting).

V. PRESENTATIONS

A. Certificate of Appreciation for Scott Claucherty Retirement

Mayor Brown read aloud Certificate of Appreciation for Scott Claucherty.

B. Introduction of Visiting French Intern Nicolas Schwindling

Mary Slater, 517 E. Michigan Avenue introduced visiting French Intern Nicolas Schwindling. Nicolas will be here for three (3) months and will be interning with Albion City Hall, Albion College and the Greater Albion Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau.

Comments were received from Nicolas Schwindling.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS-None

VII. 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.)

No public comments were received.

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

A. Approval Regular Session Minutes, June 18, 2018

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, To Approve Consent Calendar as presented. (7-0, vv)

IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Discussion/Approval Closure of Michigan Street Between Dalrymple Street and Albion Street

Council Member Reid stated for the safety of children, she would like to block off Michigan Street between Dalrymple and Albion Streets until the end of September.

Mayor Brown would like administration to look into the cost of a gate to close the area off as a more sustainable solution.

Additional comments were received from Council Members Brown and French and Interim City Manager Kipp.

Council Member French made a motion to TABLE the Approval of Closure of Michigan Street Between Dalrymple Street and Albion Street.

Mayor Brown stated because this was a discussion item, it did not need to be tabled.

B. Discussion-Options for Notification of Emergencies

Interim City Manager Kipp stated the City pays \$2500.00 per year for Nixle services. The City can for an additional \$1,000 per year upgrade to Nixle 360 which would call any phone in the designated area and leave voice messages for emergency notifications. He stated the City currently has 589 subscribers in Albion. The calls would be designated by billing address and would include landline phones. He would need to further investigate to see if cell phones could/would be included.

Council Member Brown stated she feels it is worth the money but the City needs to have an emergency communication plan.

Attorney Harkness stated the State sets administrative rules regarding notification of emergencies. The manner of the notice is dictated by the severity of the emergency. There is not a personal door to door requirement.

Mayor Brown asked whether the fire siren was still tested and used?

Interim City Manager Kipp stated the siren has not been tested since dispatch left as it requires someone to be in the building during the test. The siren is used only for tornado warnings.

Interim City Manager Kipp stated we can move forward with the upgrade to the Nixle 360 for the additional \$1,000 that will be taken from Public Safety's budget.

C. Discussion/Sale of City Owned Property

Attorney Harkness stated the City needs to have a consistent process for sale of City owned property. He looked into how other municipalities handle the process and the City of Detroit seemed to have the best model. They use a closed bidding process which allows the City to include items such as closing costs & title insurance must be paid by the purchaser and set a minimum bid such as 10% of the assessed value.

Council questions/comments were as follows:

- Would like to give preference to surrounding property owners.
- Would there be a timeframe requirement in selling the property?
- The City could make adjacent property owners aware of the property for sale and if no one was interested, they could do a closed bid for the sale of the property.

- The City would identify the properties that are for sale and whether to sell multiple properties or just one at a time.
- Need a policy in place but would like to see a short time frame of maybe one year for offers to adjacent property owners.
- Are there other options other than the closed bid process?
- Other options for sale of property would be:
 - Offer the sale at the assessed value
 - Closed bid process
 - A consistent price for sale of all properties
- Would like a study session on sale of City owned property to assess all options
- All city properties and values are available on the Assessing page of the City's website.

Comments were received from Council Members French, Brown and Spicer; Mayor Brown, City Attorney Harkness and Interim City Manager Kipp.

D. Set Date for Rental Certification Study Session

Mayor Brown asked for a Study Session on Monday, July 9, 2018 for rental certification and sale of City owned property.

The consensus of Council is to hold a Study Session on Monday, July 9, 2018 for rental certification and sale of City owned property.

E. Request Approval for Computer Programming to Operate Starr Commonwealth Treatment Plant

Comments were received from Council Member Brown; Mayor Brown; Interim City Manager Kipp and Public Services Director Lenardson.

French moved, Lawler supported, CARRIED, to Approve Computer Programming to Operate Starr Commonwealth Treatment Plant as presented. (7-0, rcv)

F. Request Approval for Emergency Water Main Repair for Irwin Avenue

Comments were received from Council Member Brown, Mayor Brown and Public Services Director Lenardson.

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, To Approve Emergency Water Main Repair for Irwin Avenue as presented. (7-0, rcv)

X. Future Agenda Items

The following items were requested for the next agenda:

- Mayor Brown asked for the 1st reading of the Amended Council Rules & Procedures
- Attorney Harkness asked for an amendment to the Medical Marihuana Facilities Ordinance
- Council Member Lawler asked for a discussion for parking on Maple Street
- Council Member Reid asked for an update on closure of Michigan Street between Dalrymple and Albion Streets
- Council Member Barnes asked for a discussion on election tampering
- Mayor Brown stated there will be a joint meeting with the Albion Economic Development Corporation on Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ludington Center

Comments were received from Council Member Spicer and Attorney Harkness.

XI. Motion to Excuse Absent Council Member (s)

No action was necessary as all members were present.

XII. 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 John Dunklin, 1203 Second St, Randy Davis, Superintendent of Marshall Public Schools and Gary Tompkins, Calhoun County Commissioner.

XIII. CITY MANAGER REPORT-None

XIV. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

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

XV. ADJOURNMENT

Brown moved, Spicer supported, CARRIED, to ADJOURN Regular Council Session. (7-0, vv).

Mayor Brown adjourned the Regular Session at 8:00 p.m.

Date

Jill Domingo
City Clerk