

**THE CITY OF DEXTER  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019**

**A. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The City Council Meeting was called to order at 7:03 PM by Mayor Keough at the Dexter Senior Center located at 7720 Ann Arbor Street in Dexter, Michigan.

**B. ROLL CALL:** Mayor Keough

S. Bell	P. Cousins
D. Fisher	J. Knight
Z. Michels	J. Smith

Also present at Council Meeting: Courtney Nicholls, City Manager; Marie Sherry, Finance Director/Treasurer/Assessor; Michelle Aniol, Community Development Manager; Justin Breyer, Assistant to the City Manager/Clerk; Carol Jones, Recording Secretary; Robert Smith, Dexter Area Fire Department Chief; Rana Emmons, PSLZ LLP; residents and media.

**C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

1. Regular City Council Meeting – January 28, 2019
2. City Council Work Session – January 28, 2019

Motion Smith; support Knight to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2019 Regular City Council Meeting and the minutes of the January 28, 2019 City Council Work Session with the following correction:

- Page 7, Work Session, under item C – remove the *e* in the first line.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

**D. PRE-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION**

1. Auditor Presentation – Rana Emmons of PSLZ, LLP

Consideration of: Acceptance of Audit for Year Ending June 30, 2018

Ms. Emmons reported on the City's outstanding 2017-2018 Audit and highlighted the following from the audit:

- The City's General Fund increased \$295,000 in fund balance with the increase in property taxable value, and personal property tax reimbursements.
- The City spent \$75,000 less than budgeted.
- There were increases in capital improvements which were offset with increased revenue from tap fees.

- Bonds were reinvested with savings on the interest payments.
- The City decreased the net pension liability by \$400,000 and also decreased post employment liability.

Motion Fisher; support Bell to accept the Audit for the year ending June 30, 2018.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

## 2. Destination Ann Arbor Representatives Amy Karbo and Chad Wiebesick

Mr. Wiebesick reported that representatives from Destination Ann Arbor attend City Council meetings about every six months to report on Dexter activities and how these attractions and events are covered by Destination Ann Arbor. Ms. Karbo spoke about the Tourism Marketing Sponsorship Grant of which Dexter Daze received financial support; Community Tourism Action Plan grant from which the City received funding for the redesigning of the City's website; membership; and Tourism Ambassadors.

## **E. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Motion Smith; support Knight to approve the agenda with the addition a letter from resident Pete Potsos as supplemental information for New Business Item L-1.

.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

## **F. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None

## **G. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION**

Jessica Ceccolini of 3517 Noble Drive who is on the board of the Huron Farms Homeowners Association read a statement expressing opposition to the purchase of the MAV property to build a fire station.

Amy Smith of 7910 Ridgeway Court spoke of the 1995 death of her brother as he was crossing Ann Arbor Street as well as other safety issues in crossing Dexter Streets. She highlighted the Midwestern Consulting report that recommended rapid flashing beacons at four sites in the City. She also distributed a handout with comments from parents and the Executive Summary from the Pedestrian Crosswalk Assessment Report.

Robert Murphy of 3713 Bristol Drive spoke of the rate increases from Comcast. Since the City receives about \$77,000 in franchise fees from them, maybe the City could ask Comcast know to let customers know at least a month ahead when rates change.

Jessica Michael of 2250 Melbourne Avenue spoke of her experience crossing Dan Hoey Road when a motorist came very close to hitting her children.

Angie Scott of 3529 Lexington Circle spoke of walking from their home to Dexter football games and the difficulty crossing at the roundabouts. She feels that children may have difficulty using the roundabouts as a pedestrian crossing.

Kimberly Smith of 7561 Forest Street stated that she supports the safe crossing on Baker Road, especially in the early morning hours with the traffic and inadequate lighting.

Melissa Tippens of 3550 Cushing Court spoke of buying her home in Dexter due to her perception of Dexter as being a walkable community, but that she has had a number of close calls when walking, especially with her children.

Jessie Feazel of 2366 Baker Road lives close to the schools and thought she was close enough to walk. However, it is not safe for her children to walk to school due to road crossing and lack of lighting.

Dan Jackson of 8550 Bell Road moved to Dexter from Rochester because of the small-town look, and he is in support of safe crossings to schools.

Lori Hands, director at Morning Star Day Care located at 7394 Dexter Ann Arbor Road shared experiences of distracted and inconsiderate drivers when teachers from Morning Star are crossing with children. This will most likely be increasing as the Schools are not busing the children to Morning Star anymore.

Jill Boydston of 6951 Wellington Drive also purchased her home because of the closeness to the schools and sees the problems with having children walk. She also sees the problems with drivers and would like increased Sheriff's presence.

Mark Nieman of 3624 Meadow View Drive wonders why the fire station needs to be in the City, and commented that City residents would be paying for the new station. He doesn't feel that residents should subsidize the other communities using the service if more of the calls are outside of the City. He also supports safe road crossings.

Ellen Noesen-Bosscher of 3733 Noble Drive added her support for safe crossings and would like to see children able to walk but it is not easy to do when crossing Baker Road to Creekside.

Wendy Neiman of 3624 Meadow View Drive does agree that the current fire station needs to be replaced but she has concerns with the placement of the fire hall on the MAV property. She also supports safe walking to schools and highlighted some areas on Baker Road and Kensington Street with crossing issues. She feels that rapid flashing beacons do work.

Brad Prall of 3520 Lexington Circle stated that he lives in the City and also works in the City. He drives back and forth four times during the day and sees the issues with the crosswalks, especially the lighting.

Randy Gregory of 3624 Inverness Street spoke of a letter he received from the City about removing parking on the west side of Inverness. He doesn't want people using his front lawn to park and feels that more parking area could be created by expanding the road width.

Stuart Imfeld of 7819 Ann Arbor Street, who lives across from Lions Park, supports safe crossing in the City and rarely allows his children to cross the street by themselves as it is difficult to do. He does let them cross in the downtown at the light.

Amy Reiser of 6260 Sterling Trail spoke of the need for both improvements with the lighting especially along Baker Road, as well as installation of the beacons. She feels that the question is not if this will be done, but when it will be done. She also related that she lost her father to a car/bike accident

Robert Murphy of 3713 Bristol Drive feels that the Sheriff's Department should be here listening to the comments as it is the drivers who are preoccupied and need to pay more attention when driving.

Natalie Hoffman of 7395 Dexter Ann Arbor Road has walked with her children to school for five years and has seen some near misses and has also seen some bad pedestrians. There is a need to educate children on the use of crosswalks. She supports the initiative and the need to work together for improvements in safe crossings.

## **H. COMMUNICATIONS:**

1. Upcoming Meeting List
2. Sign Calendar

## **I. REPORTS**

1. Public Services Superintendent – Dan Schlaff

Mr. Schlaff submits his written report as per packet and was not at the meeting.

2. Community Development Manager – Michelle Aniol

Ms. Aniol submits her written report as per packet. Ms. Aniol gave the following updates:

- A Planning Commissioner strongly supports CIP item 10.01 regarding the railroad crossing in Huron Farms. The cost for a bridge over the track is cost prohibitive, and MDOT will not allow an at grade crossing as the railroad is designated as a high speed line.
- The Encore Theatre request at a recent pre-application meeting for shipping container storage units was not supported. I met with Dan Cooney and pointed him ~~into~~ other alternatives for storage that would be more aesthetically fitting with downtown.

- There will be a Public Hearing for Erratic Ales at the March 4, 2019 Planning Commission Meeting.
- DTE will be moving a pole at Third and Broad Streets. The homeowner is working with DTE so that they can make improvements to their property.
- At 2865 Baker Road, the Building Department will not issue a demolition permit until there is proof that the well and septic have been abandoned.

### 3. Board, Commission & Other Reports

None

### 4. Subcommittee Reports

### 5. City Manager Report – Courtney Nicholls

Ms. Nicholls submits her written report as per packet. Ms. Nicholls gave the following update:

- The Huron River Watershed Council is hosting the Michigan State University Water School, and the City is invited to participate in the kick-off committee.
- The Ice Rink has issues with holes in the liner. I wasn't in favor of placing the rink in Mill Creek Park but it may be worth moving the rink to the Park as a trial next year.
- The Dexter District Library has requested adding banner arms to the poles by the library to advertise their events.

### 6. Mayor's Report – Shawn Keough

Mr. Keough submits his written report as per packet. Mr. Keough gave the following updates:

- There has been an upgrade in the lighting on Baker Road above the crossing, we have asked DTE for quotes for lighting enhancements along Dan Hoey Road and we will order more decorative lighting to be installed along Kensington this summer.
- The first Goal Setting Session will take place on February 23, 2019 at the Senior Center at 9 AM.
- I attended the Anchor/Beacon dedication today.

## **J. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Consideration of: Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$439,881.15

Motion Fisher; support Smith to approve item 1 of the Consent Agenda.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

## **K. OLD BUSINESS-Consideration and Discussion of:**

None

**L. NEW BUSINESS-Consideration and Discussion of:**

1. Consideration of: Resolution to Purchase Property for the Construction of a New, Modern Fire Station

Motion Smith; support Michels to approve the Resolution to Purchase Property.

Ayes: Knight, Smith, Cousins and Michels

Nays: Fisher, Bell and Keough

Motion carries 4 to 3

2. Consideration of: Resolution to Adopt the Articles of Incorporation for the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority

Motion Michels; support Bell to adopt the Articles of Incorporation for the Washtenaw Regional Resource Management Authority via the resolution provided and designate the City Manager as the representative on the Board, with the Assistant to the City Manager/Clerk as the alternate.

Ayes: Bell, Michels, Knight, Cousins, Smith, Fisher and Keough

Nays: None

Motion carries

3. Consideration of: Traffic Control Orders for No Parking Zones on Inverness and Eastridge.

Motion Cousins; support Smith to change New Business item L-3 to a discussion item.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

Discussion followed about problems that may occur for current homeowners with additional cars being parked on the north side of Inverness and investigate opening up Inverness in a snow emergency. The issue in Eastridge is the blocking of the view onto Island Lake Road. It was suggested to bring these items back as separate motions.

4. Consideration of: Proposal from Umbaugh for Water Rate Study for not to exceed \$10,500

Motion Fisher; support Smith to approve the proposal from Umbaugh to conduct a water rate study for an amount not to exceed \$10,500.

Ayes: Fisher, Smith, Cousins, Knight, Michels, Bell and Keough

Nays: None

Motion carries

5. Consideration of: Proposal from CBIZ for Other Post Employment Benefit (OPEB) Valuation for not to exceed \$5,700

Motion Cousins; support Knight to approve the quote from CBIZ to provide an actuarial valuation of the City's OPEB requirements for an amount not to exceed \$5,700.

Ayes: Smith, Bell, Cousins, Fisher, Knight, Michels and Keough

Nays: None

Motion carries

6. Discussion of: Future Road/Sidewalk Projects

Item will be discussed at the next City Council Meeting.

7. Discussion of: Waste Management Contract Renewal

Ms. Nicholls discussed the additional information on trash service in the City and Waste Management's proposal. Discussion followed.

## **M. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Cousins I would like us to consider having a Council Member Report on the agenda.

Bell I am very happy to see the turnout at the meeting this evening.

Fisher I agree with Scott.

Jones None

Smith I am also pleased with the turnout.

Knight I have a request from the Senior Center to remove all of the trash at the end of the evening. Also, I too am a walker when I go to Kensington to pick-up my granddaughter, and I see the issues.

Michels I received an email from Suzanne Flowers from WATS regarding the long-term plan for this end of the County, and I am willing to talk to Council about it. Regarding pedestrian safety, there is no magic bullet to solve this issue and the school has taken an adversarial position. Rapid flashing beacons are not the final answer for safety. Signs on both sides of the posts would help. In school, I was taught about safety with the use of the safety patrol. I want to thank those who came tonight and ask you to keep coming.

## **N. NON-ARRANGED PARTICIPATION**

Dan Jackson of 8550 Bell Road spoke of attending Central Michigan University where they have pedestrian activated crossing on main roads on campus.

David Werner of 7249 Eaton Court feels that Eaton Court residents would probably not support the Fire Department so close to Eaton Court as they consider it a residential area. He looks at the action taken this evening as insuring that the Fire Department would be built on the MAV property. He is not opposed to a Fire Station if it is for the better good of the community, but is not sure this is for the better.

Barbara Read of 7130 Ulrich Street thinks that the MAV property is a nice piece of property, but not for a Fire Station. She witnessed a child trying to cross Kensington Street for a long time and feels that a Rapid Flashing Beacon would be an effective means to cross the street.

Natalie Hoffman of 7395 Dexter-Ann Arbor Road echoed Mr. Werner's comments. She feels that it is unfair to say that this was the first time that citizens have reacted to the issue of the Fire Department and she would like to have a public meeting with a chance for the public to weigh-in on the issue.

**O. CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL PURCHASE OF PROPERTY IN ACCORDANCE WITH MCL 15.268 Sec 8**

Council did not enter into a Closed Session.

**P. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion Cousins; support Fisher to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 PM.

Unanimous voice vote approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Breyer  
Assistant to the City Manager/Clerk

Approved for Filing: \_\_\_\_\_