

January 21, 2008

Regular meeting of the Ludington City Council held at Peterson Auditorium Ludington High School on Monday, January 21, 2008 at 1:00 o'clock p.m.

Present: His Honor, Mayor John Henderson, Councilors Kaye Holman, Greg Dykstra, Brent Scott, David Weston, Pete Engblade, and Gary Castonia.

Absent: Councilor Paul Peterson who was excused as he was out of town.

Also present were City Manager John Shay, City Attorney Roger Anderson, Police Chief Mark Barnett, City Treasurer Mary Reeds-Mortensen, Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee Member Becca Dodge, and City Clerk Deborah Luskin.

Invocation was pronounced by Councilor Pete Engblade.

Pledge to the Flag was given.

Moved by Councilor Castonia, seconded by Councilor Dykstra, that the Agenda be approved. Motion Carried.

The meeting was opened for public comments. Shay Rocco, Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee Member thanked the City for holding the City Council meeting at the High School. After no further comments were received, the regular order of business was resumed.

Moved by Councilor Engblade, seconded by Councilor Holman, that the minutes of the regular meeting held 01/07/08 be approved as printed. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilor Holman, seconded by Councilor Dykstra, that the Finance Report with total expenditures in the amount of \$619,703.54 for this period be approved and orders drawn according to the City Charter. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilor Castonia, seconded by Councilor Holman, to approve the 2007 Police Department Annual Report. Police Chief Mark Barnett summarized the report and was available to answer questions. Significant police investigations were outlined such as a missing person investigation, a homicide, a school gun incident, implementing a registered sex offender ordinance, investigating computer sex cases, a stalker investigation, and a multi-state check fraud case. It was explained that overall police calls have decreased 4.3% and departmental arrests decreased 4.1%. There was a 12% reduction in traffic crashes in 2007 which is the third year in a row that there was a decrease. Goals for 2008 include achieving similar reductions in traffic crashes, continuing to improve the occurrence/arrest ratio by focusing on officer training and experience, educate citizens to make better choices as they relate to their financial affairs, and to implement a Neighborhood Watch. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilor Dykstra, seconded by Councilor Scott, to approve the Cartier Park Campgrounds Concession Agreement between the City of Ludington and West Shore Youth for Christ (WSYC) for one year or until December 1, 2008. Councilor Dykstra explained that Mayor's Youth Advisory Committee Member Lauren Roberts attended the Cemetery, Parks and Recreation Committee meeting where this agreement was discussed. He explained that this is a 1 year agreement with the City's option to renew for an additional year, WSYC will increase its payment to the City from 26.5% to 30% with the additional 3.5% to be in the form of capital improvements to Cartier Park undertaken by WSYC with prior approval by the City. If WSYC does not undertake these capital improvements, then it will pay the City the additional amount by check. Also, WSYC will charge an additional \$2.00 per transient campsite per night and pay this amount to the City who will apply this amount to the Lincoln Lake Improvement Board's weed-control efforts. The agreement clarifies that the City will be responsible for maintaining the roads, the lift station, and trimming the trees within the park while WSYC is responsible for all other maintenance. All funds in the Cartier Park Improvement Fund will be used toward capital improvements at Cartier Park. Councilor Engblade questioned if this contract was an entirely new contract and it was explained that only the above noted items were added to the contract. Councilor Castonia questioned whether anyone else had the option to bid on this contract. Councilor Dykstra explained that the Committee was pleased with WSYC management of the park, not only in their accountability but with the improvements that have been completed, and the original contract allowed for an extension for up to two years, one year at a time. Councilor Scott explained that WSYC does put back into the community and does not retain profits for themselves, they are good stewards. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilor Dykstra, seconded by Councilor Holman, to adopt the resolution authorizing the City Manager and City Clerk to sign the Waterways Grant Agreement. Councilor Dykstra explained that the DNR notified the City late last year that it had received a grant which will pay 75% of the estimated project cost of \$231,005.37. The

City will be responsible for the remaining 25% or \$58,606.94. The 2008 budget does allow for this expenditure. Motion Carried.

Moved by Councilor Dykstra, seconded by Councilor Holman to approve the 2007 Community Development Annual Report. Heather Venzke-Loney, Community Development Director, summarized the report and was available to answer questions. Activity for 2007 included administering the Mason County Housing Program which assists individuals in repairing their households with the City receiving \$31,500 for the administration of this program, managing the Downtown Ludington Board while organizing and participating in four Friday Night Live Events as well as an Oktoberfest celebration, a Bike Night, and special Holiday programs. The Community Development Director is responsible for grant writing and is currently working on the façade improvement program for downtown Ludington. Goals for 2008 were identified. Motion Carried.

Ordinance No. 175-08, Revisions to Section 62-40: Placement for Garbage Collection was presented for the first reading. City Manager John Shay explained that none of the regulations have changed in Section 62-40 however, the ordinance is presented to allow for grammatical and spelling corrections with the original intent retained.

The date of February 11, 2008 was set to hold a public hearing on the Façade Program.

Councilor Holman asked to be excused from the 2/11/08 meeting as she will be out of town.

His Honor Mayor Henderson publicly thanked Ron Maluchnik, Dale Horowski, and Jackie Steckel for coordinating the meeting at Peterson Auditorium so that the High School students could attend.

Moved by Councilor Engblade, seconded by Councilor Castonia, that the meeting be adjourned. So carried at 1:50 p.m.

Deborah L. Luskin, City Clerk