

November 10, 2008

Regular meeting of the Ludington City Council held in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building on Monday, November 10, 2008, at 7:30 o'clock p.m.

Present: His Honor Mayor John Henderson, Councilors Kaye Holman, Paul Peterson, Greg Dykstra, Brent Scott, Dave Weston, Pete Enblade, and Gary Castonia.

Absent: None.

Also present were City Manager John Shay, Police Chief Mark Barnett, Fire Chief Jerry Funk, and City Clerk Deborah Luskin.

Invocation was pronounced by Councilor Pete Enblade.

Pledge to the Flag was given.

Moved by Councilor Dykstra, seconded by Councilor Peterson, that the Agenda be approved as presented. Item 9(a)(2) under Finance was changed to reflect that the budget hearing will be held on 11/24/08 not on 12/8/08. Motion Carried.

The meeting was opened for public comments.

After no comments were received, the regular order of business was resumed.

Moved by Councilor Holman, seconded by Councilor Dykstra, that the minutes of the regular meeting held on 10/27/08 be approved as printed. Motion Carried.

The meeting was opened for the scheduled public hearing on the Downtown Infrastructure Grant Funds for the parking lot behind the bowling alley and public utility infrastructure improvements.

John Wilson, owner of Western Land Services, and the developer on the above project introduced himself to City Council. Western Land Services is planning on constructing a five story, 55,000 square foot office building. The top three floors will be occupied by Western Land Services and the lower two floors are uncommitted at this time. The project has been put on hold until April 2009. With the state of the economy and the fact that the financial markets have tanked, the banks have crawled into a hole for the time being. His Honor Mayor Henderson expressed appreciation to John Wilson for looking at the downtown area as the area to move this business. John Wilson expressed appreciation to the City for helping Western Land Services make this move to downtown.

After no further comments were received, the regular order of business was resumed.

RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DOWNTOWN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT

WHEREAS, the City of Ludington is interested in the continuing effort to enhance the appearance and business opportunities in downtown Ludington;

WHEREAS, said Ludington City Council has reviewed and understands the content of the application for funding for the Western Land Services Downtown Infrastructure Program and supports the application to apply for \$650,000 in CDBG dollars and \$480,377 in local dollars through the approved Brownfield plan, and \$8,123,650 in total investment by Western Land Services and certifies that this program is consistent with the local Community Development plan as described in the application; and

WHEREAS, the Ludington City Council recognizes the requirement of the State of Michigan that states that at least 51% of the jobs created through this proposed project would be reserved for low and moderate income persons; and

WHEREAS, the Ludington City Council agrees that no costs (CDBG or non-CDBG) will be incurred prior to a formal grant award, completion of the environmental review procedures and formal, written authorization to incur costs is received from the Community Assistance Team; and

WHEREAS, the Ludington City Council authorizes Community Development Director Heather L. Venzke Loney to submit the Michigan CDBG Application and associated documents and to serve as the certifying officer for the environmental review process; and

WHEREAS, the Ludington City Council authorizes John Shay, City Manager, to sign the application form as required.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Ludington authorizes the Community Development Office to prepare and submit the application for funding through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's Housing Resource Fund.

Moved by Councilor Castonia, seconded by Councilor Holman, to adopt the foregoing resolution. This is an application for \$650,000 for the creation of 22 new jobs. Motion Carried.

No one was available to provide an update from the Sauble Point Lighthouse Keepers.

Moved by Councilor Holman, seconded by Councilor Peterson, that the Finance Report with total expenditures in the amount of \$291,018.64 for this period be approved and orders drawn according to the City Charter. Motion Carried.

The date of 11/24/08 has been set for the public hearing on the 2009 Budget.

Councilor Engblade presented the October Building, Zoning, and Enforcement Report.

His Honor Mayor Henderson presented the letter of resignation from Mike Nekola of the LMTA Board. Moved by Councilor Holman, seconded by Councilor Dykstra, to accept the resignation of Mike Nekola from the LMTA Board. His Honor Mayor Henderson expressed his appreciation on Mike's efforts and service to the LMTA. Motion Carried.

City Manager John Shay read a letter from a resident commending the services of Kirk Caithamer of the Lakeview Cemetery. He provided kudos to Kirk for a job well done.

City Manager Shay explained that MDOT has come up with new ways in which to reimburse the City on snow removal. In the past, Ludington Avenue, Lakeshore Drive and South James Streets were considered as Priority 1 Roads, which allowed for overtime reimbursement on the clearing of these roads bare of ice and snow. Starting this winter, MDOT has now designated these major roads as Priority 2 roads. This means that the City will provide maintenance service as appropriate with a goal of clearing the pavements down to only one lane and then the clearing of ice and snow would be done after all other roads are plowed. In the past, the City incurred about \$33,000 in winter maintenance which was reimbursable. If the City were to continue to clear the state trunk lines, as we have in the past, especially if we incur overtime, the State will not reimburse this overtime. Councilor Engblade asked how many overtime hours are put on clearing the Priority 1 roads during the snow season. City Manager Shay stated that he would provide this information to him. As a rule, when the DPW works the night shift they are incurring shift pay, not overtime during the week. However, on Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday plowing is considered overtime. Discussion was held on the explanation of clearing the snow. It was explained that clearing was taking the snow from piling snow into the intersection to another location as well as plowing these roads. It is the Council's intention to continue to have the roads plowed as has been done in the past.

Councilor Engblade reminded all that tomorrow is Veterans' Day and that we remember that the freedoms we have today are because of the veterans. He has asked all to recognize veterans tomorrow and to personally thank them.

Moved by Councilor Engblade, seconded by Councilor Holman, that the meeting be adjourned. So carried at 7:50 p.m.

Deborah L. Luskin, City Clerk