

The regular meeting of the Harrisville City Council was held on January 11, 2021 at the City Office. This was a virtual Zoom meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mayor Gehring and the Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Present: Mayor Gehring, Treasurer Luenberger, Clerk Pierce. Council Members Roll Call: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson and Attorney Cook. Absent: Bean.

Motion by Kaiser, Support by Peterson to appoint Thomas Mason as Alderman Ward III term ending December 31, 2024. Motion carried: 4-0. Clerk Pierce administered the oath of office.

Clerk administered the oath of office to James Kaiser, duly elected Alderman Ward II term ending December 31, 2024.

Motion by Kaiser, support by Peterson to approve the minutes of December 14, 2020. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Peterson, support by Kaiser to pay the bills in the amount of \$21,065.38. Motion carried 4-0.

Mayor Gehring took this time to offer the city's condolences to the family of Jackie Trimmer who passed away on January 1, 2021. Jackie was a driving force in the city beautification projects and was instrumental in implementing the flower pots on Main Street and their care and planting. Jackie's enthusiasm and "It's all good" attitude will be sorely missed.

APPOINTMENTS

Motion by Peterson, support by Kaiser to confirm David Cook as City Attorney. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion by Kaiser, support by Peterson to set City Council meeting times, at City Hall, as the 2nd Monday of the Month at 7:00 P.M. Motion carried 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays:0.

Motion by Mason, support by Peterson to appoint Jacquelyn Schwanz as Mayor Pro Tem. Motion carried: 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0.

Motion by Peterson, support by Kaiser to appoint Marjory French as Deputy Clerk for the City of Harrisville. Motion carried 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0.

Motion by Kaiser, support by Peterson to appoint Thomas Keerl as Deputy Treasurer for the City of Harrisville. Motion carried: 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0.

Motion by Peterson, support by Kaiser to appoint Jim Kaiser as Street and Sidewalk Administrator for 2021. Motion carried: 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0.

Motion by Kaiser, support by Peterson to reconfirm Clerk as City Census Administrator for 2021. Motion carried 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0.

Motion by Peterson, support by Kaiser to confirm Mary Peterson as Chamber of Commerce Representative for 2021. Motion carried 4-0. Ayes: 4. Nays: 0.

Motion by Peterson, support by Kaiser to confirm Jim Kaiser as FEMA Representative for 2021. Motion carried 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0.

Motion by Mason, support by Schwanz to table discussion and appointment of Thomas Keerl as city Web Site Coordinator for 2021. Motion carried 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0.

Motion by Kaiser, support by Peterson to appoint J. Schwanz to the finance committee for the term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried: 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0.

Motion by Peterson, support by Kaiser to hold a Finance Committee meeting Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 12:00 noon. Motion carried: 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0.

Motion by Peterson, support by Kaiser to confirm appointment of Richard Dunn, James Potter, to the Tax Board of Review for the term ending December 31, 2021. Motion carried 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0.

Motion by Peterson, support by Kaiser to give Clerk approval to advertise, with brief job descriptions, for the following vacancies to be filled: Planning Commission-2 vacancies, (city resident), Zoning Board of Appeals, 1 vacancy, 1 alternate, (city resident), Alderman Ward I (city resident), Tax Board of Review, (city registered voter) 1 Vacancy, 1 Alternate. Motion carried 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0.

Motion by Kaiser, support by Peterson to reconfirm and accept the investment policy as presented by the Treasurer for 2021 using the following banks: Huron Community Bank, Alpena Alcona Area Credit Union, Northland Area Federal Credit Union, and M Bank and to do business with said institutions. Motion carried: 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0.

Motion by Peterson, support by Kaiser for approval for Clerk to submit the MDOT Application for use of M-72 and US-23 for annual activities use permit for 2021. Motion carried: 4-0. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nay: 0.

RESOLUTIONS

#2021-01: Resolution of Financial Commitment for Alcona County, MI: Broadband Connectivity Plan and Rollout Strategy Grant. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Northeast MI Council of Government's Board of Directors will commit the local match of \$19,000 to the Alcona County, MI: Broadband Connectivity Plan and Rollout Strategy grant and delegates authority to act on behalf of the grant project to Diane Rekowski, Moved by Peterson , support by Kaiser to adopt Resolution #2021-01. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Bean, Peterson. Nays; 0. Abstain: 0. Motion carried: 4-0.

#2021-02: Resolution for Poverty Exemption. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Mayor/Assessor and Board of Review shall follow the above stated policy and federal guidelines in granting or denying an exemption, unless the Board of Review determines there are substantial and compelling reasons why there should be a deviation from the policy and federal guidelines and these reasons are communicated in writing to the claimant. Moved by Kaiser, support by Peterson to adopt Resolution #2021-02. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nay: 0. Motion carried: 4-0.

#2021-03: Authorization to Allow Local Residents to Protest in Writing to Board of Review. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Harrisville of Alcona County that all resident taxpayers, or their agents, are authorized to protest to the board of review by letter. Said letters must be delivered to the physical or electronic address provided in the public notice or publication. For the March meeting of the board of review, letters must be received prior to the deadline on the publication. For the July and December meetings of the board of review, letters must be received by 5:00 pm on the day prior to the meeting stated on the public notice; and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Harrisville shall include a statement notifying taxpayers of this option in each assessment notice under section 24c and on each notice or publication of the meeting of the board of review.

Motion by Peterson, support by Kaiser to adopt Resolution #2021-03. Yeas: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0. Abstain: 0. Motioned Carried: 4-0.

#2021-04: Asset Level Test to be used by the Board of Review. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that liquid assets of no more than \$5000.00 and no other tangible assets with the exception of one automobile and one primary residence, subject to being adjusted or amended by the Board of Review or any other additional pertinent information on a case-by case basis. Income producing assets shall be treated at the discretion of the Board of Review.

Motion by Kaiser, support by Peterson to adopt Resolution #2021-04. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Peterson. Nays: Mason. Abstain: 0. Motion carried: 3-1.

#2021-05: Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies. This Performance Resolution is required by the Michigan Department of Transportation for purposes of issuing to a municipality an “Individual Permit for Use of State Highway Right of Way” or an “Annual Application and Permit for Miscellaneous Operations within State Highway Right of Way”. BE IT RESOLVED that this resolution shall continue in force from this date until cancelled by the GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY or the DEPARTMENT. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following position(s) are authorized to apply to the Department (MDOT) for the necessary permit to work within State Highway Right of Way on behalf of the GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY: Barbara Pierce, Clerk, Barbara Luenberger, Treasurer.

Motion by Kaiser, support by Peterson to adopt Resolution #2021-05. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Peterson. Nays: 0. Abstain: 0. Motion carried 4-0.

REPORTS

Mayor Gehring would like to thank the Harrisville Goodfellows for a beautiful job of decorating the corners of US 23 and Main Street with the lit tree and the Nativity display again this year. Mayor Gehring reports that the city’s Maintenance Crew has begun preparation for an ice rink at the basketball court at the VFW area. They will also be replacing some of the lighting with new LED lights.

Harbor Commission report from Mayor Gehring stated that the city hired an animal “remover” for the muskrat problem at the harbor. His quest has been successful in the removal of a large muskrat population which were damaging the moorings at the harbor.

Planning Commissioner J. Schwanz reports the Planning commission is in the process of updating the Master Plan which is up for review every five years. J. Schwanz reports that Consumers Energy officially began their “make ready” process for their engineers to begin working through how to bring sufficient power to the upper parking lot site at the Harbor, to bring Electric Car Plug- ins (EV charging sites) to Harrisville. Kudos to Jacquelyn for all her hard work and determination. Well done!

Comment cards: None.

Council Last Comments: Alderman Schwanz shared she has numerous pamphlets from NEMCOG representative Denise Cline, to be distributed throughout the city describing “up north” activities, places to go and things to see. Look for them at various businesses and the Chamber of Commerce office for distribution.

Mayor moved meeting to be adjourned.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Next City Council meeting February 8, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Published prior to council approval.

Mayor _____ Clerk _____