

The regular meeting of the Harrisville City Council was held on August 9, 2021 at the City Office.

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: Peterson, Kaiser, Schwanz, Mason, Bean, Attorney Cook and guests.

Motion by Kaiser, support by Peterson to approve the minutes of July 12, 2021. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion by Schwanz, support by Kaiser to pay the bills in the amount of \$240,241.74. Motion carried: 5-0.

David Bauermeister has submitted a letter of resignation from the Harrisville Harbor Commission.

Motion by Bean, support by Peterson to accept David Bauermeister's letter of resignation from the Harrisville Harbor Commission. Motion carried: 5-0.

Mayor Gehring recommended the appointment of David Bauermeister to fill the vacancy of Alderman Ward 1.

Motion by Bean, support by Peterson to appoint David Bauermeister to fill the vacancy of Alderman Ward I, term ending December 31, 2024. Ayes: Schwanz, Kaiser, Mason, Beard, Peterson. Nays: 0. Motion carried: 5-0.

Huron Pines submitted a 5-year contract for continued eradication of Japanese Knotweed in the city. Discussion.

Motion by Schwanz, support by Peterson for mayor to ask Huron Pines for a one-year contract. Motion carried: 6-0.

Clerk Pierce administered the Oath of Office to David Bauermeister and he was seated at the council table.

Mayor Gehring updated council as to progress of playground project. A bid has been submitted from Penchura, LLC. from Brighton, MI for equipment and engineering improvements to the existing playground at the harbor. Mayor advises that the installation of the new equipment will take place the 3rd week of September.

Rick Pender, Harbor Town Development, and Rebecca Rivard, Huron Engineering gave a presentation to council and guests as to the question of water flow and the ability of the existing city sewer system to accommodate the potential of additional, diverted run off water, which would be diverted to the city system, in the development plans of property on the west side of 3rd Street south of Jackson. Presentation also included a request for the city to vacate portions of Grant St. and Fourth St. Discussion and questions from council and guests were presented.

Motion by Mason, support by Schwanz to table discussion until Council meeting of September 13, 2021. Motion carried: 6-0.

Mayor Gehring recommends approval of Harrisville Arts council request for use of City property for the 2021 Harmony Arts and Crafts Festival Weekend (September 4&5, 2021).

Motion by Mason, support by Kaiser for Harrisville Arts Council to use city property for Harmony Weekend activities. Motion carried: 6-0.

Mayor Gehring reports the city has received only one letter of interest for the position of Zoning Administrator, submitted by Tom Keerl. Keerl was voted last month by city council to be interim

Zoning Administrator with an August 9, 2021 date for position to be reviewed and decision made by council as to permanent appointment to the job.

Motion by Schwanz, support by Bauermeister to appoint Tom Keerl as Zoning Administrator for the City of Harrisville. Motion carried: 6-0.

REPORTS

Mayor Gehring recommends to council to bring hours of city Summer Help from 300 to 375 hours for Summer Help. Mayor Gehring also recommended a bonus for our summer employee, Jordan Steiner, of \$400.00.

Motion by Bean, support by Schwanz to increase Summer Help working hours not to exceed 375. Motion carried: 6-0.

Motion by Peterson, support by Schwanz to approve a bonus of \$400.00 to Jordan Steiner for his work this summer. Motion carried: 6-0.

Mayor Gehring advised council that DPW maintenance worker Allen Kay, has passed his Water Treatment Certification tests. According to his contract, once these certifications have been passed, his pay rate would increase to \$15.00/hr.

Motion by Bean, support by Kaiser to increase Allen Kay's pay rate to \$15.00/hr. Motion carried: 6-0.

Clerk Pierce discussed with council the purchase of a commemorative brick for the Pocket Park in memory Louis Campbell, DPW.

Motion by Mason, support by Peterson to purchase a commemorative for the Pocket Park, pending auditor approval. Motion carried: 6-0.

Treasurer Luenberger is asking approval of a city policy, to assess a "Returned Check fee of \$35.00 for tax or water bills which have to be resubmitted because of non-sufficient funds.

Motion by Peterson, support by Schwanz to approve a policy to assess a NSF fee of \$35.00 to be assessed on returned checks for water/sewer and/or tax bills. Motion carried: 6-0.

Harbor Commission reported by Mayor Gehring that commission chairman Bruce Weber has resigned. There are also 3 vacancies to be filled on the commission.

Planning Commission will not be holding an August meeting.

Airport Assistant Manager Colleen Higgins was present reporting all airport conditions are good.

Fire Department reporting by Mayor Gehring that there have been several medical calls the past month and a mutual aid fire call in Lincoln, MI.

Comment Cards: Resident Cecile Pizer discussed her concern about the grinder pump at 2nd and Jackson St. She suggested that the DPW monitor the pump more regularly for its emergency system, particularly after a power outage.

Councils Last Comments: Alderman Schwanz shared that Consumers Energy is planning a Grand Opening celebration for the EV charging stations at the harbor. Date to be announced. Alderman Bauermeister shared his observations of Pender presentation.

Mayor Gehring moved meeting to be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Next City Council meeting, September 13, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. at City Hall.

Published prior to council approval.

Mayor _____ Clerk _____