

Council Proceeding's
Regular Meeting
February 7, 2024

The Regular Council Meeting for the City of Rockwood was called to order by Mayor Troy A. Cox in the Council Chambers at 7:00 PM located at 32409 Fort St.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Cox, Council Members Bennett, Cramton, Farmer, Grzywacz, Joaquin, and Wasner

Absent: None

City Officials

Present: Police Chief Krause, Fire Chief Mercure, Administrator Weekly, Treasurer McCoy, Attorney Pelland, and City Clerk Oney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. Tiffany Reece's Class from Chapman Elementary School

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M-017-24 Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve this evening's agenda as presented.

**AYES ARE UNANIMOUS
MOTION CARRIED**

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Items not on Agenda)

Jeremiah North Representative for Discover Downriver
3133 Van Horn
Trenton, MI
(Personal address)
29565 West Jefferson
Gibraltar, MI

Mr. North Stated that they would like to help promote the cities events. He stated that he helps raise money for several charities. Mr. North passed out some information explaining what Discover Downriver could do for the city as far as digital media exposure. Mr. North gave the mayor a media package to show what they do and how many communities are already involved.

Council Member Grzywacz asked how much this service would cost.

Mr. North stated that it is \$299.00 per year.

Mr. North also handed out flyers for several different events happening in the Downriver Area. He stated that they rent out other local community centers frequently and would like to work out something in the future to rent out Rockwood's Community Center.

Council Member Joaquin asked if there was a fee increase for ad placement or is it all the same for every business that they represent.

Mr. North stated that we would be different than a Brick-and-Mortar business for profit. For cities and municipalities, the package includes, he thinks 50-100 add placements without an increase.

Council Member Grzywacz wanted to be clear that the \$299 is to be published on the app and the web page Facebook.

Mr. North stated that that is correct, it is all in the media packet on what we would get for the \$299.00.

Mr. North also stated that some communities have an organization called “community service organization”, CSO, which would include the mayor, council members, department heads etc. who meet once a month and try to solve problems around the city.

Ms. Tiffany Reece
20113 Candace Dr.

Ms. Reece stated that at the intersection of Woodruff and Old Fort St. the view is obstructed by the city sign, light and electric poles as well as some vegetation. It makes it very difficult to see on coming traffic and poses a danger for crossing the street, especially new drivers. Ms. Reece asked if we could get a streetlight to put there instead of just moving the sign.

Mayor Cox stated that he has been talking to Chief Krause about this and asked Chief Krause to speak on this matter.

Chief Krause stated that we would have to petition Wayne County to put a light there and that comes with a cost. We do not have the associated accident history to say that it is a traffic safety issue. We know it is a traffic safety issue. We need to convince the county so they will pay for it on their dime. If we cannot do that then we would need to get with Brownstown and see about paying for the survey together. Chief Krause stated that he will have a car sit there before and after school to see if that will alleviate some of the problems.

Mayor Cox also stated that he will talk with the DPW Director to see if we could possibly move the sign.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if we knew what the cost would be for this. It has been an issue for years.

Chief Krause stated that we would have to contact Wayne County signal and see if they would be willing to give us a price. They would send somebody down to see what they could do. There would be a control box involved plus the light setup and labor. We asked years ago; he does not know what the cost of it was, but he is sure that it has increased substantially.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that so many people are very concerned about that intersection and to echo what the chief stated, we all know that it is dangerous, but at what point will we do something? Council Member Grzywacz stated that she has heard people say that it will take something fatal to happen before we make those decisions as a city or as a team. She thinks that maybe we can prevent that.

Chief Krause stated that unfortunately it will take something of that magnitude to get the county involved in this, but he will personally check and see what we can do.

Mayor Cox asked if it would help to compile a 4–5-year list of accidents that have happened at this intersection.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if that would have a weight in this matter. She has heard from previous administrations that because there weren't enough accidents there that they were not willing to do that.

Chief Krause stated that it is not actually the number of accidents, but how the accidents and injuries are coded. The more severe the injuries are the more attention it gains on the state level. Chief Krause stated that we could also talk to Darrin Camilleri, State Senator, to see if he could help with this.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ACTION AGENDA

M-018-24 Motion by Wasner/Joaquin to approve this evening's action agenda as presented.

**Ayes are Unanimous.
Motion Carried**

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS/DEPARTMENTS

Police Department:

Police Chief Krause discussed Officer Resignation and the Year-end report.

M-019-24 Motion by Wasner/Cramton to accept the letter of resignation of Zachary Wilburn effective February 8, 2024, with regrets.

Council Member Joaquin asked how many dispatchers that leaves the department with now.

Chief Krause stated that he now has 4 dispatchers. They were barely making it with 5 dispatchers. The normal complement would be 7 dispatchers. He interviewed 2 candidates this past week, one looked extremely promising, but she did not pass the background check.

Council Member Wasner asked about the Police Officer situation.

Chief Krause stated that they have postings on indeed, MCOLES, LinkedIn and several other sites. Hopefully he will get applications soon.

Mayor Cox asked if we had somebody recruiting from the Police Academy.

Chief Krause stated that they are waiting for a date and time to send Sgt. Mitchell out.

Ayes are Unanimous.

Motion Carried

M-020-24 Motion by Wasner/Bennett to receive and file the Police Department Year-end report for 2023, dated January 22, 2024.

Ayes are Unanimous.

Motion Carried

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Mercure had no formal report.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer McCoy had no formal report.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

DPW Director had no formal report.

CONSIDERATION ITEMS

None

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Weekly discussed the City Council Emails, 2024 Hardship Poverty applications and guidelines, and request to purchase-laptop for City Assessor

M-021-24 Motion by Bennett/Wasner to approve city owned emails for all council members at \$696.00 fee for the first year and an annual fee of \$576.00.

Ayes are Unanimous.
Motion Carried

M-022-24 Motion by Wasner/Farmer to accept the updated Hardship/Poverty Exemption Application and Guidelines for the 2024 tax year.

Ayes are Unanimous.
Motion Carried

M-023-24 Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve the purchase of a laptop computer for the City Assessor Department
Council Member Joaquin asked if we would get a desktop in leu of a laptop computer would this help the situation.

Mayor Cox asked the City Assessor to come up and explain the need for the laptop.

Kim Comer (City Assessor) stated that as of right now she is in the office one day a week (Wednesday) and she tries to do business all week. As of right now she is sharing a desktop with someone and when it is being used, she cannot get on to do what she needs to do. This prevents her from getting back to the residents right away. If she were to have a laptop computer, she would have access all the time and would be able to help residents right away.

Mayor Cox stated that the assessor is only her one day a week because she serves another community.

Ms. Comer stated that she also works for the City of Dearborn. Typically, a city this size does not require someone to be in the office every day, however she is still available everyday if the residents need assistance.

**Ayes are Unanimous.
Motion Carried**

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Cox discussed the appointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Commission, and Board of Reviews

M-024-24 Motion by Wasner/Farmer to approve the appointment of Steve Mercure to the Zoning Board of Appeals

**Ayes are Unanimous.
Motion Carried**

M-025-24 Motion by Grzywacz/Joaquin to approve the appointment of Melissa Fava to the Planning Commission

Ayes are Unanimous.
Motion Carried

M-026-24 Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve the appointment of Lillian Mathis to the Board of Reviews

Ayes are Unanimous.
Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Grzywacz wanted to remind the Council members that we should have our survey questions ready not discuss on February 21st.

Council Member Grzywacz wanted to thank the DPW for all their tireless work when we had the water main break. She did not realize that this occurred in the middle of the night on one of the coldest days we've had this year.

Mayor Cox stated that they worked 17 hours that day and did a great job.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Grzywacz stated that there have been some complaints, concerns, questions about Stevens Waste Removal. She stated that some of the issues that residents have brought to the attention of the city and probably the mayor and the city office several times, she does not know that for certain, however some of the concerns are that the trash was not being picked up or every other house was getting picked up, they were just being very careless with

their trash disposal. What can we do in the future as a city? It is our responsibility as a city to have a reliable company to pick up waste. What can we do?

She stated that the residents wanted to know why they were not picking up the trash. Is there something in their trash can that doesn't need to be there? Steven's website didn't have much on it. Is the trash can too heavy? Is that why they're not picking it up? Is it in the wrong spot? Is there something we need to be doing as residents or is this a disposal issue with Steven's? They had some questions about that.

Mayor Cox stated that he had an issue twice with them not picking up his trash and he just made a phone call to Stevens, and they came right out and picked it up. He said we will have to investigate that.

Mayor Cox stated that he will pull their contract and see if there is something we can do. In the meantime, if they skip picking up trash from your house just give Stevens a call and they should come back out.

ADJOURNMENT

M-027-24 Motion by Wasner/Bennett to adjourn this evening's Council Meeting at 7:37 PM

**Ayes are Unanimous.
Motion Carried**

City Clerk, Colleen E. Oney

Mayor, Troy A. Cox