

Council Proceeding's
Regular Meeting
June 5, 2024

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

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None

City Officials

Present: Police Chief Krause, Treasurer McCoy, Administrator Trush, Attorney Pelland, and City Clerk Oney

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

M-115-24 Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve this evening's agenda as presented.

Ayes are unanimous.

Motion Carried

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Items not on Agenda)

Lyne Merida-Barczyk
29345 Wallace Dr.
Flat Rock, MI

Ms. Merida-Barczyk stated that she just stopped in to introduce herself. She is the District Representative for the Wayne County Commissioner – Alex Garza – 14th district. She stated that if we needed anything to please reach out to her and she will help with what she can.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION (Items on Agenda)

None

ACTION AGENDA

M-116-24 Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve this evening's action agenda as follows; Council Minutes – May 15, 2024, Council Workshop Minutes – May 13, 2024, Council Workshop Minutes – May 22, 2024, and Accounts Payable.

Ayes are unanimous.

Motion Carried

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS/DEPARTMENTS

Police Department:

Police Chief Krause had no formal report.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Mercure had no formal report.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer McCoy discussed the sewer bond refunds – 2022/2023

M-117-24 Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve the sewer bond refunds as presented in 6C – 1

Council Member Grzywacz asked where this money was coming from.

Treasurer McCoy stated that it will be refunded from the water fund.

Council Member Joaquin asked how they are being billed for these services.

Administrator Trush stated that it is attached to the tax bill. Since they are not hooked up to our sewer system, they are refunded.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if the residents are aware that they are receiving this refund.

Administrator Trush stated that they do know. This refund is sent every year.

Ayes are unanimous.

Motion Carried

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

No formal report

CONSIDERATION ITEMS

Council Member Grzywacz discussed the Audio/Visual streaming of City Meetings, and Beautification Committee – Temporary Structure.

M-118-24 Motion by Grzywacz/Joaquin to hold all special council meetings/workshops in Council Chambers for the purpose of audio/visual streaming.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that she knows it is not required per the “Open Meetings Act”, however, since we do have the technology, she believes we should take advantage of that.

Council Member Wasner feels that the council should have the opportunity to discuss things amongst themselves and not worry about the live streaming. The reason these meetings are not live is to provide a casual atmosphere. Most people are more subject to participate in the conversation and feel more comfortable in sharing their concerns or ideas etc.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that her concern was that we do have a unique population that are elderly and maybe can’t make it or they are working or attending school functions, but they still want to be involved. If it is streaming, then they can view it later.

Council Member Wasner stated that there are certain residents that don’t get to view the live stream at all. It is not on the local cable channel. While he appreciates what Council Member Grzywacz is trying to do, it does not guarantee success.

Council Member Joaquin stated that he does agree that the residents who are home bound or in Florida for the winter still want to see what is going on in the community. He does believe that there should be some reservations, depending on what type of meeting is held but he does think that 95% of the meetings should be live/broadcast to the residents.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that another thing to consider is that the more sensitive items require us to go in to closed session. Those sensitive items would of course, not be broadcast.

Council Member Wasner stated that there is more freedom to speak and ask questions with the workshops not being streamlined.

Mayor Cox stated that he did speak with Legal Counsel, and we are following the law of the Open Meetings Act. We are posting and broadcasting what we need to.

Ayes: Council Member Joaquin, and Grzywacz

Nays: Mayor Cox, Council Member Bennett, Cramton, Mercure, and Wasner

Motion Denied

Council Member Grzywacz stated that The Rockwood Beautiful Committee is wanting to erect a temporary structure along Fort Rd. She is not entirely clear of the dimensions. She thinks that they were first wanting to ask if it was something that they could explore and to see if the City Council and Mayor would let them put it up. It will be made of rebar on bottom and spray painted with 3 x 5 flags hanging for Memorial Day, Independence Day, 9/11, and Veterans Day Holidays. It will be donated flags but identical in shape and size to allow for uniformity to honor active-duty soldiers and veterans, living or deceased. The committee would be responsible for erecting, maintaining, and removing the structure and flags. They just ask for a place to store the flags in the off season.

Council Member Joaquin asked if we could see a mockup of this instead of voting on a structure that nobody has seen.

Mayor Cox stated that with it being right on Fort St., we would have to see how big it would be and if it would block the view of traffic or residents entering and leaving City Hall.

Council Member Wasner asked if there was city property across the street for this.

Mayor Cox stated that from what he understands, the property beyond the parking area belongs to the railroad.

Council Member Wasner suggested that maybe it would be better at the park.

Council Member Joaquin asked about the clock tower.

Mayor Cox stated that the clock tower property belongs to Rite Aid.

Council Member Mercure stated that the city also still has property in the industrial park as well.

Mayor Cox stated that first and foremost we need to see a mockup of this.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if this would be something that the City Council would consider.

Mayor Cox said yes but we need more information.

Council Member Wasner did want to say that all the hard work that the Beautification Committee is doing has been noticed and he has heard a lot of positive feedback. He also stated that the work they did at the clock tower received special attention because they had a wedding there this past weekend.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Administrator Trush discussed the purchase of Election Supplies and Request for Early Check Release – USA Blue Book.

M-119-24 Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve the purchase of election supplies from Election Source in the amount of \$1,449.50

Council Member Joaquin asked if we are asking for permission to use money that has already been allocated.

Administrator Trush stated that the cost is over \$500.00 so it must come before the council.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if we should get the grant, it would cover this purchase.

Administrator Trush stated that it would.

Council Member Grzywacz asked when we would know if we were approved for said grant.

City Clerk Oney explained that she just received confirmation that the county received the reimbursement request from February's election. She does not expect to see anything on the current grant request for a couple of months.

Ayes are unanimous.

Motion Carried

M-120-24 Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve the USA Blue Book invoices totaling \$10,165.78 and the early release of the check

Ayes are unanimous.

Motion Carried

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Pelland has no formal report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Cox discussed the Rubbish Rates, General and Special Appropriations Act and Tax Levy Authorization (Budget Adoption) and Notice of Assessing Field Work.

M-121-24 Motion by Wasner/Grzywacz to increase the garbage fee from \$87.98 to \$89.74 per household per 6 months effective July 1, 2024

Council Member Grzywacz asked if we were under a current contract that she believes started in 2023.

Administrator Trush stated that she was not sure of the contract date, but she thinks it is 2023.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that the contract runs from October 1st through September 30th with an updated 2 % increase. Is this what we are voting on? The 2% increase that was already laid out in the current contract.

Administrator Trush answered yes, the increase that is in the contract is passed on to the taxpayers as part of a service.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if the increase starts in July or in October when the new year of the contract starts

Administrator Trush stated that the rates begin July 1 and will be reflected on the October tax bill.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if we would be voting on this again in 6 months.

Administrator Trush stated that this increase will be on both the summer and winter tax bills. This will be the only motion on this issue this year.

Council Member Grzywacz asked the mayor if there was any word on the complaints that we were receiving from residents about their quality of service from Stevens.

Mayor Cox stated that he made the call but did not receive a return call but before he did anything further, he wanted to look at the contract which the administrator recently found. Mayor Cox stated that he has not heard any more complaints.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that in the contract both the city and Stevens should have a log of complaints and late pickups etc... She would like to see that log and to see if residents are calling in. Also, this is a new contract for the 4 new council members coming on, she does not know the options available to us as far as rubbish services.

Administrator Trush stated that we are currently under contract with Steven's until 2028 so we must follow the contract. If we do not put the 2 % increase on the tax bill, then the city will have to pay the increase out of general funds

Council Member Grzywacz stated that she did note a clause in the contract that if we want to renegotiate we can. And if the city sees fit, that for some reason Stevens is not performing, we could end that contract. She just wants to do what's best for the residents, she knows that there have been several complaints.

Administrator Trush stated that she personally has not heard any complaints since she has been here. She will investigate any log that may have been kept.

Council Member Wasner stated that he thinks the Municipal Clerks handle the calls for this and call Stevens to have it taken care of right away. As far as cost goes, Stevens was by far the better way to go at that time.

Council Member Joaquin asked if these calls are documented with dates and times and locations.

Council Member Wasner stated that he would be surprised.

Mayor Cox stated that from what he has seen, they just handle the complaint at the front desk.

Council Member Joaquin stated that if they have a proven track record that has been documented, that's one thing. But is there anything to show that a resident called last week or so? We need to have something to back up what the city is dealing with.

Administrator Trush stated that she will check on this and if there is no log then she will put one in place.

Council Member Wasner stated that it would be nice to have a log of the incident, and the matter be addressed, who is going to call and say that Stevens addressed the issue. Is the resident going to be responsible for that.

Council Member Joaquin stated that we can request that they call us back and let us know that it was taken care of. Or we can call the resident a couple of days later to ask them, try to be proactive about it.

Ayes are unanimous.

Motion Carried

M-122-24 Motion by Wasner/Bennett to adopt the General and Special Appropriations Act and Tax Levy Authorization for the City of Rockwood Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Ayes are unanimous.

Motion Carried

Mayor Cox wanted to read a notice from the Assessor.

Please be advised that the City Assessor Kimberly Comer or a field appraiser will be out around the city verifying permits and sales and reviewing property records per state recommended guidelines in preparation for the 2025 State

Audit. Our Assessor and appraiser have photo ID's and a vest. We ask for your cooperation if you have any contact with them during their field inspections. They will be completing exterior inspections and taking photos. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Kimberly at kcomer@rockwoodmi.org.

Council Member Wasner asked if they could go on private property.

Mayor Cox stated that he would have to check with her.

Attorney Pelland stated that he is pretty sure that they can. It would be the same as DPW checking the water meter.

Council Member Mercure stated that they should be ok if it is for the audit.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Cox requested a motion to go in to closed session with roll call

M-123-24 Motion by Wasner/Bennett to go in to closed session at 7:30 PM

Ayes: Mayor Cox, Council Member Bennett, Cramton, Grzywacz, Joaquin, Mercure, and Wasner

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Mayor Cox requested a motion to come out of closed session with roll call

M-124-24 Motion by Wasner/Mercure to come out of closed session at 8:15 PM

Present: Mayor Cox, Council Member Bennett, Cramton, Grzywacz, Joaquin, Mercure, and Wasner

Absent: None

Motion Carried

Mayor Cox requested a motion based on closed session discussion

M-125-24 Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve the Professional Service Agreement as discussed

Ayes are unanimous.

Motion Carried

OLD BUSINESS

Council Member Wasner wanted to thank everyone that participated in the Memorial Day Parade. Everyone did a great job. He wanted to especially thank Gary and Sherri Guzzi, as well as Brandon Grzywacz for cooking and serving the hotdogs.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that she had so many residents come up to her and thanked the city for continuing community events and they were surprised at the turnout. She does not know how the turnout was like in the past, but she heard great things about the mayor, council and all that was involved.

Mayor Cox wanted to thank everyone who helped make the parade a success. He also wanted to thank Council Member Wasner for cooking. He got a lot of great feedback from the community; we have a whole year to put it together again.

Council Member Joaquin said to call Carlson Highschool Band now.

Council Member Wasner stated that he heard that 10 minutes before the parade began that the save- a- lot parking lot was empty. So, we had a good turnout overall.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Grzywacz stated that the City-Wide survey that is listed on the city website will be up until the end of June. It is a short 3-minute survey for residents to voice their concerns. She has been tracking the responses and it looks like there are 134 responses. She did some research and found that a 5% of respondents from your community is a good survey. So, she did the math, and we need 155 responses to be at 5%, we are almost there.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that she noticed the Rockwood Community Center posted that the Downriver Senior Olympics will be hosted by the City of Southgate this year August 12th – 16th. The registration forms are available at the Rockwood Community Center and at City Hall.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that the Rockwood Beautiful Committee will be having a meeting on June 11, 2024, at 6 PM in the Community Room at City Hall

ADJOURNMENT

M-126-24 Motion by Wasner/Bennett to adjourn this evening's Council Meeting at 8:19 PM

Ayes are unanimous.

Motion Carried

City Clerk, Colleen E. Oney

Mayor, Troy A. Cox