

Minutes for March 9, 2020 Work Session, gavelled into session at 8:30 a.m.

Councilwoman Williams stated that it never hurts to pledge the flag and council agreed.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief Harris informed council of two items on the Agenda are the resignation of Officer Fontaine who has taken a full-time position with his home town White Oak and the second would be to hire a new full time officer from the list.

Councilman Polonoli asked Chief Harris how he is staffed for part-time Officers and Chief Harris stated that he is looking to hire two to three part-time officers to help through the summer with vacation time.

Mayor Garry stated a resident of 784 Nevin Street sent pictures of her street which needs to be repaired.

Councilman Kulak stated they will need to check with Mark Gadd to see which streets are on this year's list and if it can't be put on this year's list it have to wait until next year.

From Mackin Engineer stated that the bids open Wednesday for this year's contract. The streets are Decker from Mounds to Fifth Avenue, Ellwood from Davis to Dakota, and Stockdale Avenue.

Mayor Garry stated there is a resident wanting the City to enact a dog ordinance. Do we need one?

Councilwoman Williams stated we do not have a dog ordinance and she would not be in favor of enacting one.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated we would be involving state law. First any new ordinance would be prospective only not retroactive. Secondly, it could not conflict with any state laws and there is case law that even a City Ordinance cannot be more restrictive or more protective than what the state law provides. It has to be in concert with state law. He is not sure that the City could craft something that would be more beneficial than the state law. The City is not going to get a search warrant to enter someone's home for a summary offense.

Councilman Polonoli stated and Mayor Garry agreed that the City should leave the state dog law handle it.

Councilman Kulak review comments of the Employee Handbook he went through and made his comments.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated that he sent out a new draft after he received comments from Councilwoman Williams and the Mayor. It is a very comprehensive document.

Mayor stated that Covid-19 probably won't affect many of those in the room but it could and his concern is the business of the City getting tax returns and such in and suggest that the City get a box with an opening on the top to drop off payments and if possible video commuting for the workers. Don't want the employees to get sick.

Councilman Kulak stated the City should be prepared and would want to hear what other communities are doing.

Councilman Williams stated that we posted the county recommendations on the City website.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated he has not heard what other communities are doing. It seems that because the mortality rate is more severe than the flu and the transmissible aspects are not known that is where the concern is coming from. The Mayor's point on how we should prepare. If two of the office personnel do fall ill it is going to put a crimp in city operations and we should start thinking about if they employees could work remotely from home.

Mayor Garry stated he received a call and wants to know if the City would like to sponsor a Friday night car cruise.

Councilwoman Williams states it's a good idea for the community but it depends on what it entails including picking up the insurance for the event.

Chad Desantis questioned how much insurance we need to have for people to drive there plated, licensed and insured vehicles up and down the streets.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated that this is an event that involves public use of City property and we need to be properly insured. There are provision in general commercial liability policy especially ones that involve government entities that if you are sponsoring a specific event on your property you make sure that the event is covered and may need specific riders for that.

Councilman Kulak stated that he is receptive to that but would need to check on the insurance for that and he would like more details of the event to give to the insurance provider to determine the costs.

Mayor Garry asked if there is a need for a temporary employee to be a floater between the tax office and any other need to get done. There were two employees in the tax office and now there is one and the tax office is coming into its busy season.

Councilwoman Williams and Councilman Kulak and Polonoli do not feel there is a need at this time for an additional employee.

Mayor Gary asked if they needed to go into executive session to discuss the employee handbook.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated that in general everyone has had a chance to review and he has received comments from council. This is a work in progress and it is a 43 page document that is very comprehensive and something the City has never done before and wants to make sure we get it right and is open to all comments. The City hasn't had one all these years and we need one but we want to make sure it's right.

Councilman Kulak the City got an asbestos report from AET for the Ninth Street house demolition. The majority of the asbestos is in the siding. The cost of removal is \$11,200.00 which eats primarily the budget for demolition. He is continuing to pursue other quotes.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated that the City may need to go through the condemnation process on the property because he has reached out multiple times to the property owners since the deed issue back in May they have not been in compliance with his requests. The process would take six months or so.

Councilwoman Williams stated for general information the situation with rats in Donora. We live along the river and we all have rats. The problem is we have people who do not maintain their property and encourage the rodent population. Residents should clean up their trash to stop the rodents.

Councilman Polonoli stated that we have an issue with people feeding the ducks and geese at the Aquatorium. The feeding of the ducks and geese attract the rats. He is having signs made do not feed the ducks and geese.

He is also working with a couple individuals who are taking on a project at the Hillcrest Playground to do some updates there. Spoke to Rob Phillips regarding the Mounds and the money will not be available for a while. However, Mark is beginning to form the one dugout and then pour concrete. The ball team is going to lay the block and put the roof on.

Finally in regards to the letter from the Solicitor regarding grease traps in the sewer lines that we need to discuss.

Solicitor Pappasergi stated he received a phone call from the solicitor for the sewage authority stating they are having an issue with grease build-up of grease and oils at the sewage plant. The city does not have a FOG Ordinance on the books (fats, oils and grease). The City may have one in theory under the State Building and Property Maintenance Codes. A lot of those provisions apply only to new construction or renovation. He suggests that council authorize him to draft a FOG Ordinance for the City.

Councilman Polonoli spoke to Rob Phillips the \$44,300.00 of CDBG funds that were earmarked for sewers if the City would be keeping it under sewers or reallocating.

Councilman Kulak stated the City needs to look to see if the City is falling short on other projects or even put into recreation.

Councilman Polonoli stated there are multiple projects that the money could be used for such as water and electric lines at Chess Park, fire department truck bay doors, man-hole covers on Fourth Street need to be replaced, etc.

Councilman Kulak stated need to get some numbers on Chess Park and Fourth Street and we will take a look at the projects and fix what we can.

Councilwoman Williams stated that the City has received an engineer's report for the wall issue at the 100 block of Main Street and has asked the Solicitor to draft a letter to the owner.

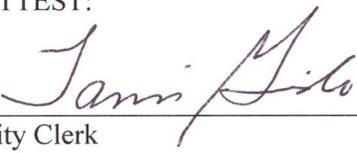
Solicitor Pappasergi stated that letter will be going out today. He also stated that the City's Zoning Ordinance regarding political signs are supposed to not go up until 30 days prior to an election and must come down seven days after an election. That ordinance is not valid and the City can't enforce that ordinance. The City is not to cite anyone for political signs at this point and time. It cannot go onto City property. That doesn't change. What is unenforceable is the timing and duration permission. The City will need to eventually repeal that section of the Zoning Ordinance and put in a new provision.

Mayor Garry stated they would be going into executive session and would come back in to adjourn.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk