

The regular meeting of the Clare City Commission was called to order by Mayor Pat Humphrey in the Commission Chambers, at 6:00 p.m., who led the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Commissioners Bill Horwood, Pat Humphrey, John Koch, Tom Koch and Jean McConnell. Absent: None. Also present were Ken Hibl, City Manager; Steve Kingsbury, Treasurer and Finance Director; John Holland, Waste Water Treatment Supervisor; Dwayne Miedzianowski, Chief of Police; and Diane Schmidt, City Clerk.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Commissioner Jean McConnell second by Commissioner John Koch to approve the items listed with an asterisk (*) (Minutes, Agenda, Communications, Approval of Bills, Board and Committee Appointment) that are considered to be routine by the City Commission with exception to the Board and Committee appointment Commissioner John Koch requested be removed from the consent agenda for further discussion. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bill Horwood, Pat Humphrey, John Koch, Tom Koch, and Jean McConnell. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Approved.*

3. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Consent Agenda Approval.

4. *APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Consent Agenda Approved as Amended.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: - David Rowe requested the spelling of his last name be corrected on the agenda.

6. OLD BUSINESS/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. "FILE OF LIFE" – MR. DAVID ROWE

Motion by Commissioner Jean McConnell second by Commissioner Bill Horwood to approve the purchase of the "File of Life", a magnetic data storage pocket that holds emergency life-saving information, for distribution to City residents. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bill Horwood, Pat Humphrey, Tom Koch, John Koch, and Jean McConnell. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Approved.*

Motion by Commissioner Jean McConnell second by Commissioner John Koch to amend the original motion for the purchase of the "File of Life", to include a set expenditure of \$1,000.00. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bill Horwood, Pat Humphrey, Tom Koch, John Koch, and Jean McConnell. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Approved.*

B. MDOT RESOLUTION – TRAFFIC SIGNAL MODERNIZATION

Motion by Commissioner John Koch second by Commissioner Bill Horwood to enter into an agreement with MDOT to share in the annual maintenance costs of two new traffic signals located at McEwan & Schoolcrest and McEwan & Fourth, by adoption of Resolution 2010-010. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bill Horwood, Pat Humphrey, Tom Koch, John Koch, and Jean McConnell. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Approved.*

C. BOARD & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT (CLARE MAIN STREET BOARD – MR. ROGER WILLIAMS)

After discussing a motion made at a previous meeting to hold in abeyance board and committee appointments, a motion was made by Commissioner Jean McConnell second by Commissioner John Koch to set aside this board and committee appointment. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bill Horwood, Pat Humphrey, John Koch, and Jean McConnell. Nays: Tom Koch. Absent: None. *Motion Approved.*

8. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's report was received.

9. *DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Consent Agenda Approval.

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Depot Steering Committee Meeting. Due to my unanticipated need to travel out of state two weeks ago, our first depot steering committee meeting scheduled for Friday, January 29th was cancelled; the meeting is rescheduled for Wednesday, February 17th.

February Planning Commission Meeting. The February meeting was cancelled due to lack of significant business for the agenda.

MDOT Projects. We have been informed by MDOT officials of three projects that have potential impact to/for Clare:

- M115 Project. This \$7.1M project is scheduled to commence immediately following the Memorial Day Weekend with an anticipated completion date of mid-September. The project includes construction of a center turning lane in Clare from the portion of M115 from Pioneer Parkway to Grant Road; removal and replacement of existing asphalt for the length of the project (Clare to US-10, excluding portions of the roadway in Farwell); and construction of five-foot roadway shoulders. The roadway will be "flagged" during construction with established criteria for no more than ten-minute delays; no detours are planned.

- Extension of Pere-Marquette Rail Trail (PMRT). The Mt. Pleasant TSC has received an additional \$1M in stimulus funding to extend the paved portion of the PMRT from west of Farwell to Lake Station. Following completion of this paved extension, the only remaining unpaved sections of the PMRT between Midland and Reed City will be approximately 1.5 miles from Clare to the Moose Lodge and approximately 15 miles from Lake Station to Ewart (the portion of the trail between Ewart and Reed City is already paved).

- McEwan Street Repave Project. We were previously informed that MDOT intended to repave that portion of McEwan Street from the BR-127/10 (Doherty Hotel) intersection south to the round-about in 2010. The funding for this planned project has been "pulled" in Lansing, thus the project is on hold; if funds become available, MDOT intends to proceed with the project. The traffic signal upgrade and the McEwan RR Crossing projects in Clare currently remain on the scheduled MDOT project list for 2010.

Rental Rehabilitation Grant. The City applied for and received a \$250K Rental Rehabilitation Grant from MSHDA two years ago. This grant was to be used by property owners in the downtown district to rehabilitate second story apartments with the potential for property owners to receive up to \$35K in grant funds per apartment, thereby recreating a residence base in our downtown. Despite our best efforts and significant initial interest from downtown property owners, we have yet to commence our first project. The grant funds had a "sunset" of one year to initiate construction, but at our request, MSHDA provided us a one-year extension last year; that year has come and gone, and we still haven't started a project – thus MSHDA informed us they were withdrawing the grant funds. We believe we now have a firm commitment from a downtown property owner that will take advantage of this grant opportunity, so we pleaded with MSHDA to give us another reprieve; they have done so on the condition that we must have a project commenced this summer and completed by year-end. I intend to write a personal letter to all the downtown property owners that have potential eligibility to use these grant funds in another attempt to encourage them to take advantage of the grant program. If MSHDA withdraws the grant funds from us due to our failure to use the funds, it is highly unlikely they will favorably consider any future grant requests from us under this program.

Airport Rental Hangars. The airport hangar project has been completed, and we have accepted the rental hangar building from the contractor. We will receive \$5K (\$100 per day for 50 days) in damages from the contractor for failure to complete the project within the allotted time. Dick has already rented three of the hangars with the strong potential for at least one additional renter.

Traffic & Safety Committee Meeting. The City's Traffic & Safety Committee will meet on February 23rd to review, discuss, consider, and formulate a recommendation regarding the use of ORVs on City streets. DNR and MDOT officials have been invited to attend the meeting.

CDBG ICE Notice of Intent. The Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) has issued notice of a requirement for eligible communities (we were not eligible in previous years but have just recently attained eligibility due to our recent ((Jan 1st)) inclusion on the state's Low/Moderate Income community list) to submit Notices of Intent (NOI) regarding any desired grant-funded projects not later than February 22nd. The City intends to submit an NOI for a Fourth Street Streetscape Project, but I am also in preliminary discussions with MEDC officials to determine whether we can utilize this grant program to fund all or a portion of moving the Clare Depot to the proposed Fourth Street location. Note: we may need to add a resolution of support for our grant application to the February 15th agenda as a result of my discussions with MEDC; if so, I will ask the City Commission to amend the agenda accordingly.

IDC Presentation. The Clare Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) has requested an opportunity to make a presentation to the Clare City Commission relating to proposed industrial expansion in the City; we have scheduled this request as an agenda item for March 1st.

Annual Report for the Hatton Township Landfill. John Holland, our WWT Superintendent, has completed the required annual report for the Hatton Township Landfill.

Mr. Holland was present to provide the Commission an overview/an executive summary of the report.

11. *COMMUNICATIONS:

Consent Agenda Approval.

MERS Employer Bulletin. The latest edition is provided for the City Commission's information.

Notice of Public Hearing. The City received a notice of hearing of the Michigan Public Service Commission pertaining to a request of Consumer's Energy to raise its rates.

Community Service. Our City Attorney forwarded correspondence to a community member regarding agreed-upon community service in lieu of court-ordered penalty.

Attorney Correspondence. The City received the two enclosed items of correspondence from our bonding attorney related to services and fees for the pending sanitary sewer project and the installment purchase of the new fire department tender.

MEMAC Correspondence. We received a letter confirming our continued participation in this state program.

MDOT Correspondence. We received correspondence from MDOT notifying us that they have formally programmed funding for the airport rental hangars; this notice "officially" makes us eligible for reimbursement of our costs of the hangar project once the state receives federal funding, which we anticipate will occur within the next two months.

US Dept of Commerce Correspondence. The City received correspondence regarding participation in the New Construction Program to support the 2010 census.

Township Correspondence. The City received notice from Grant Township regarding a scheduled FEMA hearing. I intend to attend this hearing.

MMDC Bullets. The most recent bullets are attached for the Commission's information.

Clare County Road Commission Correspondence. The Clare County Road Commission provided a Quick Guide to Road & Road Funding in Michigan for all elected and appointed officials of Clare County.

12. *APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Consent Agenda Approval.

13. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None

14. COMMISSION DISCUSSION TOPIC: Commissioner Tom Koch requested the next meeting's agenda include reappointment of Kelly Koch and Rose Michels to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Commissioner Jean McConnell second by Commissioner John Koch to adjourn. Ayes: All. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Approved.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

Pat Humphrey, Mayor

Diane Schmidt, City Clerk