

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF EAST TAWAS CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 5, 2009

Meeting called to order by Mayor Bruce Bolen at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the East Tawas City Hall.

Present: Bruce Bolen, Lisa Bolen, Joe Cano, Tim Freel, Steve Klenow, Duane Look and Craig McMurray.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered.

Klenow moved, Freel seconded, CARRIED, to approve the agenda as presented.

There were no public comments on agenda item.

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

McMurray moved, Look seconded, CARRIED, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2008 regular meeting as presented.

The following correspondence was noted: a letter from the Tax Increment Finance Authority praising the Department of Public Works for the amazing job they do keeping city streets clear of snow.

Council Committee Reports: Both the Charter Amendment Committee and the Employee Bonus Policy Committee reported that they will be meeting on January 14, 2009.

Staff Report: City Manager Leslie reported that snow removal costs were significant for the month of December. The snow blower has broken down several times and we may need to look at some new snow removal equipment. City Manager Leslie commented on the power outage that occurred at Tawas Lake and the great work by Consumer's Energy to get power restored. City Manager Leslie reported that he and Park Manager Frank visited Carrollton Schools to hear the schools sound system in action. Both were very impressed by the sound system and felt the system as quoted by Simoni would work great in our community center. He distributed the latest price quote and this item will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Fire Chief Deckett reported that the Department has been notified that it will be receiving a \$150,000 grant for a driving simulator that will be used within a five-county area. The grant requires a 20% match and Chief Deckett will be soliciting funds from the departments within the five-county area. He and City Manager Leslie explained the benefits of having the use of a driving simulator for training purposes. Chief Deckett will continue to research driving simulators before he makes a decision on what equipment will be ordered. He has until December 2009 to make the purchase.

Cano moved, Klenow seconded, CARRIED, to receive the minutes of the December 16, 2008

meeting of the Tax Increment Finance Authority.

Mayor Bolen appointed Councilmen Look and McMurray to a committee to review the Lincoln Street and Newman Street intersection and make a recommendation to the Council.

Clerk/Treasurer Baker conducted the second reading of the proposed ordinance to amend Ordinance #304 to add the current Standards of Design as adopted by the City Council to the site plan review procedures of the East Tawas Zoning Ordinance and require developments to adhere to the current Standards of Design. Look moved, McMurray seconded, CARRIED, to adopt an ordinance to amend Section 312 and Section 1101-E of Ordinance No. 304 with the Ordinance to be known as Ordinance No. 319 with an effective date of January 26, 2009. Yes: B. Bolen, L. Bolen, Cano, Freel, Klenow, Look, and McMurray.

Additional information was presented concerning the Maple Tree Apartments request for a PILOT program. Research by City staff indicates that the percentage of annual rents used to determine the payment in lieu of taxes range from a high of 15% to a low of 4% with the majority of programs in excess of 7%. Staff also discovered that the City currently has an ordinance, adopted in 1984, that does not allow a PILOT program although this ordinance can be repealed by the adoption of a new ordinance. The need for affordable housing was discussed. Also discussed were the provisions of the Public Act that allows the PILOT program. Based on the requirements of the Public Act, it does not appear that the owners of Maple Tree Apartments would qualify for the tax exemption for 2009 because the required paperwork was not filed in the time frame specified in the Act. This issue will be investigated further. Assessor Sells will be asked to provide a more exact estimation of the 2009 taxable value for the property in order for the Council to have better information before making a decision on the request. This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Becky Rivard from Wilcox was present to update the Council on the plans for improvements to the City's wastewater collection system. She has completed the Preliminary Engineering Report for the Wastewater System and a map detailing the age of the system and a map detailing six phases of projects for improving the system were reviewed. In order to get USDA funding the City would also need an Environmental Study. This study will take approximately two months to complete. The Council will need to decide if the City is going to move forward with a project and, if so, what would be the size of the project. Before a decision is made, all Council members will be provided with a copy of the Preliminary Engineering Report and maps for review

Bills and transfers having been properly presented, Look moved, McMurray seconded, CARRIED, that these transactions be approved. Yes: Cano, Freel, Klenow, Look, and McMurray. Abstain: B. Bolen and L. Bolen.

The following bids for the demolition of the Creed house on Lakewood Drive were received: Katterman Trucking \$5,040.73, Sand Lake Excavating \$7,825.00 and Schaaf & Associates \$8,975. Freel moved, Klenow seconded, CARRIED, to receive the bids and refer them to City Manager Leslie for review and recommendation.

City Manager Leslie presented a request for a pay increase for the members of the Fire Department.

The increase would be \$5 per run or meeting for all members of the department. Fire Chief Deckett provided information about the amount of hours the firefighters train and do jobs around the fire hall for which they are not paid. He indicated that the cost for hiring someone to do the work voluntarily performed by the firefighters would exceed the potential cost of the pay increase. Klenow moved, Cano seconded, CARRIED, to approve the pay increase for firefighters of \$5 per run or meeting as recommended by the Fire Board retroactive to October 1, 2008. Yes: B. Bolen, L. Bolen, Cano, Klenow, and McMurray. No: Freel and Look.

Freel moved, L. Bolen seconded, CARRIED, to approve the transfer of \$50,000 from the Water Fund to the Water Replacement Fund.

Freel moved, McMurray seconded, CARRIED, to notify Tawas Area Schools that the City is willing to collect the 2009 school taxes during the summer tax collection subject to the signing of an agreement with Tawas Area Schools.

Klenow moved, Cano seconded, CARRIED, to approve a request from the Knights of Columbus for a liquor license for February 5, 2009.

Freel moved, Klenow seconded, CARRIED, to adopt the 2009 meeting date schedule as proposed with the correction of the date for the second meeting in March from March 15th to March 16th.

Cano moved, McMurray seconded, CARRIED, to appoint John O'Neil as the Planning Commission member on the Zoning Board of Appeals with his term to be concurrent with his Planning Commission appointment.

Freel moved, Klenow seconded, CARRIED, to adopt a Michigan Department of Transportation Resolution authorizing the City Manager, TIFA Director, DPW Superintendent and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer to apply to the Michigan Department of Transportation for the necessary permits to work within state trunkline right of way on behalf of the City.

There will be a Council goal work session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2009.

City Manager Leslie reported that the Perchville Committee requested that the Saturday night hours for the Perchville tent be extended to 8:00 p.m. but that the Tawas Police Authority is recommending that the closing time on Saturday remain at 7:00 p.m. It was the consensus of the Council members to keep the hours the same as already approved.

The draft of the Personnel Manual with related appendices will be distributed as soon as the corrections are made. Council members will be asked to review the document for discussion at the January 20, 2009 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

Blinda A. Baker
Clerk/Treasurer