

CORRECTION IN BOLD

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF EAST TAWAS CITY COUNCIL MARCH 23, 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: B. Bolen, Cano, Freel, Look and McMurray.

Absent: L. Bolen and Klenow.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered.

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

There were no public comments on agenda items.

Public comments on non-agenda items: Murlene McKinnon, President of the Friends of the East Tawas Library, was present and provided information on the summer reading program "Booked for Lunch." She reported that the Friends have reached the \$50,000 mark in their fund-raising efforts for a new library. She distributed information on a fund-raising event called "Tawas Uncork'd and Untap'd" that is being planned for August 1, 2009. This will be a wine and beer festival that is expected to draw 1,300 to 1,600 participants and will be held in Harbor Park. She provided a copy of the letter that will be sent to prospective sponsors for the event. She explained advertising efforts including Detroit's Hour Magazine, AAA Magazine, Tri-Cities Magazine, and Huron Shores. Based on other events of this sort, the projected income from this event is expected to be between \$6,000 and \$30,000.

McMurray moved, Look seconded, CARRIED, to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2009 regular meeting as presented.

The following correspondence was noted: a letter of resignation from Ed Whitney and a letter from Ron Starland.

There were no Council Committee Reports.

Staff Report: Fire Chief Deckett reported that four of the firefighters will be attending training on air pack maintenance so they can continue to perform the required maintenance and save the City a substantial amount of money. Training is also being held on ~~excavation~~ **extrication** from farm equipment. Chief Deckett also reported that the County fire departments are participating in statewide simulated pandemic scenario training that began at 5:10 p.m. today. The simulated scenario required two shifts of volunteers. Within minutes they were able to get 43 volunteers for the first shift and 41 volunteers for the second shift.

Freel moved, Cano seconded, CARRIED, to receive the minutes of the February meeting of the Housing Commission, the February report from the Fire Department, the minutes of the March meeting of the Tawas Utilities Authority, Planning Commission, Park Board, and the March 10th regular meeting and March 13th special meeting of the Tax Increment Finance Authority.

City Manager Leslie explained the two proposals that were reviewed by the Waterfront Building Committee for the use of the building and reported that the Committee is recommending that the proposal from Klenow's Market to lease the building for a five-month period for \$1,500 be approved. He explained that the other proposal was from Tawas Bay Center for the Arts and included a request that its contribution to the community be considered as the lease payment. City Manager Leslie mentioned that the Committee also discussed Councilman Cano's idea about remodeling the building into rental units but the Committee felt that more information would be needed before this idea could be seriously considered. Councilman McMurray indicated that the proposal from Tawas Bay Center for the Arts was a good proposal but that the Committee members felt that the City would probably need to allow proposals from other not-for-profit groups if it was going to allow the building to be used with no lease payment. Councilman Freel noted that the proposal from Klenow's Market asked to negotiate for use of the building in 2010 and that this should be looked at before the end of the year. McMurray moved, Freel seconded, CARRIED, to accept the proposal from Klenow's Market to pay a lease payment of \$1,500 for use of the waterfront building owned by the City from May 1, 2009 to September 30, 2009.

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

Kit and Farah Eagal were present to provide information in regard to the Freedom Festival being planned for Harbor Park and the Day Use Area from July 4th to July 10th. The festival will provide many community activities centering around the Arts and the freedom theme. Local restaurants will provide a food court. They provided the preliminary program with day by day planned activities. Festival hours are noon-8:00 p.m. on Saturday, noon- 7:00 p.m. on Sunday and 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m Monday-Friday. They are still in the planning stage and are open to suggestions for other activities. They also reported that they are already working on advertising which will include radio advertising on WKJC and NCR, Northeastern Michigan on-line, and Pure Michigan. Farah indicated that she would like the Council to consider contributing \$1,000 toward the festival. Farah also indicated that they would like to have permission to display the POW flag for the entire week and would like to have a special activity for Boy Scout Troop 911. Mayor Bolen thanked Kit and Farah Eagal for their presentation and for submitting a proposal for the use of the waterfront building and asked that the Council and Park Board be kept informed about the Freedom Festival activities.

Freel moved, McMurray seconded, CARRIED, to receive and accept a letter of resignation from Ed Whitney from the Board of Review with thanks.

City Manager Leslie reported that Ron Starland is again asking to purchase property adjacent to his building at 110 South Alice Street. It was the consensus of the Council to offer a license to use the property as has been offered in the past. If Mr. Starland agrees to the license he could be authorized to put up a temporary storage building. Freel moved, McMurray seconded, CARRIED, to authorize City Manager Leslie to compare the current request from Ron Starland to purchase property adjacent to his property at 110 South Alice Street to past requests from Ron Starland and to draft a new response to Mr. Starland detailing the City's offer to give him a license to use City property.

Freel moved, Look seconded, CARRIED, to adopt a resolution authorizing Clerk/Treasurer Baker, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Klinger and City Manager Leslie to sign Certificates of Deposit on behalf of the City. Yes: B. Bolen, Cano, Freel, Klenow, and McMurray.

Mayor Bolen relinquished the chair to Mayor Pro Tem Look.

City Manager Leslie explained that outside additional funding will not be available for the State Street/Bridge Street project. The bid for the project was \$148,000 which is approximately \$36,000 more than has been budgeted for the project. The City will be receiving an \$80,000 grant which requires a 20% match from the City. The bid of \$148,000 does not include engineering fees of approximately \$9,000 but does include about \$9,000 in storm sewer work that is now not needed due to storm sewer changes that were made through the West Westover Street project. This still leaves approximately \$36,000 to complete the project which would need to come from the General Fund as additional funds are not available in the Major Street Fund. Discussion was held concerning the need to make sure that the work completed with this project would not need to be redone if the City receives money to complete the redesign of the Bridge Street/Washington Street/River Street intersection. Freel moved, McMurray seconded, CARRIED, to pledge up to \$36,500 from the General Fund to complete the Bridge Street/State Street project as bid with the exception of the elimination of the storm drainage work. Yes: Cano, Freel, Look, and McMurray. Abstain: B. Bolen.

Mayor Bolen reassumed the chair.

City Manager Leslie recommended that the Council adopt a Safety Improvements Resolution requesting funds for improvements to the Bridge Street/State Street intersection and the Bridge Street/Washington Street/ River Street intersection. Freel moved, Look seconded, CARRIED, to adopt a safety improvements resolution requesting Local Safety Funds for safety improvements on the Bridge Street/State Street and Bridge Street/Washington Street/River Street intersections in the City of East Tawas and agreeing to provide the required local match of the construction cost. Yes: B. Bolen, Cano, Freel, Look, and McMurray.

Mayor Bolen commented that the City website needs to be updated. He also requested that a Council resolution in regard to the need for improvements to U.S. 23 be drafted and presented to the Council at the next meeting. Mayor Bolen also suggested that the underground utilities in the Bridge Street/Washington Street/River Street intersection area be reviewed in preparation for possible improvements to the intersection in light of the work that will be done on Bridge Street as part of the State Street/Bridge Street project. Mayor Bolen asked if the easement for Mr. and Mrs. Squires at 211 West State Street had been signed. The answer was no and Mayor Bolen requested that the Squires Easement be added to the Status Report until it is resolved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Blinda A. Baker
Clerk/Treasurer