

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF EAST TAWAS CITY COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 16, 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, Klenow, Look and McMurray.
Absent: L. Bolen.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered.

The Oath of Office was taken by Mayor Bruce Bolen and Councilmen Look, Klenow, and McMurray.

Election of Mayor Pro Tem was added to the agenda as item f. under New Business. Klenow moved, McMurray seconded, CARRIED, to approve the agenda as amended.

There were no public comments on agenda items.

Public comments on non-agenda items: Debbie Swales, leader of Cub Scout Troop # 3911, was at the meeting to request permission for the troop to sing Christmas carols on December 11th riding on two hay wagons on Newman Street from the Post Office to Bay Street beginning at 6:00 p.m. She asked if Police officers could escort the troop. Police Chief Ferguson was at the meeting and indicated that he did not feel they would have to close Newman Street for this event. The wagons could travel down one lane of Newman Street to Bay Street and return on the other lane to the Post Office. It was the consensus of the Council to approve the request and Debbie was asked to work out the details with Chief Ferguson.

Freel moved, Klenow seconded, CARRIED, to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2009 regular meeting as presented.

The following correspondence was noted: a letter from Judy Howe at the Iosco County Historical Museum, a letter from Wilcox, a letter from Charter Communication and an invitation from the Iosco County Medical Care Facility to attend their dedication on December 6th.

There were no Council Committee Reports.

Staff Report: City Manager Leslie reported that the new snow plow truck has arrived and can be inspected in the City Hall parking lot after the meeting. He also noted that a representative from Consumers Energy will be at next meeting to answer any questions about Consumers Energy plans to trim trees in the area. Fire Chief Deckett noted that Bob Marx and several of the Department's Medical First Responders conducted a CPR training class at the Eagles Club. Police Chief Ferguson indicated that during October the Department handled 37 criminal complaints and ten non-criminal complaints as well as approximately 20 minor issues that did not result in complaints. Last October there were 25 criminal complaints. He noted that fifteen businesses have been broken into this year compared to only four last year. He explained the LIEN system that is an on-line tool for the police.

They can access booking photos to set up on-line lineups in an attempt to identify perpetrators of crimes. He reported that at the last Tawas Police Authority meeting he presented Officer John Walsh with a Life Saving Commendation award from a June 27, 2009 medical call. He also noted that the Police helped with the Halloween parade and that Halloween night went well.

Klenow moved, Cano seconded, CARRIED, to receive the October report from the Fire Department, the minutes of the October meetings of the Housing Commission and Planning Commission, the October 30, 2009 minutes of the Urban Development Action Grant Reuse Board and the minutes of the November meetings of the Housing Commission, Tawas Utilities Authority, Planning Commission, Tax Increment Finance Authority, and Park Board.

City Manager Leslie reported that the East Tawas Business Association had a full agenda at its November meeting and did not have time to discuss the Tawas Triathlon. The plans for 2010 were distributed and the topic will be on the Business Association meeting agenda for December. City Manager Leslie will talk with organizers from 3-Disciplines to discuss the need to close all of Main Street between Westover Street and Bay Street.

On behalf of the Compensation Policy Committee, Councilman Cano reported that the Committee is recommending that no pay or salary increases or additional benefits be given to employees this fiscal year due to the decrease in State Shared Revenue. The Committee further recommended that no change be made at this time to the payment for opting out of the health insurance coverage offered by the City and to proceed with changes to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage as recommended by Tawas Bay Agency. Cano moved, Freel seconded, CARRIED, to follow the recommendation of the Compensation Policy Committee and give no pay or salary increases or additional benefits this year and to proceed with the changes to the Blue Cross/Blue Shield coverage and establishment of a Health Reimbursement Arrangement. Yes: B. Bolen, Cano, Freel, Klenow, Look, and McMurray.

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

Freel moved, Cano seconded, CARRIED, to rescind the motion approving the appointment of Steve Klenow to the Housing Commission because the City Charter prohibits a Council member from being a voting member of any City board or commission.

Freel moved, Cano seconded, CARRIED, to extend the time limit for making an appointment to the Housing Commission to the December 7th meeting.

It was the consensus of the members to approve the request from the Iosco County Historical Museum to conduct carriage rides on a specific route through the City as part of the Museum's Old Fashion Christmas on Friday, November 27th and Saturday, November 28th.

It was the consensus of the members to continue the recycling program for City residents and taxpayers at the DPW garage on the third Saturday of each month with the hours to be determined based on use. Notice of the hours the program will run will be put on the City website and on a sign on the fence at the DPW garage. New cards will be printed with an expiration date of December 31, 2010 and the new cards will be distributed to current card holders on recycling day. Cards will also continue to be available at City Hall.

Mayor Bolen requested that Council members notify him prior to the December 7th meeting for which boards, commissions, and authorities they would be willing to be the Council Representative. These appointments will be made at the December 7th meeting.

Klenow moved, McMurray seconded, CARRIED, to re-elect Duane Look as Mayor Pro Tem.

Mayor Bolen indicated that he or Councilwoman Bolen would be e-mailing an electronic copy of City Manager Leslie's evaluation form this week. He requested that the forms be completed in a timely manner so they could be collected and compiled before the December 7th meeting.

Mayor Bolen requested that Commercial Property Values be added to the Status Report. His concerns involved the Tax Increment Finance Authority's ability to make bond payments for the Streetscape project if commercial property values decline significantly.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Blinda A. Baker
Clerk/Treasurer