

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF EAST TAWAS CITY COUNCIL
DECEMBER 21, 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, L.Bolen, Cano, Freel, Klenow, Look and McMurray.

The Pledge of Allegiance was offered.

McMurray moved, Look seconded, CARRIED, to approve the agenda as presented.

There were no public comments on agenda items.

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

Klenow moved, Freel seconded, CARRIED, to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2009 regular meeting as presented.

The following correspondence was noted: a thank you letter from the East Tawas Business Association to Mayor Bolen for participating in the Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

There were no Council Committee reports.

Staff Report: City Manager Leslie reported that there were water main breaks in both the 4- inch line and the 12-inch line at the Sawyer Street and West Westover Street intersections over the weekend. He also reported that he will be meeting with Adrin Wagner from the United States Department of Agriculture on January 7th concerning possible grant opportunities for the City.

Police Chief Ferguson reported that several vehicles in the Washington Street - Wadsworth Street area had been illegally entered with items stolen. The Oscoda Township Police Department has recovered some of the stolen items. The investigation is ongoing. He also reported that several suspects in the theft of tires from Muffler Man have been identified and it appears there are connections to thefts in several other communities. Some property has been recovered and the investigation is ongoing.

Fire Chief Deckett noted that he has the new driving simulator available for inspection in the parking lot. The simulator was just received recently and training has not yet taken place. He also noted with regret that the Department is losing Lt. Joe Sheldon who is moving to Seattle and has been an asset to the Department and will be missed.

Klenow moved, Freel seconded, CARRIED, to receive the Fire Department report for November and the minutes of the December meetings of the Tax Increment Finance Authority, Park Board, Tawas Utilities Authority and Planning Commission.

Lt. Bob Lesneski from the East Tawas State Police post was present to talk about STING. He noted that last year there were six individuals on the STING team. Funding from local units of government in Iosco County was enough to pay for one officer. Unfortunately there was not an officer available in Iosco County. There is now a full-time officer for Iosco County with eleven members on the

STING team including a tribal officer from Arenac County. Because there was not a full-time officer for Iosco County, the funding from Iosco County last year was not used so the 2010 rates have been reduced by 75%. Lt. Lesneski also reported that the team now has state-funded vehicles available for its use. He also noted that the STING team is involved in other activities besides drug enforcement including surveillance and issuing warrants. There are six counties involved in the STING team. Council members thanked Lt. Lesneski for attending the meeting to make a report and answer questions.

On behalf of the Committee, Councilman Cano reported that they are recommending that the Council approve reimbursement to employees for the difference between the current deductible and coinsurance limits of the current BC/BS policy and the limits of the new 15/20 plan as part of a Health Reimbursement Arrangement. Committee members indicated that they were not recommending reimbursement for the difference in the cost of office visits, including chiropractic visits, between the current and the new BC/BS plans due to the uncertainty of the potential liability. Mayor Bolen asked if the Committee would consider adding the possible reimbursement of at least a portion of the office visits next December once actual cost to the City for the deductible and coinsurance is known. L. Bolen moved, Cano seconded, CARRIED, to approve a Health Reimbursement Arrangement whereby the City would reimburse the difference between the previous BC/BS plan deductible of \$250 per person, \$500 per family and the new BC/BS plan deductible of \$2,500 per person, \$5,000 per family and also reimburse the difference between the previous BC/BS plan coinsurance of \$1,000 per person, \$2,000 per family and the new BC/BS plan coinsurance of \$2,500 per person, \$5,000 per family and to state in the Arrangement that the City would consider at least a partial reimbursement of the additional expense for office visits, including chiropractic visits, depending on the actual expenses to the City for the deductible and coinsurance. Yes: B. Bolen, L. 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: Cano, Freel, Klenow, Look, and McMurray. Abstain: B. Bolen, L. Bolen.

Paul Wilson, owner of Barnacle Bills, 110 Newman Street, 121-A30-004-004-00, was present to ask permission to use three feet of the City sidewalk from May to September for outdoor seating. He presented drawings showing his plans for remodeling the front of his building to include space for outdoor seating. The outdoor seating would occupy 50% of the building front. An enclosure is necessary for him to be in compliance with Liquor Control Commission regulations. A railing would be attached to the awning and would extend to the sidewalk but would not be attached to the sidewalk. City Manager Leslie suggested that a committee be formed to meet with Mr. Wilson and come back with a recommendation. Councilman Freel indicated that it would also be good to see what other communities are doing with similar requests. Mayor Bolen appointed Councilwoman Bolen, and Councilmen McMurray and Cano to a committee to work with Mr. Wilson.

Klenow moved, Cano seconded, CARRIED, to approve a request from the Knights of Columbus for a liquor license at 821 Newman Street on February 4, 2010 for Perchville activities.

Treasurer Baker presented a request from Tawas Area Schools for the City to again collect 100% of the school taxes during the summer tax collection. The consensus of the Council was that the City would be willing to collect the 2010 school taxes during the summer tax collection at a charge of \$.11 per parcel subject to the signing of an agreement with Tawas Area Schools.

Klenow moved, Cano seconded, CARRIED, to make the following Board and Commission appointments: Bill Deckett and John O'Neil to three-year terms on the Zoning Board of Appeal, Dennis Frank to a three-year term on the Board of Review, Jerry Cotter, Kristina Millard and Craig Barton to three-year terms on the Planning Commission, Steve Fountain and Bob Elliott to four-year terms on the Tax Increment Finance Authority, Ron Leslie to a three-year term on the Building Authority, Albert Denhoff and Randy Look to three-year terms on the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority and Dave Thunberg to a five-year term on the Park Board.

The following bid for snow removal and trucking was opened: a bid from Bolen Trucking for a one-year, three-year and five-year contract. Freel moved, Klenow seconded, CARRIED, to refer the bid to City Manager Leslie for review and a recommendation at the next meeting.

City Manager Leslie noted that the Cemetery Fund is short of cash due to the extensive maintenance that was performed at the cemetery in late Summer and early Fall. He reported that interest from the Perpetual Care Fund is transferred to the Cemetery Fund for operation and maintenance at the cemetery. Revenue is also generated from the sale of cemetery lots and grave opening fees but not enough funds are being generated to fund improvements at the cemetery. He requested that the Council approve the transfer of \$5,000 from the General Fund to the Cemetery Fund. Freel moved, Klenow seconded, CARRIED, to approve the transfer of \$5,000 from the General Fund to the Cemetery Fund as recommended by City Manager Leslie. Yes: B. Bolen, L. Bolen, Cano, Freel, Klenow, Look, and McMurray.

Freel moved, Klenow seconded, CARRIED, to approve the 2010 meeting schedule as presented.

Mayor Bolen reported that the written evaluation of the City Manager has been completed but has not yet been discussed with City Manager Leslie.

L. Bolen moved, McMurray seconded, CARRIED, to approve participation in STING for 2010. Yes: B. Bolen, L. Bolen, Cano, Freel, Klenow, Look, and McMurray.

Council members were asked to review the draft Civil Infraction Ordinance and offer comments.

Councilman McMurray noted that he had participated in his first meeting as Council representative to the Park Board and was impressed with the smooth running of the meeting. He reported that the Park Board agreed to go along with the Council action of no raises for any employees this year.

Mayor Bolen noted that 85 people participated in recycling this month. He suggested that the hours be changed to 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. from November to March and 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. from April to October. Council members agreed to this change and it will be put on the City website and included in the next newsletter.

Mayor Bolen suggested that a budget work session be held in January with as much information concerning the 2010-11 budget as possible. He also requested that prices be obtained for a map holder and white board for the Council room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Blinda A. Baker
Clerk/Treasurer