

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF EAST TAWAS CITY COUNCIL
JUNE 21, 2010

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.

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

There were no public comments on agenda items.

Public comments on non-agenda items: Larry Boyce, Republican candidate for State Representative for the 103rd District, was at the meeting to introduce himself and let the Council know that he would strongly support the 103rd District if elected and would make his voice heard in Lansing. Mayor Bolen thanked Mr. Boyce for attending the meeting.

Kit Eagle from the Sunrise Art Center provided handouts concerning the Haunted Waters Festival that will be sponsored by Sunrise Art Center in late September and early October. He noted that he would like to be on the agenda for the next Council meeting to make a full presentation concerning this proposed event.

Freel moved, Klenow seconded, CARRIED, to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2010 regular meeting as presented.

The following correspondence was noted: a letter from Ronald Tyler, a letter from the Chamber of Commerce, a letter from the Tawas Area Lions Club, a letter from the Iosco County Historical Society, the Iosco-Arenac District Library annual report, the STING quarterly newsletter, and a letter from Melanie Hayes.

There were no Council Committee Reports.

Staff Report: City Manager Leslie reported that there have been some problems in the sewer line between Pine Street and the Historical Museum that were noted when the line was cleaned and televised. They found lots of grease in the line and there were five breaks that will be repaired. He reported that we may need to rethink how we develop the Capital Improvement Plan because it may not make sense to televise the lines and not make repairs as we go along. Discussion was held concerning the amount of grease that was found in the line and how we deal with this issue in the future. City Manager Leslie will get sample ordinances from other municipalities for dealing with grease in the sewer lines. City Manager Leslie also reported that the new City Web site is now live.

City Manager Leslie noted that the City park employees have been helping reduce overtime for the Department of Public Works by emptying the trash receptacles in the downtown. They usually do

this sometime after midnight and they have been experiencing problems on weekends since Memorial Day with smokers congregating outside of Barnacle Bills and Mulligans making it almost impossible to empty the trash receptacles in those areas.

City Manager Leslie reported that the Department of Natural Resources and Environment has indicated that it has no objection to the City's request to fill the 50' x 80' area adjacent to the sand pile. Park Manager Frank indicated that sand is also needed around the playground equipment at Bolen Park and Dewey Durant Park.

Park Manager Frank reported that the Chamber of Commerce Board is pursuing the hiring of a new Director and that the search committee will be reviewing applications on Wednesday to weed out applicants and begin the interview process. The Board hopes to have new director by August 1st. Park Manager Frank also reported that he would like to present Ila Bolen with a collage of park pictures in recognition of Jim Bolen's years on the Park Board. The Park Board would also like to place a bench at Harbor Park near the playground area in memory of Jim Bolen and they are exploring the option of also naming a facility after him. Council members had no objections to these plans so Park Manager Frank will proceed as indicated.

Park Manager Frank noted that 18 teams were here over the weekend for a youth softball tournament and he received many compliments about the community and the park facilities.

TIFA Director Pasakarnis reported that she is submitting the second level of paperwork to USDA for the grant for the Sawyer Street parking lot and plans are going well. She noted that an ad to sell the bricks will be in the Iosco County News-Herald for the next two weeks. Residents will need to pay for the bricks at City Hall and the pick up has been scheduled for July 9th. She also noted that TIFA would like a continuity of design for sidewalk ash receptacles and will be picking out a couple of samples and she will then be asking businesses that would like to put out the receptacles to pick from the samples as suggested by TIFA. She also noted that the final street sign will be installed on Wednesday and the new railroad box signs will be installed on Tuesday. Director Pasakarnis reported that there has been major movement in the efforts to attract cruise ships to the area. Negotiations are currently being held with a Great Lakes cruise ship for trips to East Tawas possibly as early as Summer 2011. She is making a plea to Coastal Zone Management for upgrades to the State Dock to better accommodate the cruise ship. She also noted that part of the Port of Call grant money is being used for a feasibility study of port to port cruises between Caseville and East Tawas. The plan would be to have a cruise during festivals such as the Caseville Cheeseburger festival and the East Tawas Blues by the Bay festival. Director Pasakarnis reported that she will be participating in the AuSable River County fan tour of Alcona, Alpena, Iosco and Oscoda counties. She noted that the Sunrise Coast ads continue to run in the Grand Rapids and Lansing markets and that we will soon be getting measurable results for hits to the Sunrise Coast Pure Michigan campaign. The ads will run until mid-October so having good Fall events will be extremely important. Director Pasakarnis noted that the issue of employees of downtown businesses parking in the customer spaces instead of the Employee parking lot has again surfaced. She distributed a copy of the parking policy for the City of Holland as an example of what can be done to further encourage employees to park in the proper location. She indicated that the parking issue was part of the Cool Cities Blueprint and studies have shown that employees taking up customer parking cost businesses \$30,000 to \$70,000 per spot.

Freel moved, Klenow seconded, CARRIED, to receive the Fire Department report for May and the minutes of the June meeting of the Tawas Utilities Authority, Tax Increment Finance Authority and Park Board.

TIFA Director Pasakarnis presented the breakdown of the costs for making the four remaining corners compliant with MDOT ADA guidelines. She explained the background as to why the Tax Increment Finance Authority prefers not to change the ramps. Mayor Bolen indicated that he has an issue with the potential liability that could fall on the City. Following much discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to have City Manager Leslie ask for an opinion from a qualified engineer as to whether or not there is an unreasonable risk of harm to pedestrians because these corner ramps are not five feet in width.

Freel moved, McMurray seconded, CARRIED, to deny the request for a waiver of the Outdoor display permit fee for Tawas Bay Art Council and Art Gallery at this time. The City may consider the adoption of a policy that could waive or reduce the fee for charitable nonprofit organizations in the future.

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

City Manager Leslie presented a request from Ron Tyler, 400 West Bay Street, to allow him to lay down individual pavers between the sidewalk and Locke Street in the City right-of-way. Following discussion, Freel moved, Klenow seconded, CARRIED, to grant Tyler and Tyler a license to install paver stones in the City right-of-way on Locke Street with the understanding that no rights are vested and that the City will assume no responsibility for damage to the pavers due to City operations.

McMurray moved, Cano seconded, CARRIED, to follow the recommendation of the Tax Increment Finance Authority and appoint Helen Pasakarnis as the City's liaison to the Michigan Port City Collaborative.

Discussion was held concerning two tax foreclosed parcels of property that are available to the City for purchase from the State of Michigan. City Manager Leslie noted that the City has no real use for either parcel of property. Based on City Manager Leslie's recommendation, it was the consensus of the Council not to submit an application to purchase either parcel of property.

Klenow moved, Look seconded, CARRIED, to approve a contribution of \$1,500 to the Chamber of Commerce fireworks display. Yes: B. Bolen, Cano, Freel, Klenow, Look, and McMurray.

Discussion was held concerning the timing of the City's Sesquicentennial celebration. Even though it was noted that the City's centennial was celebrated in 1962, available histories of the area indicate that East Tawas was founded in 1864 so it was the consensus of the Council to celebrate the Sesquicentennial in 2014.

Councilman Cano noted that he has seen large amounts of brush piled in front of some houses that the Department of Public Works was using a front end loader to remove. He asked if we charged for this. City Manager Leslie noted that at this time we do not charge for this but most people abide

by the regulations and but he would have the Department of Public Works monitor how often this is happening.

Councilman Freel noted that the TPA special meeting that was scheduled for today had been cancelled but will be rescheduled.

Mayor Bolen reported that the last recycling day had the biggest turnout so far.

Park Manager Frank noted that Henry Proper had an eye injury this past weekend and will be off work for about a month. The injury was not work related.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Blinda A. Baker
Clerk/Treasurer