

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Leeming, (virtually in the City of DeWitt, Clinton County, Michigan), called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Council Members Present: Matthew Cooper, (virtually in the City of DeWitt, Clinton County, Michigan) Denise Donohue, (virtually in the City of DeWitt, Clinton County, Michigan) Dave Hunsaker, (virtually in the City of DeWitt, Clinton County, Michigan) Trevor VanDyke, (virtually in the City of DeWitt, Michigan), Jennifer Whitman, (virtually in the City of DeWitt, Michigan), and Frank Waters, (virtually in the City of DeWitt, Michigan)

Excused: None

STAFF:

Daniel Coss, Lisa Grysen, Bruce Ferguson and Brian Goodenough, City Attorney

AUDIENCE:

None

AGENDA:

Motion by Donohue, seconded by VanDyke and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that **the agenda be approved as presented.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Waters, seconded by VanDyke, and carried by unanimous vote of the Council to **approve the minutes from the January 25, 2021 Regular City Council Meeting as presented.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CITY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

RESUMING ROAD CONSTRUCTION SPRING 2021

Provided the weather cooperates, the contractors for our road construction projects would like to resume activities in March. The schedule looks like they will focus on the shared use path and sidewalk installations first and then finish with the road resurfacing; South Bridge and Herbison Road.

WILDFLOWER MEADOWS CONDO DEVELOPMENT

The developer has submitted construction drawings to complete the last phase of Condo's in Wildflower Meadows. The last phase on Wineleaf Lane will be five buildings (10 condo units) and an extension of approximately 200-feet of roadway.

COMMUNITY ROOM CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS

The Community Room insulation is complete and the drywall is progressing along. The IT contractor is in, pulling all the cabling. Parish Corporation anticipates painting to begin in the next 10-14 days and flooring shortly after that. Completion is still on-schedule for mid-April.

GENERAL INFORMATION PACKET

The additional communications included in the General Information Packet are:

- DAESA January 26, 2021 Meeting Minutes
- General Ledger Distribution Report 1/22-2/04
- Comcast Communications
- Assessor Monthly Report

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consumers Energy Gas Utility Franchise Agreement:

The current 30-year franchise agreement with Consumer's Energy for existing and future gas customers expires in July 15, 2021.

Based on the discussion at the January 25 City Council meeting Consumers has agreed to some amendments of the Franchise Agreement. Those amendments are in bold print in Section 1, 2 and 10.

Some of the highlights of the agreement:

- 14-year agreement Section 1 – to coincide with Electric Franchise Agreement
- 60-day notice to revoke agreement by either the City or Consumers
- Require Consumers to relocate infrastructure, at their expense, if it interferes with City functions
- Included restoration in a “timely manner” Section 2
- Cleaned up the Ordinance language in Section 10

The City Attorney, Brian Goodenough, has reviewed the Franchise Agreement.

Motion by Hunsaker, seconded by Donohue and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to approve the introduction of a prepared resolution to approve Ordinance # 2021-01 amending Appendix A Article III, Franchise Agreement of the City of DeWitt Code of Ordinances.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Appointment of Advisory Committee for Priority Three and Four DAESA Responses:

Mayor Leeming is recommending Mayor Pro-Tem Hunsaker, Sheryl Landgraf, Chief Ferguson and Chief Spagnuolo as an advisory committee to gather information and make a recommendation to City Council on how to proceed with Priority Three and Four runs by the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority.

Motion by Hunsaker, seconded by Whitman and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to appoint Mayor Pro-Tem Hunsaker, Sheryl Landgraf, Chief Ferguson and Chief Spagnuolo as an advisory committee to gather information and make a recommendation to City Council on how to proceed with Priority Three and Four runs by the DeWitt Area Emergency Services Authority.**

2. Resolution Adopting Approval of Poverty Exemption Extensions under PA 253 of 2020:

On December 22, 2021, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed into law Public Act 253 of 2020, which amends MCL 211.7u. MCL 211.7u addresses the poverty exemptions available to eligible residential owners of occupied real property, due to poverty.

The purpose of this explanation is to request that the City Council adopt a resolution giving the Assessor's Office the ability to allow a person who has been approved for the poverty exemption due to meeting the eligibility guidelines to be able to keep their property exempt through 2021, 2022, and 2023. This will apply to those who have been approved in 2019 and 2020, as well as new applicants. Property owners must submit a form proving their continued eligibility to the assessor's office each year, but will not need to apply to the board of review each year.

In order to be consistent with the amended statute, local units must adopt a resolution by February 15, 2021 to carry the exemption forward (MCL211.7u(8)). The language as written requires a review of approved exemptions by the Office of the Assessor. The importance of this step is to ensure that only those properties that are truly eligible receive the exemption (did not transfer, still owner occupied, etc.)

These extensions only apply to those "...granted the poverty exemption who receives a fixed income solely from public assistance that is not subject to significant annual increases beyond the rate of inflation, such as federal Supplemental Security Income or Social Security disability or retirement benefits," under MCL 211.7u(8).

The assessor's office recommends that the City Council approve and sign the attached resolution regarding extending exemptions for the reason of poverty under PA 253 of 2020.

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Cooper, and carried by majority vote of the Council to approve and sign the prepared resolution regarding extending exemptions for the reason of poverty under PA 253 of 2020.

COUNCIL STAFF REPORTS:

City Attorney:

- Nothing to report

City Clerk-Treasurer:

- Nothing to report

DARA:

- Met on Thursday and in the process of getting the programs going and bringing back staff as quickly as possible

DAESA:

- 2021-2022 Budget was approved
- Budget is a 2.5% increase
- Had one run in January with no one responding. DeWitt Township Fire assisted Mercy Ambulance on this priority one call.

DDA:

- Meeting tomorrow
- Update on vacancy for a business owner/employee

Memorial Association:

- No longer holding Texas Hold'em Tournaments
- Approximately \$40,000 in repairs have completed to the memorial building
- Have approximately \$12,000 in remaining bills
- Bank Account has approximately \$12,000
- Profited \$3,000 on the duck race

Planning:

- Meeting scheduled for February 25th

Parks:

- Meeting February 10

Police Chief:

- Hired two part-time officers. Both are full time officers with other departments
- Use of force policy has been submitted

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by VanDyke, seconded by Whitman and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that **the meeting be adjourned at 8:13 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Grysen
City Clerk-Treasurer

Susan J. Leeming
Mayor