

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Leeming called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

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

Excused: None

STAFF:

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

AUDIENCE:

None

AGENDA:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Donohue, and carried by unanimous vote of the Council to **approve the minutes from the October 12, 2020 Regular City Council Meeting as amended.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

CITY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

UTILITY LINE BURIAL DOWNTOWN

A pre-construction meeting is planned for early next week to go over some of the last few remaining items prior to the project starting. Frontier and Consumers Energy have not set a date for the start of the project. Once a date has been established and all the project details are worked out notifications to the downtown businesses will go out.

COMMUNITY ROOM PROGRESS

The concrete floor has been poured and is curing. Parish Construction anticipates the framing crew to start before the end of October.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The work on Herbison Road is making good progress. All of the concrete sidewalks in the city section of Herbison Road have been completed and look really nice. The contractor has placed most of the rip-rap on the downtown bridge. We have run into some complications with the under the bridge walkway and are trying to work those out with MDOT, MDNR and the engineer. Schavey Road bridge is expected to close on Wednesday, October 28 and re-open Wednesday, November 11.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review of Procedures for Electronic Meetings per the Amended Open Meetings Act PA 228 of 2020:

City Council was provided with a copy of Senate Bill 1108 that the legislature approved and the Governor has signed creating Public Act 228 of 2020.

Public Act 228 of 2020 allows for the governing boards of a “pubic body” to hold meetings electronically, provided the public body establishes procedures for the electronic meetings.

The act does stipulate that through in end of 2020 members of boards can attend remotely for any circumstance. Beginning in 2021 and for the calendar year 2021 there are some limitations on attending remotely: local or statewide state of emergency, declaration of disaster, medical condition and military duty.

With the exception of military duty the provisions of attending remotely sunset on December 31, 2021.

City Council reviewed the recommended procedures, as outlined in PA 228, for members of boards and commissions to attend public meetings electronically.

Motion by Hunsaker, seconded by VanDyke, and carried by unanimous vote of the Council to approve the procedures as required by the Open Meetings Act PA 228 of 2020 dated October 26, 2020 for City of DeWitt Public Body Meetings.

2. Amend City of DeWitt Vacation Accrual Policy due to COVID-19:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic several employees were not permitted to take vacation time or were forced to cancel pre-planned vacations.

This has created approximately six (6) employees that have vacation time that would be lost due to circumstances beyond their control that range from four (4) hours to 46 hours.

Employees earn their accrued vacation time on their anniversary date and are permitted to carry-over a maximum 40 hours from one year to the next and cash-out 40 hours. This policy amendment would be a one-time amendment for 2020 only and allow employees to carry over an additional 40 hours (not-to-exceed 80 hours) and cash out an additional 10 hours (not-to-exceed 50 hours).

Motion by VanDyke, seconded by Hunsaker, and carried by unanimous vote of the Council to amend the City of DeWitt Personnel Policy Section 7 C. Vacation, DeWitt Police Department CBA Section 13.2 Vacation Scheduling, DeWitt DPS CBA Section 3 Vacation due to the COVID-19 pandemic to allow for an additional maximum forty (40) hours of vacation time to be carried over to the employee’s anniversary date from 2020 to 2021 and

allow for an additional ten (10) hours of vacation time to be received as a cash payment prior to employee's 2021 anniversary date. An employee shall not be permitted to carry-over more than 80 hours of accrued vacation time or receive a cash payment for more than 50 hours of vacation time accrued in 2020.

COUNCIL STAFF REPORTS:

City Attorney:

- Nothing of significance to report

City Clerk-Treasurer:

- 2034 ballots have been issued as of October 26
- 74.58 % of the ballots issued have already been returned
- We will have extra police presence on election day

DARA:

- No Meeting

DAESA:

- Fire Fighters and the DAESA Board are in favor of Santa delivery

DDA:

- Ongoing Christmas Market discussions, maybe have a light parade, no tents
- 10/31 will be a regional track meet

Parks:

- Meeting is this Thursday

Planning:

- Meeting on October 27th
- Discussing a community survey

Police Chief:

- Possibility of five more football games
- Catalytic converters are being stolen off vehicles
- Traffic is an issue with the schools
- Speed sign is still out

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by VanDyke, seconded by Whitman and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that **the meeting be adjourned at 8:23 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Grysen
City Clerk-Treasurer

Susan J. Leeming
Mayor