



MINUTES
THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
October 5, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.
Meeting Held by Zoom

1. **Call to Order** – Mayor Lion called the meeting at 7:05 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** – Present: Donovan, Kenny, Miller, Mooradian, North and Seabert.
Also, present: City Manager LaBombard, City Clerk Aalderink, City Planner Wikar, City Treasurer Smith
3. **Consent Calendar**
 - A. Approval of the October 5, 2020 Agenda
 - B. Approval of the City Council Minutes of September 21, 2020
 - C. Approval of Invoices in the amount of \$49,886.14
 - D. Appointments / Resignations / Proclamations
 - E. Appointment of November General Election Inspectors

Motion by Seabert, with support from Kenny, to approve the Consent Calendar of October 5, 2020 as presented. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

4. **Public Communication**
 - A. Verbal (Limit of 3 minutes)
 1. Bruce Stewart, Planning Commission member, commented on the leaning utility pole located at Center and Ferry St. He has also noticed erosion on the same corner. There was also concern with the catch basin which has over flowed.
 2. Owners of Green Koi, Blue Star Hwy, commented on their application for a sign permit, they claimed waiting two months to get on the agenda. They would like this issue to be addressed. They have many concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Sign Ordinance.
 - B. Written Communications
 1. John Overmeyer – Express concerns regarding the potential intent to sell the Harbor Senior living center and turn it into condominiums.
Council questioned if there was anything, they could do considering the land was private.

Motion by North, with support from Mooradian, to direct Mayor Lion compose a letter to the USDA expressing the concerns that council has in regards to the sale of the property and to the potential displacement of the senior citizens who currently live there. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

2. Larry Gammons, Douglas resident – Seabert stated he had met with Mr. Gammons

and requested he provide the application for the fencing around the pride garden. The Ordinance regarding fencing shows the fence was done without approval. A few council members like the finials at the top of the fence and see no reason to have them removed.

5. Unfinished Business

A. Public Hearing – Sign Ordinance

Motion by Seabert, with support from Kenny to open the public hearing for the Sign Ordinance. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

1. Green Koi owners questioned if the new ordinance would hold up their current application for a sign. They stated two other businesses are concerned as well.
2. Robert Kenny, Planning Chair had no idea there was an amendment to the sign ordinance, staff has not placed it back on Planning agenda.
3. Ethan, Green Koi owner, is concerned with the potential for a lot of rigidity in these changes. The pandemic has led to the need for flexibility for business owners.

Motion by Seabert, with support from North to close the public hearing. Motion carried by roll call vote.

B. Resolution 32-2020 - St. Peters Watermain Project Agreement Wikar address council stating the church is seeking approval for a watermain upgrade for fire suppression in the new church addition. The project should only affect two homes and the diocese.

Motion by North, with support from Seabert, to approve Resolution 32-2020 St. Peter's Watermain Project, and the accompanying Two Party Agreement (St Peter's Catholic Church / Progressive AE and the City of the Village of Douglas) with supporting documentation, to assume ownership of the improvements upon completion of the proposed utility project. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

6. New Business

A. Resolution 33-2020 Resolution to opt out of the Public Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act of 2011.

Treasurer Smith explained to council that the State thought it would help all the communities if they were given the choice to opt us of the public funded health insurance contributions. Local levels have a better understanding of what their employee's needs are pertaining to health insurance benefits. The city budgets the costs of health insurance. North questioned what the penalties would be? What percentage of communities do opt out? Also does the current employees contribute anything.

Motion by Kenny, with support from Seabert, to table discussion on Opting Out of PA 152 pending more information from the City Treasurer. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

7. Reports

A. Commission / Committee / Board Reports

1. Planning Commission – no report
2. Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water –LeFevere presented the June through Sept. update for the KLSWA. There were a couple power failures, the lead and copper study has started, beginning to think about seasonal turnoffs, the annual water project has been submitted, the master meter project has been completed, a 5 yr.

hydraulic and monitoring study has been started, and the audit report has been received.

3. Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority – no report
4. Downtown Development Authority –
5. Douglas Harbor Authority – no report
6. Douglas Brownfield Authority – meeting next week
7. Fire Board – no report
8. Community Recreation – no report
9. Community Development / Planning / Zoning – no report
10. Recycling – Oct 8th is the deadline for the survey

8. City Clerk

Aalderink presented an update on the election process and invited members of the council to visit for a demonstration of how ballots are issued and recorded.

9. City Manager

Received good feedback from the downtown businesses regarding the street parking.

Getting ready to pull the sanitation stations for the winter.

Water main testing is going on.

The Governor's orders have been overturned, if entering city hall, we will now be checking your temperature as a protective measure for our staff members.

10. Public Communications – Verbal (Limit of three (3) minutes on general business of the City)

Scott Hammeril, 8 Wall St. addressed the pride garden, he had been following the process for a long time. He believes communication is bad and feedback from the city is poor. Can the document be produced as first submitted? There is such a lack of communication that it has led builders to not working in the city.

Dave (Green Koi Owner) has applied for a sign permit and here we are two meetings down the road and he is still not on the agenda or even received any direction. Understands Larry Gammons frustration with the pride garden. He has gone through this with the past planner and now is going through it with the present planner.

Robert Kenny requested hiring Ryan Kilpatrick for all the affordable housing considerations in the city. He was a past city planner, §23.43 of the Planning Ordinance contemplates housing projects. We need help in discerning what is affordable housing. Clearly there is a need for affordable housing.

11. Council Comments

Mooradian cannot agree with Kenny more, it's time to get more information on housing. Concerned that the Planning Commission is unaware of the Sign Ordinance submitted here.

Seabert attended a virtual conference, he believed more could have been presented for smaller cities. The daffodil project had 15 volunteers for planting this first year. Believe a paper trail will reduce the communication issue.

Donovan thanked the public for their input this evening and stated Green Koi should be considered under the old Ordinance.

North stated the daffodil project is great. She is concerned with the state of the Kalico Kitchen building. Requested City Manager set a meeting with Mr. Kilpatrick. And is very concerned with lack of communication.

Kenny also attended the virtual conference and agreed with Mr. Seabert's comment. She also would like to see Mr. Kilpatrick brought in to discuss affordable housing.

12. Mayor's Report / Comments

Mayor Lion was concerned with what she heard this evening.

13. Adjournment – voice vote

Motion by Seabert, with support from Kenny, to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned by voice vote at 8:42 P.M.

Approved: _____ Date: _____
Patricia Lion, Mayor

Approved: _____ Date: _____
Pamela Aalderink, City Clerk

Certification of Minutes

I hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of the Village of Douglas held on October 5th, 2020, I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

Pamela Aalderink, City Clerk

Date