

**MCGREGOR CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2013, 6:30 P.M.**

The MCGREGOR CITY COUNCIL met in Regular Session at 6:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 23, 2013** at City Hall with Mayor Hallberg presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Hallberg led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Carroll, Halvorson, Collins and Muehlbauer were present.

Collins moved, Carroll seconded, to approve the Consent Agenda by one motion a) Agenda as listed b) August 21, 2013 Regular Meeting minutes and September 9, 2013 Special Meeting minutes c) Bills and Claims as presented for \$99,888.08 d) Treasurer's Report for August 2013 e) Historic Preservation Commission appointments – Dave Kneer, Maureen Wild and Bob Clark – terms ending 09-30-2016. **Roll call vote: Ayes-all. Motion carried.**

Council discussed action being considered regarding annexation of the river adjacent to the City of McGregor eastern boundary, request to the marina to relinquish a portion of their lease area and to relocate their northerly docks further upstream in preparation for work on the riverfront. Councilman Collins suggested that docks be inspected and repaired prior to allowing boats to be placed in the slips. The suggestion will be given to the attorney to determine how this can be implemented.

Rachelle Howe was in attendance to present information about services provided by UERPC. The organization is currently working with the city on the CDBG Owner Occupied Housing Program, 1st Time Homebuyer Program, CDBG sewer/water grant application, administration of the FEMA storm water grant and CDBG Hazard Mitigation match grant.

Muehlbauer moved, seconded by Carroll to set a public hearing date for October 16, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. to take comments regarding an application to CDBG for a sewer/water infrastructure improvement project. **Roll call vote: Ayes-all. Motion carried.** Council reviewed the community development and needs assessment approved last year for the 2013 CDBG grant application. Revisions will be sent to the clerk and an updated form prepared for approval at the October meeting.

A request to have the council consider an increase in Utility Board compensation was discussed. Mayor Hallberg recommended waiting until January to allow the newly elected mayor and council to make that decision. Council was in agreement and asked that the item be placed on the January agenda list. A memo from Bob Corlett at MMU that explained new requirements for water meters that will become effective in January 2014. New meters being changed out may no longer use brass containing lead. The Utility Board has decided to go with radio read meters and would like to implement the system over a five to ten year period. The Board is asking the city to assume 50% of the cost of the meters due to the fact that sewer usage is based on water usage. Replacement

of 50-75 meters annually would cost \$9,500 - \$15,000 with the city's share being \$4,750 - \$7,500 per year. Council requested more information from the salesperson about the meters and how the radio read works and to see a breakdown of costs to city if completed over the 5 – 10 years and also if the project is completed with borrowing from a local bank with bond counsel costs included.

Council opened two bids received for Phase I mothballing of the Sullivan Opera House. Council requested additional information from one contractor to clarify the dollar amount. Collins moved, seconded by Carroll to approve the bid from Ryan Bacon Construction for \$11,360. **Roll call vote: Ayes-all. Motion carried.** Halvorson moved, seconded by Muehlbauer to approve the 2012-2013 Annual Financial Report. **Roll call vote: Ayes-all. Motion carried.**

Council discussed Ordinance 08-02-2013 pertaining to Mayor and Council compensation. Based on comparisons with other communities council directed preparation of the ordinance to include \$3,000 for the mayor and \$50 per regular and special meeting. Collins and Carroll objected to the increase in special meeting compensation for council members. No compromise was met and Muehlbauer moved, seconded by Halvorson to table the item until the September meeting.

Sander requested council approval to obtain a cost estimate from Callahan Municipal Consultants for an analysis of the TIF districts. Council agreed that this would be prudent and asked that a description of what the analysis would involve be included with the cost estimate for their consideration. The committee for the Turner Park improvement project is still taking names and will probably meet late in October to begin discussions. Davy Engineering has been contacted regarding the shoreline dredging and rip rap portion of the preliminary report for riverfront improvements. Davy will have the survey crew do soundings to determine if dredging can occur from the park or if a barge will be required. Carroll moved, seconded by Collins to approve a bid for crack sealing from Strub Blacktopping for \$2,600 to do Walton Ave including the curb lines and A Street from Main to Ash/Ann St. **Roll call vote: Ayes-all. Motion carried.**

Hamann reported that the library sidewalk will be replaced as soon as the utilities is able to replace the hydrant that has been leaking. Council asked if the utilities will be assisting with the cost of excavation. Two manholes are scheduled for replacement and work from the June storm has also been bid and scheduled. Halvorson informed the council that she had spoken with the Chief Bogdonovich and he will be taking an active part in budget preparations for 2014-2015. Sander announced candidates for the November election are Harold Brooks for Mayor and Janet Hallberg, Joe Collins and Charles Carroll for the three council seats. AGRI sent an email regarding proposed auction of the overlook in November. Council would like to investigate this further.

With business concluded, Halvorson moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Collins. **Ayes – All. Meeting adjourned.**

Lynette L. Sander

City Clerk