

**MCGREGOR CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING (RESCHEDULED)  
MARCH 11, 2015 6:30 P.M.**

The MCGREGOR CITY COUNCIL met in Regular Session rescheduled to 6:30 p.m. on **Wednesday, March 11, 2015** at City Hall with Mayor Brooks presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Brooks led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members present: Halvorson, Carroll, Hallberg, and Muehlbauer. Collins was absent.

Halvorson moved, seconded by Carroll to approve the Consent Agenda by one motion a) Agenda as listed b) February 18, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes and Special Meeting minutes March 4, 2015 c) Bills and Claims as presented – Expenditures: City- \$69,155.97, Library - \$162.60 Revenues - \$71,546.22 d) Treasurer's Report for February, 2015 Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried.

Hearing of Delegations: No comments made.

Police report: Chief Bogdonovich reported activity of the police department from the beginning of the year. STEP program will be active the weekend of March 13.

Mayor Brooks opened a scheduled public hearing to take comments on the 2015-2016 budget. The budget has been available for review at the library, MMU and city hall. No comments had been received by any of the elected officials or at city hall. The audience made no comment and the mayor closed the public hearing. Muehlbauer moved, seconded by Halvorson to approve the 2015-2016 budget with a levy of 13.98888 per thousand, total expenditures of \$4,401,597 and total revenues of \$3,877,906. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried.

The revised dock lease agreement for private boat dock spaces was presented. Muehlbauer moved, seconded by Halvorson to approve the Riverfront Dock Lease as revised by recommendation of the dock commission. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried.

Mayor Brooks asked the city attorney to share with the council the information he had given as a response to a request for clarification on the relationship of the city and MMU. The letter was included in council packets for their review. In short the city owns the water and electric, the utility board is responsible for managing its operation. He further commented that the condition of the infrastructure is most likely relevant to the lower rates that Mr. Strutt had referenced at the February 18. The issue of moving poles and the costs associated with this work was discussed. His opinion was that it should be paid by the electric utility as a cost of doing business. He recommended that further research be done through IAMU, League of Cities or by contacting other electric providers. Mayor Brooks asked Linda Boeke if she would have Chairman Zahn talk to any contacts he might have so a joint policy to address this type of issue could be developed so that future projects would not become so cumbersome to accomplish. The Mayor asked for clarification about a statement made at the February 18 meeting that implied that MMU is a contractor for the city. Linda Boeke corrected that by stating that MMU is not an employee of the city. City Administrator Sander stated that the city generates its revenues through taxes or charges for services on the utilities it operates. The costs are passed along to

property owners either way. The costs of providing a utility should be covered by the fees charged for those services. Mayor Brooks thanked Mrs. Boeke for the committee's willingness to improve communication and to continue to work cooperatively to replace water main when a sewer project was being undertaken. He further stated that when working on projects together MMU may need to call special meetings to address issues that have a more immediate need than a regular meeting sometimes 30 days in the future. Mrs. Boeke encouraged the board to contact either her or Mr. Strutt if a quicker response time is necessary.

Discussion of the sewer rehabilitation project was continued from the March 4 meeting to consider award of the project. Bids came in well over budget so additional time was needed to contact CDBG for options that would not affect the grant funding. The engineer provided calculations for smaller areas of the project to provide the council and CDBG options for a reduced scope of project that would have a total cost closer to the cost estimate included in the CDBG application. Five options were considered and available funding discussed. Carroll moved, seconded by Halvorson to approve Resolution 08-03-2015 tentatively awarding the project to A-1 Excavating with a scope of work that would remove B-Street and 7<sup>th</sup> St. from the bid total subject to CDBG approval of the reduced scope and contractor acceptance. Option #3 project area would include C Street, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Street, easterly retaining walls alternate, and 1<sup>st</sup> St. at a total estimated cost of \$1,118,150. Roll call vote: Ayes – Carroll, Halvorson, Hallberg and Muehlbauer. The award will be final once the conditions have been met.

The Council considered Resolution 09-03-2015 pertaining to discounted prices on Ohmer and RWW II lots. After discussion it was decided to further reduce the price on the lots and to bring the revised resolution for approval to the April meeting. Incentives for lot sales were also considered with some revisions requested. It will be prepared for approval at April meeting as well. Council would like MMU to consider waiving water connection fee as well.

Council reviewed the summary of scoring for review appraisal services for two properties valued at more than \$10,000. Carroll moved, seconded by Hallberg to approve contract with Felderman Appraisals for \$700 desktop review or \$1,500 for a field review if required. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried. Muehlbauer moved, seconded by Halvorson to approve purchase of playground equipment for Turner Park that is discounted until May at a cost of \$15,900. Roll call vote: Ayes – all. Motion carried. Mayor Brooks thanked boy scouts for attending the council meeting as part of the requirement to earn their citizenship in the community merit badge. Several potential Eagle Scout projects were provided to the group for consideration. A request to place a USAgain clothing collection bin was considered. Council declined to allow placement of the bin on city property.

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

Lynette L. Sander  
City Administrator