
SPECIAL MEETING (STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION) OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAGINAW, MICHIGAN, HELD SATURDAY, JULY 12, 2008 AT 8:30 A.M. AT THE SAGINAW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, 515 N. WASHINGTON AVENUE, SAGINAW, MICHIGAN.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Joyce Seals offered a prayer and led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Joyce Seals called the meeting to order. The following Councilpersons were present: Gregory Branch, Larry Coulouris, Daniel Fitzpatrick, Amanda Kitterman-Miller, Amos O'Neal, Bill Scharffe, Paul Virciglio, Andrew Wendt and Mayor Joyce Seals-9.

PERSONAL APPEARANCES

William Giorgis, 2225 Hess, spoke on the towing contract. Stressed again the advantages of using an in-city contractor and how it encourages growth and keeps jobs. Mentioned he was a partner with the City for many years on the City's towing needs.

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Councilman Virciglio moved to waive the Council Rules of Order and change the Order of Business to follow the Special Agenda prepared by the City Manager. Adopted unanimously.

REPORTS FROM MANAGER:

Management Update:

City Manager Darnell Earley went through the proposed agenda.

City Bid Process, Ordinances, Towing Contract

City Manager Darnell Earley stated the City has a fair, equitable bid process which has worked for many years.

Jim Nichols, Purchasing Coordinator, gave a brief overview of the process, from the time the bid specifications are received from City departments, through advertising and notifying prospective bidders, public opening of the bids, awarding the bid to the lowest and/or best bidder and seeking Council approval. Said he has 20 years of experience and learned that you cannot do something for one, if you cannot do it for all. Mentioned the departments have a large input in which bidder is selected.

Tom Fancher, City Attorney, discussed the history of the towing contract and the City's attempts since 2004 to resolve the issue, which included a number of disputes and objections from Mr. Giorgis and the failure of Mike's Wrecker to make payments. He explained how the Purchasing Ordinance allows an in-city preference and said the ordinance could be changed to give City bidders a better advantage. He said opening the contract to outside vendors allowed for competitive bidding.

Mr. Nichols briefly explained how in-city preference calculations were made. He also informed Council of the number of employee hours devoted to resolving the towing

contract.

Gerald Cliff, Chief of Police and Sgt. A.J. Tuer discussed the Police Department's towing and storage needs. Said the City has been willing to work with Mr. Giorgis to determine acceptable language. Noted the City is losing revenue every day.

Councilman Scharffe moved to withdraw the delay on the towing bids and ask City administration to proceed to open the bids placed on hold.

Adopted unanimously.

(There was a break from 10:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.)

Andersen Water Park/Recreation Presentation

Jeff Klopccic, GIS Administrator, provided an update on the Andersen Water Park project. He gave some history of the park and the DNR Grant received by the City for the park. Stated annual revenue when the park was open was \$150,000 and expenses were \$500,000, leaving an annual subsidy of \$350,000. The estimated cost to repair the park is \$450,000. He went through the proposed repurposing of the park, which will include access paths, park pavilion, Skate Park, Splash Park, playscape and police substation. Also reviewed project expenses and plans for funding.

The City Manager spoke on the history of the City's recreation department and the need to eliminate the department due to economics. He mentioned some of the other recreation providers and activities in the City for youth.

Councilmen Virciglio and Fitzpatrick briefed Council on the Friends of Hoyt Park Committee and its efforts to bring softball back to the park. Mentioned those who had donated materials, equipment and time to the project. Said the group would like to take over the park, similar to the Zoological Society taking over the Zoo.

(Lunch was served from 12:15 p.m. to 12:45 p.m.)

Reorganizations in Finance Department/Department Accomplishments

City Manager Darnell Earley advised Council of his plans to reorganize the Finance Department by replacing the Director of Fiscal Services with an Assistant City Manager for Finance and to replace the Budget Officer with an Assistant to the City Manager/Budget Administrator. These changes would have a total General Fund cost impact of \$17,290.

Department Accomplishments

The City's Management Team consisting of Budget Officer Yolanda Jones, Beth Church, Interim Director of Employee Services, Tom Darnell, Director of Public Services, Fire Chief E. Dean Holland, Odail Thorns, Director of Development, City Clerk Diane Herman, Police Chief Gerald Cliff, City Attorney Tom Fancher, and Jay Beelman, Information Services Director, briefly discussed their department accomplishments and what they were currently working on.

(There was a break from 3:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.)

Council/Administration Issues

City Attorney Tom Fancher and City Manager Darnell Earley gave Council members suggestions on communicating with the general public, City staff and the City Manager. They also reviewed some items for which Council had requested updates, i.e. the Bancroft & Eddy Project, and Railroad Responsibilities.

As there was limited time to discuss the Planning Commission Roles and Council Approvals, Councilman O'Neal moved that a special Committee of the Whole be scheduled to review this issue at a date to be determined.

Adopted unanimously.

(Councilman Branch requested Council be allowed to submit suggestions to the City Manager, prior to the COW, on items Council would like to see covered at the session.)

New Assessments of Strategic Planning Process

City Manager Darnell Earley suggested Strategic Planning sessions be reduced to one session each year given the accomplishments and progress the City had made; however, it was the consensus of Council to continue to schedule two sessions.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:43 p.m. Councilman Scharffe moved to adjourn the meeting.

Adopted unanimously.

Diane M. Herman
City Clerk