

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE
CITY COMMISSION OF THE
CITY OF SCOTTVILLE, MICHIGAN**

The 1395th Regular Commission Meeting of the Scottville City Commission was held on February 6, 2017 and called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Krieger.

Roll Call was taken with the following members present:

Commissioners	Leon Begue Sally Cole Tom Donald Connie Duncil Bruce Krieger Sue Petipren Marcy M. Spencer
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Also in attendance were City Manager Williams, Clerk Howe, Chief Riley and Attorney Thompson.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Motion, by Duncil and seconded by Spencer, to approve the 1394th Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Motion, by Begue and seconded by Cole, to approve the bills in the amount of \$74,041.94. Motion carried.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

None

COMMUNICATIONS

Williams stated the Michigan Municipal League will hold their annual Capital Conference in Lansing on March 21 and 22. She submitted a copy of the agenda and topics to be discussed. Anyone interested in attending the conference should contact her.

REPORTS CITY MANAGER

Williams stated she met with the superintendent and the transportation director of MCC Schools regarding the bus routes and she gave them a copy of the street map for them to study so they can try to find an alternate route for the buses to use so they stay off the local streets as much possible.

The City's new website is up and running. On Friday, Williams will be trained on how to make updates to the site so it will always have current information on it.

Williams stated \$6,000 was budgeted for new election equipment, but it appears the State will pick up the whole tab if municipalities purchase it from a certain vendor.

CITY ATTORNEY

Thompson has been working on a few projects for Williams.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Riley noted the monthly police report was submitted for review.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Reports will be available at the next meeting.

ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None.

OLD BUSINESS

The Infrastructure Committee and the Finance Committees recently met to discuss the PAVER software and they were in agreement that it would be a great asset to the City if we follow a plan that will be used to repair the streets. The Finance Committee was able to find \$25,000 that will be set aside each year over the next three years for repairs. Williams stated it is unknown at this time how far \$25,000 a year will go, until the PAVER study is completed as it would depend on the extent of repairs that is needed to be done. Williams noted she is looking into some grant programs that could help in the cost of making street repairs. It is the recommendation of the Infrastructure and Finance

Committees to move forward and approve the PAVER study in the amount of \$4,900. Krieger noted the \$4,900 is for a three-year period and not a one-year period. Donald does not understand the necessity of the study and believes the City employees should be able to determine what streets need repairs and what materials should be used on the streets. Petipren asked if there was someone locally that could analyze the streets on a one-to-one basis and give their recommendation. Williams stated it would have to be an engineer and she did not know of anyone locally that does that kind of work. Krieger believes the City would be going in the right direction by moving forward with the study and setting money aside for repairs. Cole feels moving forward with the study is important so the City spends their money wisely. Donald asked since the people who would do the study are engineers, would the City still have to hire additional engineers when major street repairs are needed? Williams stated yes they would. Motion, by Begue and seconded by Duncil, to approve the PAVER study. Motion carried. Donald opposed the motion.

Williams stated every three years the City renews its lease with the Old Engine Club for use of the grounds at Riverside Park. One of their main goals this year is to clean up the walking/cross country ski trails because it is getting impassable in some areas due to fallen trees and overgrown brush. Motion, by Krieger and seconded by Donald, to approve the Old Engine Club lease as presented. Motion carried.

Williams stated she received an e-mail from the city manager of Ludington that the water rates were going to increase by 6½ % and the sewer rates were going to increase 19% as of January 1. The increases are the result of upgrades to Ludington's water and sewer plants. When Scottville had a rate study done in 2015 they estimated Ludington would be increasing their water rates by 5%, but the cost for Ludington to do their projects is higher than originally thought. Williams stated if Scottville does not increase their rates, they will fall behind and it is important that does not happen again like it has in the past. Williams is not recommending Scottville increase their sewer rates until a sewer rate study is completed in a few months. Williams shared a spreadsheet that compares the old and new water rates for different amounts of usage. Williams stated a big part of the budget for water goes to paying the debt and the cost to purchase water from Ludington so there is no other choice but to increase the water rates. Williams stated she hears complaints all the time about Scottville's high water bills, but noted according to a 2014 rate study performed by an engineering firm in which 87 communities were interviewed throughout the state of Michigan, 51 had higher rates than the City of Scottville. The problem with a lot of municipalities is in the past they never set money aside for major projects, so as in Scottville's case, the money had to be borrowed and that debt is passed on to the residents. The readiness-to-serve fee was questioned and Williams

explained that the fee is to pay off any past debt, plus a portion of the fee is set aside to be used in the future so money or most of the money for big projects does not have to be borrowed. Donald is upset that past Commissioners made bad decisions that resulted in the current residents having to pay such high water/sewer bills. Begue disagreed and said the Commissioners made the right decision at the time the decision was made. In today's world a different approach has to be made by putting some money aside for future projects. Motion, by Krieger and seconded by Begue, to approve the increase of water rates as presented. Motion carried. Donald opposed the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Williams noted there is vacancy on the Planning Commission. The position needs to be filled by a resident of the City. Any person interested in the position should contact Williams as soon as possible.

HEARING OF THE CITIZENS

Ed Hahn noted he heard two conflicting statements and asked if the readiness-to-serve fee is used to offset debt or is set aside to be used for future projects.

Williams stated it is used for both.

Bill Lehrbass stated the MCRFA is currently writing specifications for the purchase of fire equipment for various departments.

Bill Lehrbass noted charging a readiness-to-serve fee to people who are not using a provided utility is not as uncommon as some people might think it is.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS AND COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURN

It was moved by Begue and seconded by Cole to adjourn. So carried at 6:20 p.m.

Bruce Krieger, Mayor

Deborah A. Howe, Clerk

