

PINCONNING CITY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 15, 2023

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Mayor Boettcher called the Regular meeting of the Pinconning City Council to order at 5:00pm.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Kuehne, Johnson, Mayor Boettcher, Wiess, Chant, Lesniak, Boetefuer

Also Present:

Rebecca Lakin, City Manager

Amy Bromberg, City Treasurer

Jessica View, City Clerk

Craig Barnt, Pinconning Journal

3. OPENING CEREMONY:

Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Boettcher

4. MAYOR'S COMMENT:

Mayor stated she would like the meeting conducted in a professional manner.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Additional agenda items listed as D, E, F, G, H, and I were added to the agenda by Council Members Lesniak and Boetefuer. A presentation request was made by Chairman Saha regarding the DDA as well.

A motion was made by Johnson seconded by Lesniak to accept the agenda as presented with the additions. All yeas, motion carried.

6. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

A motion was made by Chant, seconded by Johnson to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call taken, all yeas motion carried.

7. TREASURERS REPORT/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

City Manager Lakin updated council on the activities of the NBA and indicated their monthly meeting is tomorrow, May 16, 2023. Council Member Wiess stated at the Fireboard meeting it was decided to

remove Don Jeske as the member at large and replace him with Gary Yaros. She also noted there is a special meeting scheduled on Tuesday, May 16, 2023, as well. The chairman of the DDA board, Brian Saha will be making a presentation tonight for the DDA. City Treasurer Bromberg gave council budget amendments she needs approved regarding changes to the budget expenses. A motion was made by Chant, seconded by Kuehne to approve the budget amendments as presented. Roll call taken, all yeas motion carried.

8. PRESENTATIONS:

DDA Presentation hosted by Chairman Brian Saha

Chairman Saha made a wonderful presentation regarding the duties, responsibilities of the DDA and the future plans for the Pinconning DDA. This was very informative and was certainly helpful for the 4 new council members.

9. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Block Party

Last month Mayor Boettcher approached the council with their thoughts regarding a Block Party downtown. Council agreed to having one, combined with City wide garage sales on July 15 from 11-4. Mayor will appoint a committee before the next meeting and the committee will provide an update as well. Updates were given on the progress of the committees and things are moving along.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution #2023-04- Resolution authorizing the City Manager to file a claim for a grant for the underfunded pension system.

This resolution will allow the City Manager to apply for the grant to secure funding for our underfunded MERS defined benefit pension plan. The city is currently funded at 55% and the grant will pay for the funding to get us to 60%; which is what the government is uniformly trying to make happen for all pension plans in Michigan. This grant would be over \$83,000.00. A motion was made by Johnson, seconded by Kuehne to adopt resolution #2023-04 as presented. Roll call taken all yeas, motion carried.

B. Council Meeting June 19 changed to June 20 due to Juneteenth Holiday

The city's regular council meeting in June is June 19, 2023. June 19 is now observed as a federal holiday as Juneteenth. Due to this observance, the city follows all federal holiday closings and will not be open. City Manager Lakin is asking for approval to move the council meeting to June 20 to oblige. A motion by Chant, seconded by Lesniak to approve the changing of the June Regular City Council Meeting. All yeas, motion carried.

C. Discussion regarding the future of the DDA

The city has some concerns regarding the disbursement of taxpayer's monies being spent on the Community Building. The DDA is in charge of these monies and 30% of their budget is going toward sustaining the Community Building. The city does not want to dismantle the DDA, but we want to make sure they are making good use of the monies they are capturing. Concerns were mentioned about the high costs of the gas and electricity expended on a building that is not being used. It was discussed that marketing and advertising are major concerns and the revenue being generated does not cover the monthly expenses. The goal of the DDA is to sell the building to the Friends of the Community Building at some point but they cannot sustain the expenses as noted now. The city would like to see the building succeed but there is a lot of work to be done. As for now, the concentration is on advertising and marketing heavily moving forward. This item will be an ongoing discussion at the DDA meetings and updates to the council when needed.

D. Reopen negotiations on city salary employees

Council Member Lesniak requested to reopen approved contracts of salaried employees. Lesniak was on vacation during the meetings/approvals of these contracts. City Manager Lakin stated if she wanted to discuss this it would need to be in closed session upon Lakin's request. Council Member Lesniak was not aware of the closed session rules and City Manager Lakin said she would send a copy of her contract to her on Tuesday, May 16, 2023. These contracts have been approved and unless there is a reason for illegal activity, misfeasance or malfeasance the contract is viable for 1 year.

E. River Cleaning

Council Member Boetefuer had questions regarding the conditions of the river. She indicated there is a lot of debris and garbage clogging the flow. City Manager Lakin explained to her she has been in contact with the drain commissioner and the city really has no control of the dredging. She said if an individual wanted to pick up litter in a safe manner they could.

F. Vacation Time

Council Member Boetefuer had questions regarding vacation /bereavement time for employees. City Manager Lakin explained the bereavement leave as what Boetefuer seemed more interested in.

G. Contracts for Doc Litchfield Park

Council Member Boetefuer wanted some information on the process for events in the park. City Manager Lakin indicated the parties submit written requests and the council approves or disapproves of their requests.

H. Bathroom Usage in the park

Council Member Boetefuer was approached by a resident inquiring about the bathrooms in the park. Last year, the bathrooms were closed permanently in the fall due to vandalism and destructive damage to the facility. City Manager Lakin indicated she now was requiring a \$100 deposit and if the key was brought back and no damage done, the deposit was returned. She indicated this option has been successful so

far. She also stated another option would be to open the bathrooms at 8:00 and close them at 4:00pm on weekdays so we can monitor any disturbances. This option was agreeable to the council as the best solution.

I. St. Michael's Parking Issue

Council Member Boetefuer had questions regarding the parking issue with the church and the resident who lives across the street. City Manager Lakin explained the City Council spent almost 5 meetings regarding a solution to this problem and the results were angle parking, signs for no parking in the alley, no blocking the driveway and no parking to the corner. Lakin indicated the resident, and the father were spoken to, and an amicable solution was reached. Our officer works every other weekend, and he patrols through the area during mass times on Saturdays.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT:

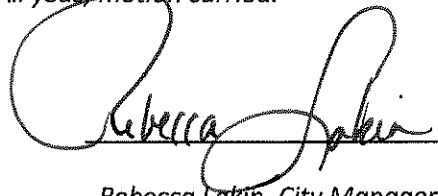
Clif Holland, Owner of CJ's restaurant, thanked the council for listening to the DDA presentation and encouraged them to give the Community Building some time to develop. He offered to close the bathrooms at 9 pm and open and close on the weekends. The city graciously accepted and will try this option for the summer months and see how things go.

Ellen Charlevois, Member of the Friends of the Community Building, spoke on the importance of the DDA and the strides they have made with the Community Building.

Tina Bauer also commented on what an asset the Community Building can be.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

With nothing further to address, a motion was made by Wiess, seconded by Johnson to adjourn the Regular City Council Meeting at 6:45 pm. All yeas, motion carried.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Lakin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "R".

Rebecca Lakin, City Manager