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COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
Monday, February 11, 2019
Council Chambers
201 N. Main Street
6:30pm

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by Mayor Cusson.

Roll Call

Present: Mayor Danielle Cusson, Mayor Pro-Tem Ray Culbert, Pam Howd, Heather MacDermaid Brad Dick, Brenda Simons

Absent: Dave Franz

Also Present: Scott Sutter, Interim City Manager. Erica Armstrong, City Clerk, Tessa Wightman, Deputy City Clerk

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Culbert, second by Simons, to approve the meeting minutes of the January 31, 2019 City Council Special Meeting. Motion carried.

The Mayor called the DDA Board to order and did a Roll Call and the DDA Board approved the minutes from their most recent meeting.

Present: Danielle Cusson, Gary Messenger, Michelle Robins, Bryan Mulanix, Jeanine Sapelak

Absent: Rodney Roberson, Paula Flannery, Kit Maloney, R. J. Sharp

Correspondence

The Mayor noted the receipt of information for the City Council regarding committees and thanked staff for providing the information. Committees will be on an upcoming work session agenda for City Council.

Citizens' Comments

None.

Discussion Regarding FY 2019-2020 Budget:

The Linden Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and the Linden City Council members conducted in-depth discussions regarding planning for the FY 2019-2020 City and DDA Budgets.

Priorities discussed included:

- Gazebo renovations and enhancements, potential for more revenue, in the process of getting quotes for this sort of project. Bidding procedures may need to be considered if this is an item that is budgeted for in the upcoming fiscal year.
- Kinyon expressed concern about redoing the Gazebo as there is a history behind it.
- Scaling back on the DDA funding some of the events, especially if the events are revenue generating or Chamber backed events (Grow Linden), such as Ladies Night Out, Gus Macker, Easter Egg Event.
- Groups will be coming before the DDA to update them on their events and make funding requests for the upcoming budget year.
- Grants, matching funds, and the possibility of updating our DDA Action plan using some of these funds and budgeting for this.
- RRC training
- Marketing Linden and the DDA
- Economic Development a priority for DDA and City
- Discussed Boone Property and next step will be detailed at next DDA meeting, potential sale of or development plan, demolition
 - The potential riverfront development within the DDA and the DPW relocation
- Small Business Liaison and Small Business Packet – Bryan Mulanix will be meeting with City staff to work on the details of this possibility.
- The need for someone, likely the next City Manager, to spearhead these projects was discussed.
- Farmer’s Market being moved back to the Downtown with the availability of the restroom and get the businesses to stay open.
- City Council priorities include redevelopment, branding Linden, the DEQ issues, and roads.
- Volunteer appreciation was discussed as needing to be a City priority and volunteer retention
- Signage drawing people to and advertising downtown Linden, perhaps where Owen road dead ends
- Informational brochures with business information, perhaps something Grow Linden could work on

The Mayor adjourned the DDA at 7:35 PM.

Discussion for Future Work Session Agenda Items

- Committees
- FY 2018-2019 Budget Priorities
- LAFF Pathway Millage Presentation
- Volunteer Appreciation Event

City Manager’s Update

Demo Building: Case Construction has informed the City they have scheduled the abatement work for the Walmart property to start on February 18th with the demo to start on February 25th.

DDA: Just a reminder that the DDA Board has agreed to attend the February 11th, City Council work session to discuss this year’s budget and activities of the DDA.

City Manager Search: During Thursday’s meeting with the MML, a timetable was discussed. The following are important dates to be aware of: February 15th- advertisement will go out for publication, March 15th resumes are due to the MML, March 25th- review of resumes at work session and April 6th, 9am- interviews of finalists.

DPW: We have conducted interviews for the DPW position, and a new employee started February 5th.

Building Inspector: We have received one bid for the Building Inspector’s position. Per City Council’s instructions, I have contacted other entities to inquire about our Building Inspectors position and I am waiting for bids from these entities.

Fishing Tournament: The Linden Fishing Tournament (sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce) will be Sunday February 10, 2019. The event will award for fish caught on Lobdell or Byram Lake. There will also be a chili cook-off.

Eagles Wooden Park Restroom Update: Per Council's instructions, I reached out to our engineer, Mike Darga, in reference to a status report for the Eagles Wooden Park Restroom. Attached is an update from Mr. Darga. I have also asked Mr. Darga to attend the February 25th Council meeting.

B&B Gas Station: I have reached out to the DEQ in reference to the revised FAR/CAP. Per David LaBrecque the DEQ received the supplemental information to the revised FAR/CAP on January 31, 2019, meeting the deadline imposed by the DEQ. The DEQ is in the process of reviewing this document in conjunction with the revised FAR/CAP and has committed to providing a response by March 15, 2019.

Cusson- We could reach out to representatives to put more pressure on the DEQ.

Council Comments:

Culbert- We need to keep on top of the LAFF Pathway now, it is moving forward and gathering a lot of support. Campaign information will be going out soon and is available on the website.

Cusson- Small Cities last week, spoke about RRC and the process and funding options available, suggestions for moving forward. We are looking for a representative on the Dog Park Committee. Discussed using shared services for fill in during vacation time. Grand Blanc is going to have an ice rink coming in as well as a Chalet village where businesses can have small shops that will begin in May. We need to set aside money for maintenance of our voting machines in years 5-10. The next meeting is in Flushing. It was discussed that the 2020 Census is coming up and something we need to start thinking about.

Adjournment -

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Erica Armstrong, City Clerk

Approved: _____