

CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN
Minutes of City Council Work Session
Monday, February 8, 2016

PRESENT: Councilmembers Bolt, Burrill, Pastoor, Vanderwood, VerHulst, Voorhees and Mayor Poll

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Balfoort, Dooley, Firestone, Holt, Isakson, Ooms, Oostindie, Rynbrandt, Sluiter and VandenBerg

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Bolt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

2. Student Recognition

None.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Brandon Simmons, 3009 Perry Avenue, and Jeremy Bakken, 2719 Central Avenue, representatives of the Wyoming Community Enrichment Commission, noted they were present and willing to answer any questions pertaining to the requests submitted by the commission.

4. Community Enrichment Commission By-Laws

Bolt asked councilmembers for feedback on the proposed Community Enrichment Commission (CEC) proposed changes, beginning with the request to change the fiscal year. The CEC has proposed a change from a July 1 start to a September 1 start. Sluiter noted a change in the fiscal year would require a charter amendment.

Holt clarified that the CEC's request, while worded as a change in fiscal year, is really more about the terms of members and when they are appointed versus a change to the CEC's fiscal year. Holt noted the September 1 date would fall outside the appointment dates already used for the various boards and commissions, which generally follow either a January 1 or July 1 appointment schedule. Holt suggested changing to a January 1 appointment.

Council discussed and supported a change to a January 1 appointment schedule.

Bolt asked councilmembers for feedback on the request to change the number of members on the CEC from a maximum of 9 to a maximum of 11. Council supports the change to increase the number of members.

Bolt inquired about the request to allow members to be compensated. Holt reminded Council that this would require an ordinance amendment and this would affect all boards and commissions of the City.

Council had lengthy discussion concerning the CEC's proposal regarding compensation of and contracts with commission members.

Sluiter noted the by-laws and ordinance could be changed, but there is also a charter requirement when an officer of the city, which includes board and commission members, is contracted and compensated that requires approval by a 5/6th vote of the City Council.

Council deliberated this topic further and determined an ordinance change should include the requirement that any board or commission wishing to contract with any board or commission member would bring that request to the City Council, where it would require approval by a 5/6th vote. Holt noted this would allow each board or commission to contract with its own members, but would allow Council to have the final approval.

Council supported moving these requests forward as separate items. Holt suggested having Sluiter write the documents needed to support these changes, with the ordinance changes coming first, then the by-law changes will appear at the second reading of the ordinance changes.

5. Analytics Project Specialist Position

Oostindie explained recent changes in the Information Technology Department and the desire to implement a new position. Bolt asked if the union has had the opportunity to review this new position. Oostindie noted the union is currently reviewing this position and has a 10-day review period. Poll asked for clarification on the current staffing, noting two recent retirements and a resignation. Oostindie noted the number of staff is the same as before, but position titles and the number of staff in each position will be arranged slightly differently. Firestone shared operational details that helped clarify the reasoning for the new staffing structure.

Council supported bringing this to the next regular City Council meeting.

6. Ambulance Consortium Contract and Ordinance

Holt provided an overview of the ambulance consortium, explaining the desire of local communities to secure ambulance service agreements in a more formalized way and to secure a means to collect data on ambulance service outcomes. This will help local communities determine how to allocate their resources. Three ambulance providers are involved in this contract and several local communities will be considering this within the next couple of weeks. Holt explained there is an ordinance that will be considered in conjunction with the consortium contract.

Vanderwood inquired about the need for a consortium. Holt noted the challenge in decision making due to the lack of useable data from the independent ambulance companies. Due to the lack of useable data from each of the ambulance companies, local units are unsure how to structure our service or allocate our resources. Forming a consortium and prioritizing data

collection as a major outcome provides a valuable tool to local units in determining their service level and structure.

Voorhees asked why the City cannot contract directly with the ambulance companies, instead of creating a consortium. Holt shared the challenge in determining the quality of ambulance service due to the lack of data. We are continually called to collaborate on services such as this to provide better services for everyone involved. Holt also elaborated on the challenges for smaller and/or geographically separated communities in securing ambulance service. In establishing a consortium, it also provides structure to ensure ambulance companies provide data and pay fees as required.

Poll asked about the objection from the ambulance company and whether there was cost involved in them collecting and providing data. Poll noted the benefits Wyoming has seen through an increased focus on data collection and subsequent modifications in Public Safety.

Vanderwood asked who formed Kent County Emergency Medical Service (KCEMS). Holt explained it is a state-required authority that oversees medical protocol for the county. The membership consists of hospital representatives. They are funded through fees paid by the hospitals, communities and ambulance companies. Vanderwood asked if Wyoming will see an increased cost by participating in this consortium. Holt does not expect an increase and noted the consortium will provide an improved opportunity to collect fees from the ambulance companies which is a problem under the current structure.

Voorhees asked about Mic Gunderson's role with KCEMS. Holt clarified Gunderson was initially a consultant, then executive director of KCEMS. Soon after that, the KCEMS board structure changed and Gunderson left that position. Holt is not overly familiar with the new executive director, but noted he is appreciative that communities in Kent County are working together to improve ambulance service.

Council supports moving this item to the next regular Council meeting for consideration.

7. Sex Offender Registry Ordinance

Sluiter noted the complexity of the State sex offender registry statute. Wyoming's role in the sex offender registry is collection of information and fees from those who reside or move into the City who are required to register under the various provisions of the statute. This ordinance clarifies the Police Department's role in collecting information and fees and handling misdemeanors charged to those who do not fulfill their registry obligations.

Council supports bringing this item to the next regular Council meeting for consideration.

8. Marijuana Ordinance Revision

Sluiter was reviewing the ordinance to accommodate recent changes in State law that address the transport of medical marijuana by a medical marijuana card holder. During that review, Sluiter identified a few other minor changes that should be made, again addressing changes in State law. Sluiter anticipates additional changes to the medical marijuana ordinance in the coming year, but this revision will make our ordinance current.

Council supports moving this item to the next regular Council meeting for consideration.

9. Byron Township 425 Agreement

Holt noted several past 425 agreements with neighboring jurisdictions. In this case, there is approximately 60 acres that is of interest to a developer. A 425 agreement allows for the transfer of property between jurisdictions with tax revenue sharing over the term of the agreement. In this case, Byron Township is unable to provide the necessary sewer service without significant cost. Due to the location, Wyoming can service the site. Holt discussed the various details of the agreement.

Wyoming and Byron Township will each take the necessary actions to approve the agreement and allow for the transfer, including holding a public hearing. If that is approved, we anticipate a rezoning request will be submitted, followed by site plan approval. There may be requests for improvements to 60th Street as well.

Burrill inquired about 60th Street, if it is accessible to trucks and who will maintain the street. Dooley noted 60th Street is maintained by the Kent County Road Commission. Holt noted road maintenance in this area still needs to be explored.

Council supports moving this item to the next regular City Council meeting for consideration.

10. Preliminary Budget Discussion

Balfort provided an overview of the 2016-2017 budget, highlighting the impact of changes in the collection of personal property tax and an estimated 2% increase in taxable value. Balfort reviewed millage rates, staffing levels and employee benefits including contributions paid toward those benefits, noting significant upcoming changes to the defined benefit. Balfort reviewed a number of slides and a handout featuring various funds.

Council thanked Balfort for her efforts on the budget.

11. Tree City USA Presentation

Estelle Slotmaker and Bill Brown, representing a neighborhood group called the Tree Amigos, presented on the Tree City USA designation. Greg Bryan is the leader of the group and was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Slotmaker explained the Tree Amigos started following a National Night Out event and conversations have been ongoing ever since. The group would like to see the Tree Amigos established as an official board of the City. Bill Brown shared information on the Tree City USA designation, why trees are important, the benefits they provide to the community, as well as and the importance of tree species selection and variation.

Vanderwood thanked Brown for his presentation and inquired about the City meeting the requirements of the Tree City USA designation. Dooley offered some details regarding the City's efforts maintaining trees.

Vanderwood asked if the committee's goal is to become a Tree City or is the goal to get trees replaced in neighborhoods. Sloomaker offered that the committee's goals include several steps, noting they are asking the City Council to help them get started.

Burrill noted the group's effort to be involved and thanked the group for their efforts. Burrill would like to support this group.

Bolt noted support in moving this forward. Holt will work with staff to develop a recommendation.

12. Any Other Matters

None.

13. Acknowledgement of Visitors/Public Comment

Barb DeCan, 4047 Oriole, expressed concern with the use of Oriole Park for personal parties, noting families often stake out the park shelter to "hold" it for personal events later in the day. Holt encouraged DeCan to work with Rynbrandt and the Parks and Recreation Commission to develop a recommendation for Council.

Brandon Simmons expressed appreciation to Council for discussing the proposals brought forward by the CEC. The CEC has outgrown the existing by-laws and change is needed. Simmons also clarified that payment to members goes beyond payment to him. There are several members of the board who have specialized skills and it would be helpful if the CEC can compensate those members for their services.

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk