

**City of Marine City
City Commission Minutes
October 5, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, October 5, 2023 at 260 South Parker Street, Marine City, and was called to order by Mayor Vandebossche at 7:00 P.M.

Present: Mayor Jennifer Vandebossche, Commissioners Jacob Bryson, Elizabeth Hendrick, Michael Hilferink, William Klaassen, Rita G. Roehrig, Brian Ross; City Manager Scott Adkins; City Clerk Jason Bell.

Also Present: City Attorney Robert Davis

AUDIO/VIDEO AVAILABLE

For complete audio of meeting, visit the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-fPpqBPLt4>

APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to approve the agenda. All Ayes.
Motion Carried.

PRESENTATIONS, PROCLAMATIONS & RECOGNITIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Moran invited everyone to attend the Master Plan Open House.

Chris Minor spoke on the need for the Commission to work together and with citizens. He also spoke on the City Attorney acting as an advisor only.

Rudy Menchaca apologized to Commissioners Hendrick and Bryson for calling them out at the last meeting and against Commissioner Hilferink's actions.

Catherine Warner requested the Commission to consider stop signs on S. Main Street due to speeding.

Rosalie Skwiers spoke on multiple books, marijuana and the Master Plan Open House.

APPROVE MINUTES

City Commission Meeting Minutes – September 21, 2023

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to approve the City Commission Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2023. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

City Commission Closed Session Meeting Minutes – September 7, 2023

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to approve the City Commission Closed Session Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2023. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

CONSENT AGENDA

Presented:

- a. 300 Broadway Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2023
- b. Community & Economic Development Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2023
- c. Halloween Trick or Treating Hours – Tuesday 10/31/2023 from 5p-8p

Motion by Commissioner Ross, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to approve the Consent Agenda a-c as presented. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Bryson, Hendrick, Hilferink, Klaassen, Roehrig, Ross, Vandenbossche. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA

None

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Expenditures Including Payroll - \$343,551.50

Commissioner Ross stated it was nice to see the amount come back down.

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to approve expenditures including payroll in the amount of \$343,551.50. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Hilferink, Klaassen, Roehrig, Ross, Vandenbossche, Bryson. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Preliminary Financial Statements

Commissioner Roehrig inquired what the Payroll Clearing Fund was. City Manager Adkins stated it was a catch all fund.

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to receive and file the preliminary financial statements. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Resolution 024-2023 – 5/3 Bank Signature Changes

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to approve Resolution 024-2023 authorizing necessary signature and account authorizations as required by Fifth Third as presented. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hilferink, Klaassen, Roehrig, Ross, Vandenbossche, Bryson, Hendrick. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Updated Investment Policy

City Manager Adkins spoke on the investment policy reflecting changes in the State statute on where the City can make investments. Commissioner Ross pointed out a couple grammatical errors and inquired if Curtis was aware of the policy. City Manager Adkins stated he would correct the errors and Curtis was aware of the updated policy.

Motion by Commissioner Ross, seconded by Commissioner Bryson, to approve the City of Marine City Investment Policy. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Klaassen, Roehrig, Ross, Vandenbossche, Bryson, Hendrick, Hilferink. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Resolution 023-2023 – Resolution of Charges under Charter Section 5.4

Commissioner Hilferink inquired what orders he gave to the Police Chief as stated in the list of charges. City Manager Adkins stated that would be discussed at the hearing. Commissioner Hilferink inquired again and the Mayor stated it would be discussed at the hearing. Police Chief Heaslip stated it was regarding the deployment of officers at Gord's Bar and read an excerpt of text messages from Commissioner Hilferink to him. City Attorney Davis stated Commissioner Hilferink could challenge the charge at the hearing.

Commissioner Hilferink inquired if the resolution was all there was and if there was more evidence. City Attorney Davis stated Commissioner Hilferink would receive the charges with evidence at the hearing.

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to approve Resolution 023-2023, Resolution of Charges under Charter Section 5.4 against Commissioner Michael Hilferink and if approved the City Commission schedule a hearing as soon as possible. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Roehrig, Ross, Vandenbossche, Bryson, Hendrick, Klaassen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to set the removal hearing for Monday, October 16, 2023 at 7:00pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

135 N 6th Street -Site Restoration – Dominic Breloski

Dominic Breloski spoke on his property and that the City had no right to come on his property and cut the grass at the vacant portion of the property. He stated he demolished the house as requested by the

Commission and planted grass seed but it was impossible to finish by the deadline due to the rain. Mr. Breloski stated the Building Official ordered the DPW Superintendent to cover the seed with dirt and that he received no notice and was sent as bill.

City Manager Adkins stated Building Official Kallek and DPW Superintendent Schmidt were in attendance to clarify if needed.

Building Official Kallek stated Mr. Breloski pulled a demo permit in April, never called for an open hole inspection as required and the demolished foundation sat in the City right of way for months. He stated Mr. Breloski then used asphalt millings to fill in the hole, not to grade and that he never saw seed planted. Building Official Kallek stated Mr. Breloski never called for a final inspection and in his opinion the property was not ready.

DPW Superintendent Schmidt stated he was notified by the Building Official the property was not up to standards and he sent crews out to address multiple issues.

City Manager Adkins stated the City sent Mr. Breloski a certified letter on June 16th with a completion of June 26th and that letter was signed for by Mr. Breloski, the site was not complete by the date so the DPW was sent out.

Mr. Breloski stated DPW Superintendent Schmidt was not telling the truth on the materials he picked up and that he hired a professional to clean it up and that Schmidt did not have the right to come on his property. He stated the land was level and he believed he should not have to pay for the work the City completed.

Commissioner Roehrig inquired if any pictures were taken of the site and Mr. Breloski stated there was not. City Manager Adkins stated this property originated in the Dangerous Building Board and Building Official Kallek would check BSA for photos.

City Manager Adkins stated the issue was the variation of fees and that the code was followed and the Commission gave Mr. Breloski additional time to complete and it was not completed. He stated there was approximately a \$1,200 balance. Commissioner Hendrick inquired if the Commission could direct City Manager Adkins to work with Mr. Breloski on a solution. City Manager Adkins stated he could work with Mr. Breloski on the manpower but materials are priced what they are. Mr. Breloski stated he would be willing to sit down with City Manager Adkins to work out a solution. Commissioner Hendrick requested pictures to be taken. Commissioner Ross stated he hoped an amicable solution could be reached.

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to authorize City Manager Adkins to sit down with Mr. Breloski to work out a solution. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 23-005 – Adult Use Marijuana 1st Reading

Commissioner Hilferink inquired if it was lawful to have a previously passed motion not being rescinded and an ordinance being drafted without another motion. City Attorney Davis spoke on the issue being allowable and his previous memos to the Commission regarding the issue. Commissioner Hilferink kept inquiring on the issue not being legal and read a section of the Charter that allowed the ballot initiative. He also spoke on the Commission or citizens not having input on the drafted ordinance. Commissioner Hendrick stated the Commission has spoken on the issue for months with their ideas on what to include as well as the citizens and that tonight was for the Commission to discuss the ordinance and its substance. Commissioner Hilferink did not agree with this ordinance.

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to call to question. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Ross, Vandenbossche, Bryson, Hendrick, Klaassen, Roehrig. Nays: Hilferink. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Roehrig, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to approve the first reading of Ordinance 23-005, An Ordinance Of The City Of Marine City, St. Clair County, Michigan To Establish Adult Use Marijuana Facilities Title XV, Chapter 160, Section 238 Entitled “Adult Use Marijuana Facilities”. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Bryson, Hendrick, Klaassen, Roehrig, Ross, Vandenbossche. Nays: Hilferink. Motion Carried.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

City Attorney Report

None.

City Manager Report

City Manager Adkins spoke on the Master Plan Open House and urged everyone to attend and if they could not attend to please send ideas, comments or concerns to him and he will make sure they get addressed. He also stated he would work with Chief Heaslip on the traffic issues on S. Main Street.

Reports from Department Heads

None.

COMMISSIONER PRIVILEGE/LIAISON REPORTS

Commissioner Klaassen stated the Planning Commission has a meeting coming up to discuss the upcoming condos. He also stated he is tired of the bickering.

Commissioner Hilferink apologized to the public for the way the meetings have been going and he has been attacked for asking questions on the public's behalf. He also spoke on the marijuana initiative and the closed door actions of the City and Commission and listed the attacks on him.

Commissioner Ross wished the Marine Football team luck and sent his thoughts and prayers to the Degueisippe family on the passing of Luanne Degueisippe.

Commissioner Roehrig spoke on the lies, accusations and conspiracy theories being floated and spoke on Trick or Treating hours for Halloween.

Commissioner Hendrick spoke on the Old Newsboys meeting on October 11th at 7:00pm at the Fire Hall, their Craft Show in December at Perch Point, the Lighted Santa Parade, paper sale and that the Old Newsboys were selling raffle tickets to fundraise to give children a Christmas.

Mayor Vandebossche stated she attended the CED Board meeting where they discussed redevelopment ready and business retention. She also thanked Rosalie for offering to bring snacks to the Master Plan Open House and that there was still an opening for the Planning Commission and to submit an application and someone would be appointed at the next City Commission meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Ross, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to adjourn at 9:06 p.m. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason A. Bell
City Clerk