**City of Marine City**

**City Commission**

**March 17, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 260 South Parker Street, Marine City, and was called to order by Mayor Vercammen at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Cheryl Vercammen; Commissioners Jacob Bryson, Elizabeth Hendrick, Wendy Kellehan, William Klaassen, Brian Ross; City Manager Holly Tatman; City Clerk Kris Baxter; Assistant City Clerk Shannon Adams

Also Present: City Attorney Robert Davis

Motion by Commissioner Ross, seconded by Commissioner Kellehan, to excuse Commissioner Kreidler from the meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**AUDIO/VIDEO AVAILABLE**

For complete audio/video of meeting, visit the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQfk48W6QcI>

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to approve the Agenda revised to add Closed Session as item #14. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Joe Moran made comments to thank the City Clerk, Kris Baxter, for her service to City and to wish her well on her retirement.

Phil Oleksiak made comments related to an article in the Blue Water Healthy Living publication, his continued grievance with the handling of an email related to the Mayor, and wanting information related to an investigation of a former City employee.

Rosalie Squires made comments related to a continuing issue with her neighbor’s dog not being on a leash, barking excessively, and excrement.

Micah DeVlaminck, owner of Knot Yoga, made comments wanting to see a skate park, splash pad, and nicer basketball court brought to the community and additional effort made to raise funds to achieve these things.

Rudy Menchaca thanked City Clerk Kris Baxter for her service and commented on his continued grievance with the handling of an email related to the Mayor.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner BrysoneH, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to approve the City Commission minutes of February 17, 2022. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Presented:

* Departmental Activity Reports
* MCAFA Run Report
* Planning Commission Minutes – December 13, 2021
* Community & Economic Development Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2022
* City-Owned Property Workgroup Minutes – February 9, 2022
* City-Owned Property Workgroup Minutes – February 24, 2022
* Community Foundation Communication

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to approve the Consent Agenda. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Bryson, Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

Expenditures

Motion by Commissioner Kellehan, seconded by Commissioner Bryson, to approve total expenditures including payroll, in the amount of $676,124.52. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Bryson, Kellehan, Klaassen, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: Hendrick. Motion Carried.

Preliminary Financial Statements

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Kellehan, to receive and file the Preliminary Financial Statements. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Zoning Map Updates

City Manager Tatman advised that the issue was with the Planning Commission and a vote was expected on the issue of the map updates in the future.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Library Board Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to appoint Linda Wilson to the Library Board. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Planning Commission Annual Report

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to receive and file the Planning Commission Annual Report. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Election Commission – Appoint City Commission Representative

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to appoint Commissioner Hendrick to the Election Commission for the May 3, 2022 Election. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

City Manager Tatman reported that she had met with County representatives related to funding opportunities for parks and recreation development and road improvements. Proper quotes for road projects are being prepared. The budget is in progress along with revamping and increasing fees and wage brackets. Additionally, she had worked through $800,000.00 in budget amendments with the assistance of UHY which was a continuing effort. Contract negotiation was completed with the new Treasurer and a background check and bonding was pending. She also reported that due to the excessive cost of doing so, she would not be able to move the taxes from in-house to the County. And, she mentioned the 26-mile corridor project which has the long-term goal of bringing major industry and jobs to the area to keep the work force in Saint Clair County.

**COMMISSIONER PRIVILEGE/LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Bryson thanked City Clerk, Kris Baxter, for her service and wished everyone a Happy Saint Patrick’s Day and requested that everyone have fun but be responsible.

Commissioner Hendrick wished Kris Baxter a happy retirement. She also mentioned that the Fire Authority had a meeting to review their budget and was looking to purchase some used equipment from the Coast Guard.

Commissioner Kellehan wished Kris Baxter good luck and also mentioned the Splash Bash Special Event which was being planned for June 24th at Nautical Mile Park and would include music, food, vendors, a kids fishing tournament, and a cash raffle.

Commissioner Klaassen thanked Kris Baxter for her service and indicated that the Planning Commission had met to discuss the map updates and to compare our maps with those of the County and determined they do not match and additional work was to be done related to this issue.

Commissioner Ross also thanked Kris Baxter for her service and mentioned that the next City-Owned Property Work Group was scheduled for March 21, 2022 and they were still wanting feedback from the community as to what a community center meant to them and what would best serve the City.

Mayor Vercammen bid a farewell to her friend and co-worker, Kris Baxter, and wished her a happy retirement and thanked her for serving Marine City. She also made mention of all of the hard work being done by City Manager Tatman. Additionally, she spoke to her Mayor Minutes interview with Justin Westmiller related to staying safe during an emergency and what to have at home for such an occasion. She stated the interview could be viewed on Channel 6. She spoke of having been interviewed by a reporter for Krane’s Business Magazine about the marina project and also mentioned the kayak launch would be going in soon. She further spoke to a Kevin Hart podcast she had recently listened to and mentioned Kevin would be performing in the local area soon. The podcast she related to was about the power of positivity and the impact of looking up and saying hello to one’s neighbors.

Kris Baxter spoke of her impending retirement and also wanted to address a Times Herald article which had been written about her and she felt the headline *Had Enough* mischaracterized why she was retiring and that she hadn’t “had enough” of the community and wanted the community to know her appreciation for them and the people she has had the opportunity to serve.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Commissioner Kellehan, seconded by Commissioner Bryson, to go into Closed Session at 8:00 pm to Consider Material Exempt from Discussion or Disclosure by State or Federal Statute-MCL 15.268(h). **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Bryson, Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Ross, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to go back into Open Session at 8:14 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Bryson, seconded by Commissioner Kellenan, to pay invoices in the amount of $34,850.00 to the law firm of Fisher Phillips. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Bryson, Kellehan, Klaassen, Hendrick, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Kellehan, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to adjourn at 8:16pm. All Ayes**.** Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon M. Adams

Assistant City Clerk

Kristen Baxter

City Clerk