City of Albion

City Council Meeting

January 17, 2017

1. Call To Order

Mayor Brown opened the regular session at 7:12 p.m.

1. Moment of Silence To Be Observed
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call

PRESENT: Maurice Barnes (1), Lenn Reid (2), Sonya Brown (3), Marcola Lawler (4), Jeanette Spicer (5) and Andrew French (6) and Mayor Brown.

Staff Present: Sheryl Mitchell, City Manager; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; John Tracy, Director Building, Planning & Code Enforcement; Danielle Nelson, Special Projects Director; Scott Kipp, Chief Public Safety; Jim Lenardson, Director Public Services.

V. Mayor & Council Member’s Comments

Comments were received from Council Members Lawler and French.

 VI. Presentations

A. Introduction ADPS K-9 Officer Lucy Jo-Chief Kipp

Albion Public Safety would like to introduce you to our newest officer K-9 Lucy Jo. Lucy Jo is a purebred bloodhound who was donated to the departmentent by Officer T. L. Bybee of the Town of Duck, North Carolina

by Officer T. L. Bybee of the Town of Duck, North Carolina. Officer Bybee has been donating bloodhounds to departments for over 10 years now. Lucy Jo is assigned to PSO Karilynn Noppe and has already begun her training at just 12 weeks old. by Officer T. L. Bybee of the Town of Duck, North Carolina. Officer Bybee has been donating bloodhounds to departments for over 10 years now. Lucy Jo is assigned to PSO Karilynn Noppe and has already begun her training at just 12 weeks old.

ADPS decided to get a bloodhound to assist in tracking, because there are not any in this area. In fact we have only been able to locate two police bloodhound in the entire state. One of the main reasons for getting the bloodhound was to locate people who are missing. We get several calls every year for people who walk away from group homes or elderly citizens with dementia. It is our hope this addition to the department will help quickly resolve these calls with positive outcomes. We also have a lot of property crimes that occur on foot and having a bloodhound who can respond quickly should be a game changer in our ability to solve these crimes.

Comments were received from Council Member French.by Officer T. L. Bybee of the Town of Duck, North Carolina. Officer Bybee has been donating bloodhounds to departments for over 10 years now. Lucy Jo is assigned to PSO Karilynn Noppe and has already begun her training at just 12 weeks old. by Officer T. L. Bybee of the Town of Duck, North Carolina. Officer Bybee has been donating bloodhounds to departments for over 10 years now. Lucy Jo is assigned to PSO Karilynn Noppe and has already begun her training at just 12 weeks old.

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B. MDOT Update on M-99/Superior St. Project

Brandan Maurer updated the Mayor and Council on the M-99/Superior St. Project as follows:

* Reconstruction of M-99
* Replacement of the subbase
* Replacement of the concrete base
* Replacement of the bricks
* Replacement of the curb & gutter
* Utility Work
* Replacement of the storm sewer
* Replacement of the water main
* Safety Upgrades
* Upgrade to the Superior St/Michigan Ave traffic signal
* 4 to 3 lane conversion
* Pedestrian bump outs
* Construction Schedule:

**Notifications**

* Weekly e-mails shall be sent containing the latest construction information
* Biweekly on-site public open houses to be held to discuss construction activities

**Stage 1**

* May 2017 to September 2017
* Open to traffic prior to the Festival of the Forks
* M-99 (Superior St) traffic detoured

**Stage 2**

* June 2017 to November 2017
* M-99 (N Superior St) traffic detoured
* I-94BL (E Michigan Ave) traffic detoured
* 1-94 BL (E Michigan Ave), Cass St & Erie St. to remain open as long as possible

**Detour Areas:**

* M-99 (S Superior St)
* 1-94BL (E Michigan Ave)

**Why must traffic be detoured?**

* The bricks must be locked in place between two concrete headers so they do not shift before the road can be opened to traffic.
* The concrete headers are located at the beginning and end of the project, at each side street, at the railroad tracks and at the bridge

**What is a 4 to 3 lane conversion?**

* NB/SB Lane
* Center Left-Turn Lane
* Shoulder (available for bike use)
* Parking

**What are the benefits of a 4 to 3 lane conversion?**

* Reduces rear end crashes
* Outside lane traffic hidden by inside lane vehicle
* Lateral offset from parked vehicles to travel lane
* 19-47% overall crash reduction

**What are the benefits of pedestrian bump outs?**

* Shorter pedestrian crossing length
* Increased pedestrian visibility at intersections through improved sight lines
* Reduction in illegally parked vehicles at intersections
* Increased pedestrian waiting space
* Traffic “calming”

**Michigan Department of Transportation Traffic Signal Removal Process**

* 1-94 BL (Eaton St) & Watson St.
* 1-94 BL (E Michigan Ave) @ Clark St.
* Federal Highway requires a minimum of one traffic signal warrant to be met to retain a signal in order to spend federal money to upgrade the signal.
* If traffic signal warrants are not met then MDOT follows a step-by-step procedure to determine IF the signal should be removed.
* First, collect data to determine if vehicle and pedestrian volumes meet warrants.
* If warrants are not met, MDOT specialists in Safety, Signals and Geometrics meets with Michigan State Police for field review.
* After field review, local agencies are notified of the study to potentially remove the signal.
* After public notice, the signal is then placed into flash 24 hours/day for a minimum of 90 days. The flashing operation mimics non-signalized conditions.
* During the 90 days, MDOT will collect additional data and study it to determine if the signal is warranted.
* After flashing the signal for a minimum of 90 days, MDOT will take all of the data into consideration and a final recommendation will be made.
* If the signal is warranted, it will be upgraded on the next available contract.
* If the Signal is not warranted, it will continue to flash until it is removed.

**Signal Retention Agreement**

* Federal Policy prohibits MDOT from using federal funds to operate and maintain a signal that is not warranted.
* However, the local road authority that has jurisdiction over the intersecting roadway may retain the signal if they agree to fully cover all costs associated with signal retention, operations and maintenance.

**Eaton and Watson**

* Last upgraded in the year 2000
* Received a request to remove the signal from an Albion resident in Fall 2014
* Traffic counts collected in November 2014
* Meeting with MDOT and MSP March 3, 2016
* Meeting with MDOT and City of Albion on March 16, 2016
* Signal placed in flash June 29, 2016
* Counts and data collected in September while signal was in flash
* Review data and provide final recommendation
* Share recommendation with City of Albion

**Eaton/ Watson Pedestrian Volume Warrants:**

* Pedestrian Warrant-A minimum of 75 pedestrian an hours crossing Watson is need.
* The maximum number of pedestrians is 12 per hour based on data and field reviews.
* School Crossing Warrant-A minimum of 20 school children and inadequate gaps in the traffic stream to cross the street.
* Based on Tuesday, April 12th review, 5 school children crossed the intersection
* Other remedial actions in lieu of signals for crosswalks
* Crossing Guards

**M-99 at Clark:**

* Last upgraded in the year 2002
* Came to our attention in 2013 signal may not meet warrants when MDOT looked to make some signal upgrades at location (detection/pushbuttons)
* Traffic counts collected in January 2016
* Meeting with MDOT and MSP March 3, 2016 and determined to flash signal as ALL-WAY stop.
* Meeting with MDOT and City of Albion on March 16, 2016
* ALL-WAY flash installed June 29, 2016
* Counts and data collected in September while signal was in flash
* Review data and provide final recommendation
* Share recommendation with City of Albion
* Pedestrian volumes were very low
* All-way stop control will allow gaps for any pedestrians to cross.

**Moving Forward:**

* Traffic modeling shows that vehicle delay should decrease when the signals go into flash

C. Oaklawn Dialysis Center-Richard Lindsey

Richard Lindsey, Executive Director of Development and Community/Legislative Affairs gave the following update on the Oaklawn Dialysis Center:

**Oaklawn Hospital**

* Opened in 1925 in Marshall with 12 beds; housed in a private residential home
* Original home was deeded to the Ella E. M. Brown Charitable Circle Association
* Hospital still sits on the location of the original home
* In 1948, a public campaign was launched to build a new 47 bed hospital
* In 1962, the hospital expanded to 69 beds
* In 1971, the hospital was on the verge of closing and the community raised $700,000 to renovate and expand; the expansion was completed in 1974
* In 1975, Oaklawn opened the original 12,000 square-foot Wright Medical Building
* In 1980 the Intensive Care Unit opened
* Through steady growth, by 2004, Oaklawn had become Marshall’s largest employer
* In 2007 Oaklawn completed a $27 million expansion that added a third and fourth floor and converted all acute-care rooms to private rooms among the first in the State to do this.
* By 2013, Oaklawn was providing 27 percent of its services off-site, including locations in Albion, Homer, Tekonsha, Homer, Bellevue, Beadle Lake and Olivet.
* Ginger Williams became President and CEO in 2013

**Oaklawn Hospital Today**:

* Regional health care organization licensed for 77 acute care beds and a 17 bed inpatient psychiatric unit
* Service area includes Calhoun County and parts of Branch and Eaton County
* Medical staff of more than 150 providers representing over 35 specialties

**Oaklawn Hospital-2016**

* **Oaklawn Dialysis Center of Albion, LLC**
* Need in Albion based on community health care assessment
* Developed in partnerships with Fresenius Medical Care North America which operates facility in Marshall
* 8800 square-foot, 12 chair dialysis center
* Open House back in May with approximately 150 people in attendance
* Officially opened in October and moving to two shifts
* Have applied for 5th Operating Room-2.5M investment
* Have partnered to support Albion-Marshall Connector
* Continuing to partner through the Albion Health Care Alliance-both financially and serving on the Board
* Orthopedic surgeons
* Health Network Planning Grant
* Borgess Collaboration
* Transformation, Healing, Inspiration, Nurture and Knowledge
* Calhoun and Branch Counties

**Oaklawn Hospital-Community**

* Partner with NAACP for school backpack event
* Support AHCA annual fundraiser
* Support Chamber
* Attend Community events
* Engage in gap analysis to determine health care needs of the community and where Oaklawn can help
* Helped fund 2nd phase of Bohm Theatre and treating Harrington students to a movie, popcorn and a drink
* Albion is essential part of Oaklawn’s service area-are investing in this community
* Dr. Teleah Phillips-new addition to Oaklawn staff as of 12/27-family practice in Albion

D. 27th Annual Cardboard Sled Race-February 11th, 2017

Officer Reinger, Albion Department of Public Safety stated the City of Albion and Albion Department of Public Safety will partner to hold the 27th Annual Classic Cardboard Sled Race which will be held on February 11th, 2017 at Victory Park. Check-in and open registration will be from 10:00-11:00 am; Sled design judging at 11:15 am and downhill sled races at 12:00 pm. Saturday, February 25th, 2017 will be the alternate weather date. Tapes and glues may be used to hold your sled together. This is a free event and unlike in years past, you can sign up the day of the race. They invite the Mayor and Council Members to be judges for the event.

Knauf Insulation will donate 9 pallets of cardboard for the race. Haas Trucking deliver the cardboard to City Hall where residents can pick up.

Stacey Levin, Assistant City Manager stated that sponsors are still needed. Vendors will be onsite selling hot chocolate and soup.

Comments were received from Council Members French and Reid and City Manager Mitchell.

E. Update on Bohm Theatre-Mary Slater

Mary Slater, Chair of Friends of the Bohm Theatre stated on January 25th, 2017 there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Bohm II Theatre. The Mayor and Council received an invitation to a private tour of the Bohm at 5:30 p.m. The ribbon cutting will begin at 6:15 and then small groups will be able to tour the Bohm II.

The Bohm II will expand movie opportunities that have previously been restricted by the movie industry. The Friends of the Bohm still need support from the community to help with the operation of the theatre. They also would like to hear from the community what types of movies they would like to see.

VII. Citizen’s Comments (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their comments to **agenda items only** and to no more than five (5) minutes. Proper decorum is required.)

 Comments were received from Wayne Arnold, 906 Hall St.

1. Consent Calendar (VV)
2. Approval Regular Session Minutes – January 3, 2017

 French moved, Lawler supported, CARRIED, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. (7-0 vv)

1. Items for Individual Discussion
2. Request Approval Letter of Understanding with the Albion Clerical Alliance (RCV)

Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell.

French moved, Reid supported, CARRIED, to approve Letter of Understanding with the Albion Clerical Alliance as presented. (7-0 rcv)

B. Request Approval 1st Reading Ordinance # 2017-01, An Ordinance to Designate the Office of the City Clerk as an Administrative Office of the City (RCV)

Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell.

 French moved, Barnes supported, CARRIED, to approve 1st Reading Ordinance # 2017-01, An Ordinance to Designate the Office of the City Clerk as an Administrative Office of the City as presented. (7-0 rcv)

C. Request Approval Resolution # 2017-02, A Resolution in Support of County-Wide Transit Service Plan for Calhoun County (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes and Lawler and City Manager Mitchell.

Barnes moved, French supported, CARRIED, to approve Resolution # 2017-02, A Resolution in Support of County-Wide Transit Service Plan for Calhoun County as presented. (7-0 rcv)

D. Discussion/Approval of Albion Malleable Brewing Co., LLC-Alleyway and Sidewalk

City Manager Mitchell stated Albion Malleable Brewing Co., LLC is interested in leasing or purchasing the alleyway abutting their property on Ash Street to place equipment and the sidewalk on Superior Street for an outdoor seating area.

Council Member French suggested selling the alleyway and sidewalk for $1.00 with right of refusal if the property were to be sold or change hands.

Council Member Reid expressed concern of having the Library directly across the street and children being exposed to adults outside drinking.

Ben Wade, Co-Owner of Albion Malleable Brewing Co., LLC stated they would rather purchase than lease the property. He feels the outdoor seating area will create a new look and change the feel of the Downtown. He also stated the outdoor seating area would only be accessible from inside the building.

City Attorney Harkness recommended selling the property with a utility easement. He stated leasing the property would require a significant insurance policy to be held by Albion Malleable Brewing Co., LLC with the City of Albion being named as an additional insured.

Director of Public Services Jim Lenardson stated the alleyway has a sizeable sewer main. The City would need to have arrangements for an easement to access the sewer main. He has spoken with the owners of Albion Malleable Brewing and they are willing to work with us on this easement. There should be no issue with street access.

Additional comments were received from Council Members Spicer and Barnes; John Tracy, Director of Planning, Building & Code Enforcement and Mayor Brown.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, For the City Manager to pursue a purchase agreement for the sale of sidewalk and alleyway to Albion Malleable Brewing Co., LLC and negotiate a price based on assessed value. (7-0, rcv)

E. Request Approval Michigan Economic Development Corporation Grant (RCV)

 Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell and Mayor Brown.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to approve Michigan Economic Development Corporation Grant as presented. (7-0 rcv)

F. Request Approval Letter of Understanding with Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members French, Barnes, Brown, Lawler and Spicer; Chief Kipp; City Manager Mitchell and Mayor Brown.

Barnes moved, French supported, CARRIED, to approve Letter of Understanding with Police Officers Association of Michigan (POAM) as presented. (6-1, rcv) (Brown dissenting)

G. City Manager Report

City Manager Mitchell updated the Council with the following update:

* The December Board of Review was conducted on 12/13/2016 and property owners were notified of the DBOR’s decisions. Changes due to the outcome of the Board were updated on the pertinent Assessment year’s roll.
* The Assessing Department has been working with the Calhoun County Equalization Department on sales studies for residential properties and reviewing their appraisal studies for select commercial and industrial parcels. These studies help to establish the 2017 land values and Economic Condition Factors for the City of Albion.
* 2017 Personal Property Statements and Small Business Exemption Affidavits have been mailed to all applicable parties for timely processing. The forms also have been made available on the City website.
* The 2017 Federal Guidelines for Financial Hardship Exemptions has been updated and posted to the City website.
* The Assistant Assessor achieved his Michigan Certified Assessing Officer (MCAO) certification as of 12/21/2016. Good job Tom!
* Monday, January 23rd, 2017 is the tour of the Marshall Opportunity School.
* Tuesday, January 24th, 2017 The Council will have a special meeting to appoint Boards & Commissions positions
* The 2nd annual MLK dialogue was a blessing and motivational speaker Milton Barnes was exceptional as the key note speaker.
* The Mayor and Council went to a networking meeting in Lasing and met with Senator Nofs and Representative Bizon.
* February 4th, 2017 The Mayor and City Council has arranged for the Michigan Municipal League (MML) to provide training to assist everyone in understanding their responsibilities and rules impacting public meetings.
* The EDC discussed at a recent visioning meeting of making the Austin and Eaton Street corridors a priority. Year round lighting may be an option.
* The Albion Police Department has been in existence since January 17, 1917 when the department was re-organized under the City Manager form of Government.
* The Council photos have been added to the City’s website but we still need bios from Council Members.

City Attorney Harkness stated the legal opinion Council requested from the bond attorney, Miller and Canfield is being worked on. Although the actual cost is unknown, City Attorney Harkness feels it will be reasonable.

H. Future Agenda Items

* Council Member Lawler asked that a discussion of the Union Steel Building be added to the next agenda.
* Council Member Barnes asked that the total aggregate amount of the City Manager contract be added to the next agenda.
* Council Member Spicer asked a discussion item for lowering the solid waste millage be added to the next agenda.

I. Motion to Excuse Absent Council Member (s) (VV)

No action was necessary as all members were present.

1. Citizen’s Comments

Comments were received from Marva Powell, 116 W. Pine St; Lavada Weeks, 917 Luther Dr; Gary Tompkins, 7th District Calhoun County Commissioner and Richard Lindsay, Executive Director of Development and Community for Oaklawn Hospital.

1. Adjournment

 French moved, Lawler supported, CARRIED, to adjourn council session. (7-0 vv)

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

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Date Jill Domingo City Clerk