City of Albion

City Council Meeting

January 19, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Domingo opened the regular session at 7:00 p.m.

II. MOMENT OF SILENCE TO BE OBSERVED

III. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IV. ROLL CALL

Maurice Barnes (1), Lenn Reid (2), Garrett Brown (3), Rebecca Decker (4), Cheryl Krause (5) and Andrew French (6) and Mayor Joseph Domingo.

STAFF PRESENT:

Sheryl Mitchell, City Manager; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Tom Mead, Finance Director, and Kurt Etter, Public Safety Sergeant.

V. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes, Reid, Krause and French.

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Marshall Public Schools-Dr. Randall Davis, Superintendent and Richard Lindsay,

School Board President

Dr. Randy Davis, Superintendent of Marshall Public Schools gave a presentation on annexation of Albion Community Schools and Marshall Public Schools. He highlighted the following points:

**The steps for annexation are as follows:**

1. Marshall Public School Board Resolution passed 7-0 on 1-11-2016

2. Michigan Department of Education issues decision. This was submitted on 1-12- 2016. If this is approved then:

3. Albion Board calls for an election for the voters in the Albion School District for the May 2016 election. The ballot language will state the date of annexation will be 7-1-2016. If this is approved then:

4. The annexation becomes official on 7-1-2016.

**Financial Implications:**

* Albion’s current operational debt at time of annexation becomes Marshall’s responsibility. This debt is currently estimated to be $3,600,000.
* Albion’s financial assets and liabilities become Marshall’s (facilities, property, equipment, etc.)
* Albion’s Sinking Fund of 4 mils terminates and Marshall’s Sinking Fund of 1 mil is applied to all combined tax payers in the expanded Marshall Public School District which expires in 2023.
* The existing bond indebtedness at the time of annexation for Albion is paid by the Albion tax payers; and the bond indebtedness of Marshall is paid by the Marshall tax payers.
* Any new/future bond indebtedness is approved and paid for by the combined voters/tax payers of the newly expanded MPS district.

**Operating Revenues:**

* 18 mils Non-Homestead taxation applies across the newly formed Marshall District, This is due to expire in 2018.
* Per pupil foundation allowance applied to all students in the expanded district.
* Federal Title Funds and State at Risk Funds will be adjusted into the Marshall District following the annexation.
* Line Item 22g for “District Annexation/Consolidation”. Competitive grant through MDE has been successfully submitted and awaiting decision prior to 2-5-2016. Three districts applied but only two qualify-Marshall and Redford.
* Local dollars/resources from grantors and community partners,

**Unknowns:**

* Enrollment at the time of annexation
* Impact of School of Choice from across the region in January, 2016
* Increased operational costs for personnel, instruction, transportation, supplies, etc.
* Staffing structure and number of teachers/support staff and administrators to implement total services in Albion and Marshall.
* Status of facilities in Albion. Albion Community Schools currently own four buildings although only two are being used.

**Win-Wins:**

* Fully leveraged pre-K through grade 16 under one district; with a PK-5 Elementary offered in the Albion community.
* Regional efforts in providing quality educational services to all children.
* New partnerships forged to expand opportunities for our students.
* Currently have five businesses- two in Albion and three in Marshall participating in the training/apprentice program.

Dr. Davis then discussed the Annexation 22G Competitive Grant which highlighted the following:

**Program Costs-$188,000**

* Instructional Resources-textbooks, math modules, science kits, instruction consumables/non consumables.
* Professional Development: aligning curriculum and instructional practices, cultural competencies and instructional engagement. Trainers and staff stipends.
* Unemployment Costs due to annexation.

**Support Services-$123,000**

* Central Office Staff-Reimburse budgets in both District’s for pre-annexation work completed by the Superintendents, business offices and human resources.
* Annexation Costs: Auditing for merging, liabilities and assets, attorney fees, election costs, appraisals of buildings and real estate prior to annexation.

**Operations/Facilities-$586,000**

* Building Improvements: modifying the current Albion K-8 building to accommodate a non-traditional high school while providing K-5 elementary.
* Abandoned Buildings: a set-aside for possible demolition of existing buildings owned by the Albion Schools and no longer in use. This is to be determined.

**Pupil Transportation-$767,000**

* Bus purchasing: purchasing eight 77-passenger buses with two-way radios and cameras. This is replacing Albion’s bus fleet they sold to the outsourcing company. Marshall handles their own transportation.
* Auxiliary Services: financial support for the Marshall/Albion Connector for two years that supports community engagement and participation with school programming in Marshall. Also, assisting the after school shuttles for students residing in Albion that participate in extra-curricular and athletics.

**Technology-$928,000**

* Technology infrastructure: aligning Albion School with Marshall Schools (e.g. upgrades is wireless coverage for Internet, migration to common student information system PS)
* Phone Systems: Updating and aligning phone systems, domain servers, etc.

**Community Activities-$40,000**

* Youth Leadership Symposium: summer symposium for youth in transitions.
* Day Camps: providing various camp experiences at grade level to enhance student engagement and cohesiveness.

**Albion Deficit-$3.6 Million**

* Paying off the debt of Albion Community Schools to relieve the tax payers in Albion of additional long term debt/taxation.
* Additionally, the Albion Sinking Fund thru 2018 at the time of annexation will be vacated at 4 mills and replaced with the existing Marshall Sinking Fund of 1 mill through 2023.
* The debt retirement is 3.6 million and the implementation is 2.6 million.

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes, Brown and Decker.

B. Albion Mayor’s Youth Council-Diversity Award Presented to Dr. Wesley Dick

Shi’Terriona Straham, City Manager of the Mayor’s Youth Council read aloud and presented a Diversity Champion Proclamation to Dr. Wesley Dick. Dr. Dick received a standing ovation when presented the proclamation. He and his wife Leslie were noted for their work on a college course taught by Dr. Dick to freshman at Albion College entitled “A Sense of Place: Albion and the American Dream”.

Comments were received from Dr. Wesley Dick who stated Albion is a unique and diverse community and is blessed by the Albion community. He also stated Albion’s story is America’s story. Dr. Dick thanked the Mayor, City Council, City Manager and Mayor’s Youth Council.

C. Albion Mayor’s Youth Council-Medical Marijuana

Harry Bonner, Director of Substance Abuse Prevention asked the members of the Council how they felt about legalizing medical marijuana.

Council Member Decker stated that although the Council had not discussed this as a group, she would support the legalization of medical marijuana.

Council Member French stated he would also agree with legalizing medical marijuana as it helps to elevate pain for people suffering from Aids and Cancer. He feels the state and federal government need to come together and agree on laws pertaining to legalization of medical marijuana. Council Member Barnes and Reid also agree with the legalization. City Attorney Harkness stated we have two ordinances in place pertaining to marijuana. The local level of government handles a lot of the non-legal marijuana.

Mr. Bonner invited the members of Council to attend the breakfast at Albion Community School on Friday, January 22, 2016 at 9:15 a.m.

VII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Comments were received from Mark Anthony Lane, 407 W. Cass St.

VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR (VV)

(Items on Consent Calendar are voted on as one unit)

A. Approval Regular Council Session Minutes-January 4, 2016

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

IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Request Approval Two Year Labor Agreement/Contract (2016-2017) AFSCME (DPW) (RCV)

Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell.

French moved, Decker supported, CARRIED, To Approve a Two Year Labor Agreement/Contract (2016-2017) AFSCME (DPW) as presented. (7-0, rcv)

B. Request Approval Two Year Labor Agreement/Contract (2016-2017) for TPOAM/ACA Union (Clerical/Finance Dept.) (RCV)

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, To Approve a Two Year Labor Agreement/Contract (2016-2017) for TPOAM/ACA Union (Clerical/Finance Dept.) as presented. (7- 0, rcv)

C. Request Approval Two Year Agreement/Contract (2016-2017) for POAM (Public Safety Officers) (RCV)

Brown moved, French supported CARRIED, Approve to Excuse Council Member Decker from the Approval Two Year Agreement/Contract for POAM vote. (6-0, rcv)

Krause moved, French supported, CARRIED, To Approve a Two Year Labor Agreement/Contract (2016-2017) for POAM as presented. (6-0, rcv)(Decker abstaining)

D. Request Approval Resolution #2016-04, To Appoint Kenneth Snyder as City of Albion Representative to the Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority, January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017 (RCV)

Comments received from Council Member Brown and City Manager Mitchell.

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, To Approve Resolution # 2016-04, To Appoint Kenneth Snyder as City of Albion Representative to the Calhoun County Consolidated Dispatch Authority, January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2017 as presented. (7-0, rcv)

E. Request Approval Resolution # 2016-05, FY 2016 Budget Amendment (RCV)

Comments were received from City Manager Mitchell and Mayor Domingo.

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2016-05, FY 2016 Budget Amendment as presented. (7-0, rcv)

F. Request Approval Resolution # 2016-06, Boy Scout Troop # 158 Overnight Camping Request at Victory Park (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes, French and Reid; Mayor Domingo; City Manager Mitchell; Dave Huber, 421 Brockway Place and Michael Gant, 313 Washington St.

Barnes moved, French supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2016-06, Boy Scout Troop # 158 Overnight Camping Request at Victory Park as presented. (7-0, rcv)

G. Request Approval Resolution # 2016-07, Greater Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau Cardboard Classic Sled Race Request for Victory Park (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Member Reid.

Barnes moved, French supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2016-07, Greater Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau Cardboard Classic Sled Race Request for Victory Park as presented. (7-0, rcv)

H. Discussion-Update on Austin Avenue

Council Member Barnes stated the update he received in the Council packet from John Tracy, Director Building, Planning and Code Enforcement was excellent. He would however, like to see abatements applied for the rear of the buildings on Austin Avenue. He continues to strive to have owners sell or make the buildings more attractive for this entrance of the City.

I. City Manager Report

City Manager Mitchell updated the Council with the following items:

* Several activities at Albion Community Schools on Thursday (1-21-16) and Friday (1-22-16) for the sixth, seventh and eighth graders who will be transitioning to Marshall Public Schools next week.
* She invites the Council to attend a breakfast being held at Albion Community Schools on Friday, January 22, 2016 from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and provide motivational remarks.
* Congressman Kildee along with Calhoun County Treasurer Christine Schauer and Krista Trout, Land Bank Director will be in Albion on Thursday, January 21, 2016 to tour Albion and Calhoun County for commercial, industrial and residential sites that require resources to stabilize and re-invigorate our community.
* We will be working with Bill Phillips from Southwest Michigan Development Community on rehabilitating properties.
* Information was provided to Council via email on homeless and emergency shelter services. A presentation from Vicky Clark from Summit Pointe is scheduled for the next Council meeting and will have additional information on this topic.
* Through a cooperative agreement with Albion Community Schools, the Recreation Department will be providing open gym for the sixth, seventh and eighth graders from 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. each day.

J. Future Agenda Items

* Council Member Krause would like the following items on the next agenda:
* 2016 Street Repairs
* Update on the Food Hub
* Update on the Asphalt Plant
* Update on 101 N. Superior St. Building
* Council Member Brown asked for a quarterly update from the EDC which would include their goals for the year on the next agenda.
* Mayor Domingo would like an update on any interest in the 425 property.
* Council Member Barnes asked for a written legal opinion from City Attorney Harkness on the effect of the possible annexation for the Albion District Library.

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

No action was necessary as all members were present.

X. CITIZEN’S COMMENTS (Persons addressing the City Council shall limit their

comments to agenda items and to no more than five (5) minutes. Proper decorum is required.)

Comments were received from Sonya Brown, 713 Orchard Dr; David Farley and Mark Anthony Lane, 407 W. Cass St.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Krause moved, French supported, CARRIED, to ADJOURN Regular Session. (7-0, vv).

Mayor Domingo adjourned the Regular Session at 9: 06 p.m.

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Date Jill Domingo City Clerk