

City of Albion
City Council Meeting
October 5, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. 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.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE TO BE OBSERVED

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STAFF PRESENT:

Sheryl Mitchell, City Manager; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Jim Lenardson, Director of Public Works; John Tracy, Director, Building, Planning and Code Enforcement; Cindy Stanczak, Director, Albion District Library and Scott Kipp, Chief of Public Safety.

V. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER'S COMMENTS

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

VI. PRESENTATIONS

A. Albion District Library Update-Cindy Stanczak

Cindy Stanczak, Director, Albion District Library gave an update highlighting the following:

- The summer reading program had over 100 adults participate with 6,000 hours of reading time, 32 teens and double the number of grade schoolers. This was a collaborative effort between the Albion District Library and Albion Community School.
- This program was started to prevent the summer slide.
- The Library had several summertime activities from June through August and had 1600 attendees and 272 teens.
- The Library has partnered with The Big Read program and offers several activities throughout the month of October.
- The book discussion has had heavy participation.

Budget Items:

- The Library has passed their 2016 balanced budget before the deadline of September 30, 2015 so they may levy their millage.
- The budget is a best estimate of the revenue and expenses for the year. The Board used the budget concept of budget low on revenues and high on expenses and expect this would bring promising results
- The revenue for the Library has dropped the last five years with approximately 70% due to the millage and 15% from state and county.
- The 406 fund is a renaissance zone property tax that is received from the state and is uncertain from year to year.
- The penal fines the Library receives was originally given to them largely in part to prevent corruption. We are the only state in the union that receives these funds.
- The Library currently has one year's worth of funds in trust that can be used as fallback.
- They have approximately \$1 million dollars in trust and endowments. However, a portion of these funds are earmarked for particular programs.
- A blog was created by some Albion College journalist students called "Save ADL". Ms. Stanczak wanted to assure members of the community the library is not in danger of closing and plans to continue with programming through the 2016 budget year. The only changes will be in hours for the Children's Room. It will be open Monday-Thursday from Noon to 8:00 p.m.

B. MDOT M-99 Project-Darrell Harden

Darrell Harden, Southwest Region Planner for MDOT have a brief update on the M-99 Re-Design Project and highlighted the following items:

- The re-design process is a "road-diet that essentially would be a reduction in lanes that would take it from four to three lanes and would have a designated turn lane.
- We currently have a four lane concept with the eleven (11) foot lanes. The new concept would create two eleven (11) foot lanes, a five (5) foot bike lane and a twelve (12) foot center lane so essentially the road size would not change.
- The concept is being examined to allow for the creation of bike lanes and the efficiency of turning while maintaining traffic flow. The bike lanes would be between the road and the parking on the road bed.
- An initial engineering analysis has been completed but an intersection analysis and a SHIPO (State Historic Preservation Office) review would also need to be done.
- The idea is to improve the downtown access.
- New bricks will be used for this project, will be a complete fix and a full season project.

- Citizen involvement in making this change is a must and the actual change would need to be approved at a public meeting of the Albion City Council.
- The City of Albion is one of the few remaining “brick” streets in Michigan and this creates historic significance in the materials being used for the project.
- MDOT would like the City's approval to move forward with investigating the “Road Diet” concept.
- The “Road Diet” informational guide will highlight the pros and cons of the concept.

City Manager Mitchell thanked Mr. Harden for all his help in working with the City and staff on this project.

Comments were received from Council Members Brown, Decker, French, Krause and Barnes and Mayor Domingo.

VII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Frank Passic, 900 S. Eaton St. expressed his initial concerns/comments on the MDOT M-99 street project.

VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR (VV) (Items on Consent Calendar are voted on as one unit)

A. Approval Regular Session Minutes-September 21, 2015

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

IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Discussion/Request Approval of M-99 Redesign as part of 2017 Street Project (RCV)

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to Approve M-99 Redesign as part of 2017 Street Project as presented. (7-0, rcv)

B. Request Approval 2nd Reading Ordinance # 2015-06, An Ordinance for Operation of Off-Road Recreation & Utility Vehicles on City Streets (RCV)

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, Approval 2nd Reading Ordinance # 2015-06, An Ordinance for Operation of Off-Road Recreation & Utility Vehicles as presented. (7-0, rcv)

C. Request Approval for Trick or Treat from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2015 (VV)

Comments were received from Council Member French and Mayor Domingo.

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, Approval of Trick or Treat from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2015 as presented. (7-0, vv)

D. Request Approval for AFSCME Attendance & Absenteeism Policy (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Members French, Brown, Barnes, Krause and Decker; City Manager Mitchell and Mayor Domingo.

Barnes moved, French supported, CARRIED, to Approve AFSCME Attendance & Absenteeism Policy as presented. (6-1, rcv) (Domingo dissenting)

E. Request Approval of Budget Study Sessions Dates (VV)

Comments were received from Council Member French and City Manager Mitchell.

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, to Approve Budget Study Sessions Dates as presented. (7-0, vv)

D. City Manager Report

City Manager Mitchell reported the following:

- The kick-off event for the Big Read had a good turnout even with the rain.
- Facades are being spruced up downtown in part due to the DDA Façade Grant Program which approved approximately \$25,000 in grants.
- The Parks & Recreation Plan is moving forward. They plan to present the Parks & Recreation Master Plan to the Planning Commission on November 17, 2015 and to the Council for final approval on December 7, 2015.
- City Manager Mitchell, Chief Kipp and Bob Dunklin attended a "Fair and Impartial" conference and plans to create community involvement in adopting a plan.
- Bids for the Ismon House will be done on Tuesday, October 13th, 2015 at City Hall at 10:00 a.m.
- A presentation for Priority Placed Budgeting is being planned to see if it will be a good fit for Albion
- The Show Your Best Event will take place on Saturday, October 24, 2015 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. She encourages all to come show your best.

E. Future Agenda Items

- City Attorney Harkness stated a golf cart ordinance will be on the next agenda.
- Council Member Brown asked to have a revision of the taxi ordinance added to the next agenda.
- Council Member Brown asked to have a discussion pertaining to downtown businesses retaining some type of insurance on buildings added to the next agenda.
- Council Member Decker asked to have notification of employee policies and procedures added to the next agenda.
- Council Member French asked about re-creating the Gold Metal flour advertisement on the Boost Mobile Building.

Comments were received from Council Member Reid, Brown, Decker, French and Barnes; Mayor Domingo and City Attorney Harkness.

F. Motion to Excuse Absent Council Member (s)

No action needed 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 Dennis McKee, Consumers Energy and spoke on the following:

- Consumers Energy is upgrading their electric meters
- They will install 670,000 new meters
- The new meters are using the cell network and will send text messages with meter readings and notifications of power outages
- The new technology will allow Consumers to get away from using estimates and also allows the customers access to online use information
- They will be sending out notifications to all customers in advance of changing out the meters
- The Albion Community will be done the Spring of 2016.
- Although meter readers will no longer be used, they did not cut any positions with this new technology.

Comments were received from Council Members Krause, Reid, French and Brown and Mayor Domingo.

Additional citizen comments were received from Mike Bearman, 11016 29 Mile Rd; Cindy Stanczak, 929 Luther Drive and Mayor Domingo.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Domingo adjourned the Regular Session at 8:48 p.m.

Date

Jill Domingo
City Clerk