City of Albion

City Council Meeting

April 18, 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 Domingo.

STAFF PRESENT:

Sheryl Mitchell, City Manager; Jill Domingo, City Clerk; Cullen Harkness, City Attorney; Scott Kipp, Public Safety Chief; Tom Mead, Finance Director and John Tracy, Director, Planning, Building and Code Enforcement.

V. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Comments were received from Council Members Reid, Decker and French and City Attorney Harkness.

VI. PRESENTATION

A. Brandon Maurer-MDOT

Brandon Maurer gave an update on the process of traffic signal removal, highlighting the following:

* Federal highway requires a minimum standards (warrants) to be met to retain signal and 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 on 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.
* In order for the signal to remain if it is not warranted, Signal Retention Agreement must be signed by MDOT and the local agency.
* 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 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 MDP March 3, 2016
* Meeting with MDOT and City of Albion on March 16, 2016
* Anticipated to begin flashing signal as two-stop in late March. (this has been delayed to June)
* Collect counts and data in September while signal is in flash.
* Review data and provide final recommendation.
* Share recommendation with City of Albion.
* Pedestrian Warrant-A minimum of 75 pedestrian an hour crossing Watson is needed.
* 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 crosswalk-Crossing Guards
* M-99 at Clark
* Last upgraded in 2002
* Came to MDOT’s attention in 2013 that signal may not meet

warrants when MDOT looked to make some signal upgrades

at location.

* 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
* Anticipated to begin flashing signal as ALL-WAY in late

March. (this has been delayed to June)

* College counts and data in September while signal is in

flash and College is in session.

* Review data and provide final recommendation.
* Share recommendation with City of Albion.
* Moving Forward-traffic modeling shows that vehicle delay

Should decrease when the signals go into flash.

Comments were received from Council Members Decker, Reid, Brown and French, Chief Scott Kipp, City Manager Mitchell and Mayor Domingo.

VII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

No comments were received.

VIII. CONSENT CALENDAR (VV)

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

A. Approval Regular Session Minutes-April 4, 2016

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

IX. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Request Approval Resolution # 2016-25, A Resolution for Proposed Ballot Language to Amend Chapter 10, Section 22 of the City of Albion Charter (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Member Brown.

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, To Approve Resolution # 2016-25, A Resolution for Proposed Ballot Language to Amend Chapter 10, Section 22 of the City of Albion Charter as presented. (7-0, rcv)

B. Request Approval Resolution # 2016-26, A Resolution for Proposed Ballot Language to Amend Chapter 7, Section 1 of the City of Albion Charter (RCV)

City Attorney Harkness stated the following change needs to be made to Resolution # 2016-26, Section 7.1- (b) the assessor’s office and work should be eliminated.

Comments were received from Council Members French and Decker; City Attorney Harkness; City Manager Mitchell and Mayor Domingo.

French moved, Brown supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2016-26, with change as recommended by counsel, A Resolution for Proposed Ballot Language to Amend Chapter 7, Section 1 of the City of Albion Charter with the above change. (7-0, rcv)

C. Discussion-1st Quarter Financial Reports

Finance Director Mead gave a brief overview of the 1st quarter financials. He stated the auditors have just completed their field work so we will have adjusting entries that will need to be done. Due to seasonal items, the current numbers may fluctuate. The general fund appears to have ended in pretty good shape. 2016 is looking good so far.

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

D. City Manager Report

City Manager Mitchell updated the Council on the following items:

* The Redevelopment Ready Committee has signed a joint memorandum with the MEDC and will be moving forward.
* Smoke Testing has begun and will run through the end of the month.
* Superior St. between Michigan Ave. and Cass St. and Erie St. between Hannah St. and Darrow St. will be closed between **April 25, 1016 and May 7, 2016** for repairs to the railroad crossing.
* The Lead Task Force has applied for a grant for increased testing and education particularly for homes older than 1978.
* The DNR grant for the trail has been signed by the Governor. A resolution will be coming to the Council for approval.
* The French market will be open May 14th, 2016
* The Farmers Market will also be opening soon.
* May 11th-May 21st is Albion Week. Lots of fun activities planned. Albion Week will kick off with the community bike ride.
* The Planning Commission is working on plans for projects for downtown.
* The DDA is working on parking proposals and is also considering overnight parking. They will hold a meeting with downtown businesses on Thursday, June 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Albion District Library to discuss the downtown projects.
* The Junior Optimist Club went to an all-day conference on Saturday, April 16, 2016 in Clawson, Michigan. Jayonna Yahsha was nominated to the State Board of the Junior Optimist Club. City Manager Mitchell and Council Member Barnes applauded Jayonna on this accomplishment.

Mayor Domingo asked the following:

Where are we at with the city policy for selling obsolete property to employees?

*City Manager Mitchell stated it will be added to the next agenda.*

Would it be possible to have a bin at the recycling center that residents can put their leaves and grass clippings in when the recycling center is open?

*City Manager Mitchell will look into this suggestion.*

*Comments were received from Council Members Decker, Krause and French.*

Mayor Domingo would like to speak with Calhoun County Sheriff Matt Saxton what the cost would be to the City of Albion to have the County Sheriff’s office provide police service.

*No objections were received from the Council pertaining to Mayor Domingo’s request.*

*Comments were received from Council Member Barnes, who stated he felt it was fiscally responsible to look into this and that he would like to see the Chief involved and Chief Kipp who stated the County does not provide fire service.*

E. Future Agenda Items

* Council Member Barnes would like an update on the timeline and progress of abatements for the 600 block of Austin Avenue added to the next agenda.
* Council Member Brown would like an update from the EDC added to the next agenda.

F. Motion to Excuse Absent Council Member (s)

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 John Sims, Fredonia Township; Tina Yost, 548 E. Mingus Rd., Battle Creek, Mike Bearman, 11016 29 Mile Rd., and Sonya Brown, 713 Orchard St., Albion.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Domingo adjourned the Regular Session at 8:06 p.m.

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Date Jill Domingo City Clerk