City of Albion

City Council Meeting

June 20, 2016

1. Call To Order

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

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

Maurice Barnes (1), (3), Rebecca Decker (4), Cheryl Krause (5), Andrew French (6) and Mayor Joe Domingo. Lenn Reid (2) arrived at 7:10 p.m. and Garrett Brown (3) was absent.

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

1. Mayor & Council Member’s Comments

Comments were received from Council Member French.

1. Public Hearing

 A. Set 2016 Millage Rates

Mayor Domingo opened the public hearing at 7:03 pm

No public comments were received.

Mayor Domingo closed the public hearing at 7:04 pm

Council continued discussion with comments received from Council Member French asking if the only changes were the 1% increase to the solid waste fund, previously approved by Council and the .06 % to the debt service fund.

Finance Director Mead stated these were the only two changes to the millages.

Additional comments were received from Mayor Domingo.

 B. Team One Plastics, Inc., Application for Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate for a New Facility

Mayor Domingo opened the public hearing at 7:09 pm

Public comments were received from EDC Director Peggy Sindt who stated Team 1 has expanded their building and equipment. The building is complete and equipment is in the process. Team 1 currently has sixty eight (68) employees and this expansion will create positions for an additional seven (7) employees.

Mayor Domingo closed the public hearing at 7:11 pm

Council continued discussion with comments received from Mayor Domingo who stated he spoke with EDC Director Sindt on whether the exemption needed to be for the full twelve (12) years. The state sets the exemption time table and this is how we have handled in the past.

VII. Presentations

 A. Annual Audit Presentation-Abraham & Gaffney

Bill Tucker from Abraham & Gaffney updated the Council on the 2015 Annual Audit highlighting the following:

* This is the first year in over ten (10) years the City has received a “clean audit” which means they have no internal control comments. This is the best you can receive.
* The City implemented Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions during the year. As a result, the financial statements now recognize the City’s unfunded (funded) defined pension benefit obligation as a liability (asset) for the first time and more comprehensively and comparably measures the annual costs of pension benefits.
* The total pension liability for primary government (except Public Safety) and Housing Commission is $13,020,797.00. The plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability is 106%.
* The total liability for the Public Safety Officer’s retirement system is $13,145,788.00. The City’s net pension liability (asset) is ($7,376,857.00). The plan fiduciary net position as a percentage of the total pension liability is 156.12%.
* The net pension is $8,290,526.00 which is very good and has stayed positive the last few years.
* The General Fund is $1,162,257.00 which is 26.5%. Of this $226,782.00 is nonspendable; $41,345.00 is assigned and $894,130.00 is unassigned.

Comments were received from Council Member French.

 B. Albion District Library Update-Cindy Stanczak

Cindy Stanczak, Library Director gave the following updates on the Albion District Library:

* The Albion District Library will be hosting three summer reading programs-children, adults and teens. The program will begin June 20th, 2016 and end on August 20th, 2016. You simply record how much time you read this summer and earn awesome prizes. Participants of the summer reading program may read anything they want. The Library would like to promote the love of learning. They will host events that promote the program as a whole.

You can log onto the library’s website and register for the programs. If you do not have access to a computer, you can call the Albion District Library and they will complete the registration for you. There may be a small fee for classes that you pay the day of the class. Everyone in the Albion District Library district are welcome to participate.

* On the Aug. 2 primary ballot, voters in the Albion District Library district will see a ballot question regarding the Library's operating millage. The district includes the City of Albion, Albion Township, and Sheridan Township, except for those living in those portions of Sheridan Township that are within the Mar Lee and Springport School Districts.

The Library is seeking a renewal of its current 2.25 mills with an increase of 0.25 mills for a period of 10 years. The total millage requested is 2.5 mills. The current library millage expires in December 2016, after the winter tax levy. This additional funding (approximately $51,340 in the first year of the levy) would allow the Library to restore Sunday hours and restore the new materials budget to 2011 levels. The new 2.5 millage rate will not be levied until the winter 2017 property taxes and would impact what services the Library can offer starting in 2018.

Comments were received from Jess Roberts, 915 S. Superior St. who encouraged residents to vote “yes” on August 2, 2016 and give back to the library.

Additional comments were received from City Manager Mitchell.

VIII. Citizen’s Comments

 No comments were received.

1. Consent Calendar
2. Approval Special Council Session Minutes – June 13, 2016

 French moved, Decker supported, CARRIED, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. (6-0 vv)

1. Items for Individual Discussion
2. Request Approval for 2016 Residential Clean-Up for Saturday, July 23, 2016 (VV)

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

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to approve 2016 Residential Clean-Up for Saturday, July 23, 2016 as presented. (6-0, vv)

1. Request Approval Resolution #2016-36, To Set 2016 Tax Levy (RCV)

French moved, Decker supported, CARRIED, to approve Resolution # 2016-36, To Set 2016 Tax Levy as presented. (6-0, rcv)

1. Request Approval Resolution # 2016-38, Resolution Approving Application for Team One Plastics, Inc., for Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate for a New Facility. (RCV)

 French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to approve Resolution # 2016-38, Resolution Approving Application for Team One Plastics, Inc., for Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate for a New Facility as presented. (6-0, rcv)

D. Request Approval Resolution # 2016-41, Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between City of Albion and Albion College for the Expansion of the Albion River Trail (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Member Barnes and Mayor Domingo.

French moved, Decker supported, CARRIED, to approve Resolution # 2016-41, Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between City of Albion and Albion College for the Expansion of the Albion River Trail as presented.(6-0, rcv)

E. Request Approval Marshall-Albion Assessing Agreement (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Member French and Mayor Domingo.

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to approve the Marshall-Albion Assessing Agreement as presented. (6-0, rcv)

F. Discussion/Approval of the Mutual Aid Agreement with Eaton Rapids (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Member Barnes and Chief Kipp.

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to approve Mutual Aid Agreement with Eaton Rapids as presented. (6-0, rcv)

G. Request Approval Annual Audit from Abraham & Gaffney (RCV)

Comments were received from Council Member French.

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to approve Annual Audit from Abraham & Gaffney as presented. (6-0, rcv)

H. City Manager Report

 City Manager reported the following:

* The Albion Recycling Center is seeking volunteers.
* The Planning Commission will be meeting on Tuesday, June 28th, 2016 to discuss/approve the special use permit and site review for the Albion Downtown Hotel, the Comprehensive Master Pan and the Walkable Community.
* Blue Cross is offering a new 24 hour/7 day a week online access to a certified doctor. The cost is equal or less than an office visit co-pay. Mike Tymkew will offer two informational sessions with employees. It will be Tuesday, June 28th, 2016 at 7:30 am or at 5:00 pm. Flyers will be included in the next payroll checks to inform employees of the meeting.
* A retirement celebration for Nidia Wolf will be held on June 27th, 2016 at the Dr. Ralph A. and Mary E. Cram Medical Building, 115 Market St, from 3-5pm
* A welcome reception will be held for Tim Krause on June 29th, 2016 at the home of President Ditzler, Albion College, 501 E. Michigan Avenue from 4-6pm
* June 30th, 2016 The Albion Cruise-In and Car show will held on Superior Street from 5-9pm
* Danielle Nelson, Special Projects Manager stated the next community workshop will be held on June 29, 2016 at the Caring Community Church, 1015 Irwin Avenue from 6-7pm. The workshop will be presenting the target market analysis and vision for Albion’s neighborhoods.

Comments were received from Council Member Barnes.

I. Future Agenda Items

* Council Member French would like a presentation from Assessing/Equalization Department on how properties are assessed in the City of Albion added to the next agenda. Mayor Domingo stated he would like to see this as well.
* Council Member Reid would like Holland Park update added to the next agenda.
1. Motion to Excuse Absent Council Member (s) (VV)

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to excuse Council Member Brown. (6-0, vv)

1. Citizen’s Comments

Comments were received from Mike Bearman, 11016 29 Mile Rd, Craig Carol, Team I Plastics and Mayor Domingo.

1. Adjournment

 Krause moved, French supported, CARRIED, to adjourn council session. (6-0 vv)

Mayor Domingo adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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Date Jill Domingo City Clerk