City of Albion

City Council Meeting

June 6, 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), Andrew French (6) and Mayor Domingo.

STAFF PRESENT:

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

V. MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBER’S COMMENTS

Comments were received from Council Members Barnes, Reid, Brown, Krause and French, City Attorney Harkness and Mayor Domingo.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

A. 2016 Sidewalk Exemptions

An overview of the Sidewalk Program and exceptions was given by City Manager Mitchell.

Mayor Domingo opened the public hearing at 7:08 p.m.

The following citizens asked for sidewalk exemptions:

Robert Brown, 1237 Highland Avenue

Brenda Davis, 1229 Highland Avenue

Ron Roth, 1234 Highland Avenue

Mayor Domingo closed the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Questions/Discussion were received from Council Members Decker, Brown, Krause and French, City Attorney Harkness, City Manager Mitchell and Mayor Domingo.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

A. Community Engagement Process & Walkable Community Update-Danielle

Nelson

Danielle Nelson, Special Projects Manager updated the Council on the Community Engagement Process & Walkable Community highlighting the following:

* On Thursday, May 12th, the City of Albion hosted a community workshop. It was the first in a series of events that will be held over the next 5 months as the City updates its Comprehensive Master Plan and works to become Redevelopment Ready Certified by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

**Community Engagement Process:**

* The Community Engagement process is gathering information from residents about what they would like the Albion community to look and feel like in the future.
* The goals are:
* Gather helpful information for the Planning Commission to update the Comprehensive Plan
* Involve as many residents in the process as possible
* Foster a sense of efficacy while creating a sound and welcoming space to discuss ideas
* Make community engagement a more regular process

**The Walkable Cities Workshop:**

* The Walkable Cities Workshop sought to give residents the space to work together to identify the strengths of the Albion community as well as the challenges we are facing. Participants were asked to use the idea of what makes a “good walk” which is a walk that is safe, useful, comfortable and interesting. With these ideas in mind, participants broke off into small groups of about 10 each to answer questions and have an open conversation with discussion leaders who were there to take notes and create a safe space for everyone to voice ideas.

**Results:**

* The group focused largely on celebrating the art, culture, people and nature in Albion. We will gather more input from a wider audience as we continue with the community engagement process.
* The major strengths were Victory & Rieger Park, Albion college campus and the Bohm Theatre.
* Some of the challenges were lack of opportunity for certain activities-shopping, canoeing, try new food, and go to art exhibits, youth activities; lack of public benches; lack of continuity between downtown and neighborhood/parks; blighted/abandoned properties and inadequate street lighting.

**Next Steps:**

* Present information to Planning Commission at June 28th meeting
* Organize volunteers for the next event
* Plan next community workshop with consultant, Rosalyn Jones-Tentative date: June 29th
* Continue to develop surveys and attend various community events to collect survey data

**12 Mile Challenge:**

Albion Outfitters has applied for a $25,000 grant from Ford Community College. To apply for the grant, they must create a community event. They created the 12 Mile Challenge which is travel between Albion and Marshall by river, road, rail and trail. They are currently in the top twenty (20) and hope to make it to the top five (5) to receive the $25,000 grant funds. Ms. Nelson is challenging residents to take the 12 Mile Challenge.

VIII. CITIZENS COMMENTS

No comments were received.

IX. CONSENT CALENDAR (VV)

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

A. Approval Regular Session Minutes-May 16, 2016

Council Member Reid asked to have the following correction made to the May 16, 2016 minutes:

Pg. 4 –Item D: The NAACP should be removed from sponsoring the Juneteenth Celebration at Holland Park.

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, to Approve the Consent Calendar with the above correction. (7-0, vv)

X. ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL DISCUSSION

A. Request Approval Resolution # 2016-37, Sidewalk Exemptions (RCV)

French moved, Decker supported, CARRIED, To Approve Resolution # 2016-37 Sidewalk Exemptions as presented. (7-0, rcv)

B. Request Approval to Place Delinquent Water Bills & Abatements on Tax Bills (RCV)

City Attorney Harkness stated his office will be sending out a final warning letter prior to abatements being placed on tax bills.

French moved, Decker supported, CARRIED, to Approve Placing Delinquent Water Bills & Abatements on Tax Bills as presented. (7-0, rcv)

C. Request Approval City Easement Agreement with Consumers Energy (RCV)

French moved, Krause supported, CARRIED, to Approve City Easement Agreement with Consumers Energy as presented. (7-0, rcv)

D. Request Approval Resolution # 2016-32, Approve Proposal & Contract with Lohrke’s Mowing for Small Equipment Noxious Vegetation Abatement & Mowing Bid (RCV)

French moved, Decker supported, CARRIED, to Resolution # 2016-32, Approve Proposal & Contract with Lohrke’s Mowing for Small Equipment Noxious Vegetation Abatement & Mowing Bid as presented. (7-0, rcv)

E. Request Approval Resolution # 2016-33, Approve Proposal & Contract with John J. Hawkins Construction for Heavy Equipment Noxious Vegetation Abatement & Mowing Bid (RCV)

Brown moved, French supported, CARRIED, to Approve Resolution # 2016-33, Approve Proposal & Contract with John J. Hawkins Construction for Heavy Equipment Noxious Vegetation Abatement & Mowing Bid as presented. (7-0, rcv)

F. City Manager Report

City Manager Mitchell updated the Council on the following items:

* The RFP for single haulers will be placed on the first agenda in July.
* Danielle Nelson has been nominated by City Manager Mitchell for America’s City & County’s “Igniting the Flame Award”. She will be emailing the link to vote for Danielle as a future leader of Albion.
* The Blight Tour will be this Saturday, June 11th, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. at City Hall.
* Peapods/Summer Dreams will run from June 13th through August 4th, 9 am-2pm. The program will include Science through Whitehouse Nature Center, Reading through the Children’s Library, Kids “N” Stuff, and instruction with various sports, swimming, art, math and weekly field trips. This will run from Monday through Thursday and on Friday, the recreation department will be providing transportation to take kids to the Bohm Theater for “free” movies and will also take them back home.
* Planning Commission - The EDC has been instrumental in bringing on board a consultant, Rosalyn Jones, a recent retiree from MEDC to assist with the Comprehensive Plan process. Danielle Nelson is conducting community forums to gather input from citizens as part of the visioning process. The next forum is scheduled for Wednesday, June 29th at 6pm at Caring Community Church. It will focus on the topic of housing. The next Planning Commission meeting has been rescheduled from Tuesday, June 21 to Tuesday, June 28th. They will be considering the Albion Hotel site plan review and special use application.
* June 13th Study Session – Albion Marshall Connector - The service provides transportation to approximately 600 riders each most, mostly originating from Albion. We have received notification that unless alternative funding is in place by July 1st, the service will be terminated. Would the Council like to make the June 13th meeting a SPECIAL MEETING, in case there is a desire to take action after the presentation.
* Calhoun County Lead Task Force - is working on plans focused in 3 areas (1) decreasing lead in homes and environmental l exposure, (2) increasing lead testing in children, and (3) increased public awareness of lead risks. They were recently awarded a grant from the Albion Community Foundation to support lead testing equipment. Next meeting is June 9th.
* Juneteenth- Please sign the proclamation that is circulating for Juneteenth Day. A celebration is being held at Holland Park on Saturday, June 18th from 11am-8pm. There will be a parade to kick off the event starting at the steps of City Hall.
* Albion Scrap Tire Collect - with Calhoun County Public Health Department is scheduled for July 23rd at the intersection of North Clark St. and East North St. Tire collect ion will occur from 9am to 3pm. All rims must be removed from the tires. Passenger vehicle tires only. No businesses.
* Downtown Development Authority - Business Forum- Thursday, June 9th from 6:00 pm - 7:30pm, Albion District Library. Free event.
* KCC and Albion Recreation are partnering this summer to provide weekly robotic and science projects for youth in the Albion area. This is a great opportunity for the children of Albion to explore the field of robotics. Both camps are located at Albion Community School and run from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Thursday, from June 13 to August 4. Registration is $120 per child for the entire season.

Mayor Domingo congratulated Council Member Krause and family, on her son’s, Tim Krause’s appointment as the New Executive Director for the Albion Community Foundation.

Additional comments were received from Council Members Barnes and French.

G. Future Agenda Items

* City Attorney Harkness stated that due to a current court case, twenty four (24) new sign ordinances will coming to the Council for approval around the end of summer.
* Council Member Barnes asked for the 2016 street projects. City Manager Mitchell will send the approved 2016 street projects to Council Member Barnes.

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

No action was necessary as all members were present.

XI. 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 Keena Williams, 414 N. Huron St.,; Jay Loomis, 408 W. Ash St.; Brian Roth, 1234 Highland Avenue; Council Members Barnes and Decker, City Attorney Harkness and Mayor Domingo.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Domingo adjourned the Regular Session at 7:55 p.m.

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Date Jill Domingo City Clerk