City of Albion
RESOLUTION #2021-30

City Council's Commitment to Improving Council Relations & Restoring Public Trust

Purpose and Finding: The Albion City Council has struggled for several years in achieving transparency, positive working relationships, and gaining public trust in the governing body. This council knows that it is our responsibility to change perceptions and to create a culture of respect that we are committed to fostering.

WHEREAS, transparency, honesty, respect, and collaboration are expected of all the members of the Albion City Council;

WHEREAS, anger, malice, and frustration in the public sphere has been heightened after almost 2 years of a global pandemic, social isolation, and massive experienced trauma. Also, many years of dysfunction on city council has created a hostile relationship between the public and council;

WHEREAS, for over a decade, and possibly more, the city council has struggled with professionalism, collegiality, transparency, and good working relationships;

WHEREAS, the current city council recognizes that a change in culture on the Albion City Council rests solely with the members of this body and the city officials that they rely on;

WHEREAS, the city council deserves to be treated with respect and dignity throughout the course of its duty as the legislative body of the city;

WHEREAS, Section 1-28 – "Ethics" of the City of Albion's Charter and Code of Ordinances states that it is the sworn duty and primary responsibility of all city council members to understand and meet the standards set forth in the Ethics ordinance. Specifically, electronic communication among council members during meetings is prohibited per council rules and ethics. In doing so, the public can begin to gain full confidence in the integrity of government;

WHEREAS, this council recognizes that not everyone at all times has adhered to the policies and rules on council and that to hold itself accountable, this governing body must acknowledge all wrongful behavior and pledge for it to stop immediately;

WHEREAS, the relationship between all council members and the city manager is important to the governing and legislating process; and this relationship is the responsibility of the city manager and the members of council to nurture and to maintain;

WHEREAS, this council, in this moment, at this time, and in this place, are going to set a new path forward for our community and how we work with each other and the city manager.

RESOLVED, the city council will appoint three of its members to a Council Relations Task Force to do the following in relationship with the public at-large:

1. Begin to monitor council relationships, start conversations on policy and city issues, and be a generative conflict resolution working group.
2. Make recommendations to council about changing or improving how the council works with one another and our code of conduct/ethics.
3. Facilitate conversations among small groups on council that will help members of council to understand each other and improve working relationships.

RESOLVED, the city council direct city administration to immediately hire an MML coach and consultant for the city manager for professional development and growth;

RESOLVED, the city council directs city administration to immediately work with MML to find a consultant/coach to work directly with city council on council relationships, roles, and conflict resolution;

RESOLVED, these hired coaches/consultants with work with each other to help assess progress and make recommendations to council;

RESOLVED, the city council commits to monthly study sessions before the first meeting of every month. The purpose is for the council to have open discussion/dialogue and work collaboratively to set agendas for future meetings and discuss goal progression for the city. These meetings will begin at 6pm and end promptly at 6:45pm. The meetings will rotate and be held in each precinct twice a year. The first meeting will be held in precinct 5 before the first October 2021 regular city council meeting.;

RESOLVED, that the entire city council recommits to its duty to act in accordance to the City Council Rules of Procedure and Ethics Ordinance;

RESOLVED, that the entire city council is expecting nothing less than the highest standard of ethics for participation by its members and in interfacing with the public.

Date: September 7, 2021

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Absent: 0

I certify that this resolution was adopted by the City Council of the City of Albion on September 7, 2021.

Jill Domingo

Jill Domingo
City Clerk