

VILLAGE OF SPARTA

REGULAR BUSINESS SESSION OF MAY 12, 2014

Held at Sparta Township Chambers, 160 East Division, Sparta MI

1.2. The meeting was called to order by President Leonard R. Meyer II at 7:00 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Roll Call: Council persons Paul Hibbard, Bonnie Koehn, Gary Moody, William Taylor, Robert Whalen and Interim Village Manager Sharon J. DeLange. Absent: Councilwoman Kristi Dougan.

4. Additions or corrections to Business and Consent Agendas: Add Item G. to Consent Agenda – File Policy and Personnel Sub-Committee meeting minutes of May 01, 2014: and add items F. to New Business – Underground Storage Tanks and G. Benefits for Interim Manager Sharon J. DeLange.

Consent Agenda:

A. Accept Village Council regular business meeting of April 14, 2014;

B. Accept Village Council special meeting minutes of May 05, 2014;

C. File Downtown Development Authority special meeting minutes of April 21, 2014;

D. File Fire Board meeting minutes of April 17, 2014;

E. Accept Village Zoning Board of Appeals meeting minutes of April 28, 2014 and May 08, 2014;

F. File Village Council Planning Commission meeting minutes of April 28, 2014 and May 08, 2014.

G. File Policy and Personnel Sub-Committee meeting minutes of May 01, 2014.

5. Approval of Consent and Business Agendas:

Moved by Whalen, supported by Moody, to approve Business and Consent Agendas as amended. Motion carried 6-0.

6. Approval of Accounts Payable and Fund Transfers:

Moved by Moody, supported by Koehn, to approve Accounts Payable and Transfers. Motion carried 6-0.

7. Public Comment for Agenda Items:

A. Cody Havens of 9483 Minnies Way Drive, Sparta, of Boy Scout 701, stated that he had completed a lighted flagpole at the Sparta Airport as his Eagle Scout project and invited Council members and others to dedication of same at 2:00 pm on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26. He also asked Village President Meyer to say a few words which he agreed to do.

B. Michigan State Representative Peter McGregor of the 73rd Congressional District was introduced. Sparta is not in his District at the present time but he stated he was a candidate for the 28th District Senate seat and asked for support.

C. Roger and Joyce Osbeck of 233 West Gardner, inquired about the status of a former group home at 253 West Gardner which has been vacant for one year. He stated that they felt it should be zoned one-family.

Tudy Middleton of 201 Pippin agreed with the Osbecks.

The President will refer this issue to Village Attorney Ken Lane.

D. Jim Lynema of 291 Doris opposes the funding of SRA.

8. Public Hearing: None.

9. Unfinished Business:

A. Approval of Special Land Use for Class I Properties, LLC as recommended by Village of Sparta Planning Commission:

Moved by Whalen, supported by Hibbard, to approve Special Land Use of Class I properties LLC. Motion carried 6-0.

10. New Business:

A. Approval of Special Land Use for Subway/JCSubs, Inc, as recommended by Village of Sparta Planning Commission.

Moved by Hibbard, supported by Whalen, to approve Special Land Use for Subway/JCSubs, Inc. Motion carried 5-1 with Moody providing the negative vote.

B. Resolution R-14-11: A Resolution to appoint Mr. Gordie Nickels to the Sparta Downtown Development Authority.

Moved by Whalen, supported by Moody, to adopt Resolution R-14-11. Motion carried 6-0.

C. Resolution R-14-12: A Resolution supporting a Joint Maintenance Agreement for the Sparta Sports and Recreation Park.

Moved by Whalen, supported by Hibbard, to adopt Resolution R-14-12. Yeas: Hibbard, Whalen, Meyer. Nays: Koehn, Moody, Taylor. Motion failed.

D. Resolution R-14-13: A. Resolution to authorize issuance of General Obligations Limited Tax Refunding Bonds, series 2014.

Moved by Moody, supported by Taylor, to adopt Resolution R-14-13. Motion carried 5-0 with Koehn abstaining.

E. Determination of "First Right of Refusal" for two foreclosed properties by Kent County Treasurer. (270 North Elm and 187 Martindale).

No action taken.

F. Underground Storage Tanks at Sparta Airport:

An audit of underground storage tanks disclosed that the Village of Sparta is not in compliance with State and Federal regulations and corrections should be made immediately. A quote for this

service by Rohr Gasoline Equipment has been received and the manager was requested to seek other bids.

G. Benefits for Interim Manager Sharon J. DeLange:

Moved by Whalen, supported by Hibbard, to provide the same wages and benefits, including insurance, to Interim Manager Sharon J. DeLange as given to the last Village manager, retroactive to March 30th the date that she assumed the full-time interim manager duties.

Motion carried 6-0.

Discussion Items:

A. Memo from Brian Vilmont and Randy Carter concerning Water Hammer at Ridgeview Elementary School. Both Carter and Vilmont spoke on the existing problems at Ridgeview. The manager agreed to a meeting with school officials, Carter and Vilmont to alleviate the problem. It was also stressed that the Sparta Fire Department cease to do practice sessions at Ridgeview.

11. Committee Reports (attached)

A. Finance Committee;

B. Policy & Personnel – 27 resumes for Manager have been received.

C. Public Facilities & Recreation Committee;

D. Airport Committee;

E. Public Safety;

F. Fire Board – Chairman Taylor announced that the Fire Chief's contract had been renewed.

12. Manager's Report (attached)

13. Police Chief's Report (attached)

14. Airport Manager's Report (attached)

15. Communications:

A. Resignation letter from Village Clerk Greta C. Heugel was read, effective June 09, 2014.

B. Confidential communication from Village Attorney Ken Lane

C. Letter from MML dated May 07, 2014, re: Sparta being awarded "Loss Control Achievement Award.

16. Public Comment:

A. Jim Lynema requested that the agendas be posted prior to Council meetings.

B. Gale Taylor of 274 Creekside requested copies of Ordinances, Resolutions and Executive Orders prior to Council meetings.

The interim manager stated that the agenda will be posted by the Friday afternoon prior to meetings and that all official documents (Ordinances, Resolutions, Executive Orders) would be available upon request at the Village business office Friday afternoon prior to Council meetings.

C. Roger Osbeck stated that he and his wife, Joyce, appreciated the Sparta Clean-Up Days.

17. Executive Session:

Moved by Moody, supported by Whalen, to go into Executive Session at 8:20 pm for the purpose of discussing the status of several properties within the Village. Motion carried 6-0 by roll call vote.

Moved by Whalen, supported by Koehn, to return to the regular session at 8:35 pm, Motion carried 6-0.

18. Announcements:

A. The condition of the property west of Trini's was discussed. It is vacant, in a state of disrepair and in non-compliance of ordinance codes for over a year. The manager will meet with DDA Director Elizabeth Morse and send a letter to the owners to meet ordinance requirements by a given date.

B. The following dates for employment of a new Village Manager are: Monday, May 19 @ 7:00 am - Policy & Personnel Committee meeting @ Village Hall West; Thursday, May 22 @ 7:00 pm - Special Village Council meeting @ Village Hall West; Friday, June 06 @ 5:30 pm - Showcase Sparta and candidates @ Sparta Township Chambers; and Saturday, June 07 @ TBD Interview of candidates.

19. Adjournment:

Moved by Whalen, supported by Hibbard, to adjourn at 8:51 pm. Motion carried 6-0.

Greta C. Heugel,
Sparta Village Clerk