

VILLAGE OF SPARTA

REGULAR BUSINESS SESSION OF APRIL 14, 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.

3. Roll Call:

Council persons Kristi Dougan, Paul Hibbard, Bonnie Koehn, Gary Moody, William Taylor, Robert Whalen and Interim Village Manager Sharon J. DeLange.

4. Additions or Corrections to Business and Consent Agendas: Add to New Business: Item H, Resolution R-14-10 and Item I, Consideration for compensation for Interim Manager, move Discussion Item J to Unfinished Business and change numbering sequence for discussion items

Consent Agenda:

A. Accept Village Council regular business meeting minutes of March 10, 2014;

B. File Downtown Development Authority meeting minutes of March 11, 2014 and April 8, 2014;

C. File Fire Board meeting minutes of March 20, 2014;

D. File Sparta Recreational Authority meeting minutes of March 6, 2014;

E. File Village Council Planning Commission meeting minutes of March 24, 2014.

5. Approval of Consent and Business Agendas:

Moved by Hibbard, supported by Moody, to approve Business and Consent Agendas as amended. Motion carried 7-0.

6. Approval of Accounts Payable and Fund Transfers:

Moved by Dougan, supported by Moody, to approve Accounts Payable and Fund Transfers. Motion carried 7-0.

7. Public Comment for Agenda Items: None.

8. Public Hearing: None.

9. Unfinished Business: Department of Public Works Superintendent:

Moved by Hibbard, supported by Dougan, to appoint a search committee for the purpose of hiring a DPW Superintendent. Motion carried 5-2 with Moody and Taylor providing negative votes. The President named Hibbard, Whalen and himself to this committee.

10. New Business:

A. DPW Part-Time Personnel Request:

The Manager discussed the need for several part-time employees to assist with storm cleanup and stated that one is needed at the Airport.

Moved by Dougan, supported by Whalen, to hire two part-time workers for up to 18 hours per week under the direction of the DPW and DDA, and one part-time worker for up to 24 hours per week under the direction of the Airport Manager; salary will be \$10.00 per hour. Motion carried 7-0.

B. Executive Order E-14-04: An Order approving closing of certain streets for the Sparta Celtic Fest Celebration and authorizing and directing the Village to obtain consent of the Kent County Road Commission to close portions of County roads within the Village.

Moved by Moody, supported by Whalen, to adopt Executive Order E-14-04. Motion carried 7-0.

C. Executive Order E-14-05: An Order approving closing of certain streets for the Sparta Thursday Street Festival and authorizing and directing the Village to obtain consent of the Kent County Road Commission to close portions of County roads within the Village.

Moved by Whalen, supported by Moody, to adopt Executive Order E-14-05. Motion carried 7-0.

D. DDA Request for Village Board Room Renovation:

DDA Director Elizabeth Morse explained that the Village Board Room windows should be replaced and window amenities added to meet recommendations of Land Use USA.

Moved by Whalen, supported by Koehn, to allow the changes to the Sparta Village Board Room as requested by the DDA, with a cap of \$10,000.00. Motion carried 7-0.

E. Resolution R-14-09; A Resolution of intent to alter the Village boundaries:

Moved by Whalen, supported by Hibbard, to adopt Resolution R-14-09. Motion carried 7-0. The property involved is adjacent to Cascade Die Casting who plan expansion.

F. Request from Jim Clay of General Formulations to vacate right-of-way on South Union between Silver Creek and Averill Streets. Neil Hoofman, representing General Formulations, discussed reasons for requesting vacating the street. It was a consensus of opinion to set up a special Council meeting and invite the public to a hearing on the street vacating. It will be at 7:00 pm on

Monday, May 5, 2014 at the Civic Center.

G. Cruiser bids: Two bids were received for the police cruiser.

Moved by Dougan, supported by Whalen, to award the bid for a 2014 police cruiser to Signature Ford for \$23,857.00. Motion carried 7-0.

H. Resolution R-14-10: A Resolution confirming the President's appointments to various boards and commissions.

Moved by Dougan, supported by Moody, to adopt Resolution R-14-10. Motion carried 7-0. Robert Whalen and Gale Taylor were appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

I. Consideration for Compensation for Interim Manager.

Dougan, Chair of Policy and Personnel Committee, stated that they are working on a fair and equitable salary and will make a full report at the May meeting.

Discussion Items.

J. 333 Doris:

It was a consensus of opinion of all Council persons to retain the property in case access is needed to the SRA Park. This can be placed for sale at a later date.

K. Village Manager Applications:

It was reported that ten applications have been received. Council members were asked to rate the top three priorities for a manager from the list of nine.

L. 195 Washington (former ambulance barn)

Mike Lamb, realtor, has not received any inquiries on the property and feels that the asking price of \$75,000.00 may be too high and is suggesting that it be lowered to \$65,000.00. The Council approved the lower price.

M. DPW Pole Barn:

Before the Village can proceed with this building, it must be determined how big it will be and who will be renting space there. Safety issues of traffic should also be considered.

11. Committee Reports (attached)

A. Finance Committee, B. Policy & Personnel; C. Public Facilities & Recreation Committee; D. Airport Committee – it was reported that parking in taxi area may be a problem. Airport Manager will follow through on this; E. Public Safety; and F. Fire Board.

12. Manager's Report (attached)

13. Police Chief's Report (attached)

14. Airport Manager's Report (attached)

15. Communications: DDA Director's Report

16. Public Comment:

A. Tabitha Gonzalez of 31 W. Mark Street commented on the Council's action concerning the 333 Doris property.

B. Jim Lynema of 291 Doris Street, stated that access to the SRA Park is available at end of street and asked for a public hearing as to usage of the property at 333d Doris Street.

17. Executive Session: None.

18. Announcements: None.

19. Adjournment:

Moved by Hibbard, supported by Moody, to adjourn at 8:42 pm. Motion carried 7-0.

Greta C. Heugel
Sparta Village Clerk