

A regular meeting of the City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street on Monday, January 14, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Davidson called the meeting to order.

The Oath of Office was administered to Councilman Michael Harri, Councilwoman Claudia Brown and Councilman John W. Letarte.

Present were Mayor Davidson and Councilpersons Brown, Greenhoe, Letarte and Harri. None were absent.

The invocation was given by Pastor Scott Boles of the First Baptist Church.

The Agenda was approved as printed.

Councilman Letarte moved the minutes of the December 26, 2007 Regular Meeting be amended to reflect that the meeting was held on Wednesday, not Monday; seconded by Councilman Harri, passed unanimously. The minutes from the December 26, 2007 Regular Meeting were approved as amended.

The minutes from the December 26, 2007 Special Meeting were approved as printed.

Councilwoman Brown moved that disbursements of \$547,209.72 be approved; seconded by Councilman Harri, passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Brown moved Council approve the Mayor's recommendation and appoint Councilman Greenhoe as Mayor Pro Tem; seconded by Councilman Harri, passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Brown moved Council approve the Mayor's recommendation to appoint Lisa Letarte, 601 Raeburn, to the Planning Commission for an unexpired term which will expire on January 31, 2009; seconded by Councilman Harri, passed 4 yeas, 1 abstain (Councilman Letarte).

Councilman Harri moved Council approve the 2008 Public Meeting schedule; seconded by Councilwoman Brown, passed unanimously.

Councilman Harri moved Council approve the Resolution regarding the Application for a CDBG Grant through the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for Precision Prototype and Manufacturing, Inc.; seconded by Councilman Greenhoe. City Manager LeFevere explained that the Grant would help to fund electrical system upgrades. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilwoman Brown moved Council Table the Resolution to transfer ownership of a 2007 Class "C" licensed business with dance-entertainment permit, located at 148 S. Main, from Darb's Patio, Inc., to Norton-Darb's, LLC, until the Police Department could do their review; seconded by Councilman Harri, passed unanimously.

Rod Schultz, 1303 Montgomery Street, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Larry Helser, a Holt resident and Gold Star Father, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Mayor Davidson stated that Council is in the process of and has received a proposal from Landscape Architect to expand Hall Street Park and to have a design made, and that it is just being investigated at this point.

Janice O'Donnell, 615 Montgomery Street, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial and presented Council with a copy of a letter.

Don Grimes, 1305 West Street, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

John Bouchard, 711 Reynolds Drive, Waterford, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Patrick Rich, 208 S. East Street, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial, and a time line has been set to have the Memorial Day Parade and dedication of the Monument.

Kyle Goerge, 1301 Water Street, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Jeff Metts, business owner, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Jeff McCoy, Hazel Park, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Denise Colestock, 611 Forest Street, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

John Deering, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Douglas Williams, Department of Commanders Group, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Rhonda Belier, Gold Star Mother, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Renee Doty, Mason, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Pat Barnstead, 201 Lindy Street, appeared before Council regarding the City Clerk/Treasurer demotion.

John Thomas, Lansing, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Staff Sergeant Desiree Marquez, Lansing, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Michael Kippella, 7333 Mason, Fowlerville, Gold Star Father, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Val Kunkel, 309 S. River Street, appeared before Council regarding the City Clerk position.

Phil Zamora, Department of Michigan Marine Corp League, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Larry Helser, Holt, Gold Star Father, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Dorinda Sparks, 106 S. East Street, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Dianne Parker-Sheneman, 1322 S. Main Street, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Don Colestock, 204 Kimbark, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Danielle Layne, 3983 Provencal Drive, appeared before Council regarding the "Lest They Be Forgotten" Memorial.

Megan Marriott, 3489 Gale Road, appeared before Council regarding the “Lest They Be Forgotten” Memorial.

Joe Mederos, 111 E. Knight Street, appeared before Council regarding the “Lest They Be Forgotten” Memorial.

Jim McBride, 519 S. Main Street, appeared before Council regarding the “Lest They Be Forgotten” Memorial.

Annette Nealey, 354 S. Miller, Apt. #3, appeared before Council regarding the “Lest They Be Forgotten” Memorial.

Rueben Green, 630 Forest Street, appeared before Council regarding the “Lest They Be Forgotten” Memorial.

Jim Cole, business owner, appeared before Council regarding the “Lest They Be Forgotten” Memorial and read letters from State Senator Valde Garcia, State Representative Mike Simpson and State Representative Rick Jones.

Councilman Harri moved that Council Amend the Agenda by Adding Item 12a., Council Approval of the Placement of the “Lest They Be Forgotten” Memorial; seconded by Councilwoman Brown, passed unanimously.

Councilman Harri moved that the “Lest They Be Forgotten” Memorial be placed on the Island Park; seconded by Councilwoman Brown.

Councilman Letarte asked if a picture of the proposed Memorial was available along with the specifications.

Councilman Harri stated that Council has heard from everyone and that this issue has divided the community and that he was hired and elected by the people and he has heard their voices.

Councilwoman Brown stated that she wants the Memorial and that she has heard and listened to the people and appreciates the people who have shared. Councilwoman Brown further stated that Council is human too, and does not need to hear or feel the threats and name calling and doesn't feel that Council needs to be bullied into a decision, that the people just need to respectfully communicate. Councilwoman Brown thanked the youth for coming forward and that everyone needs to work together and give respect to each other and for the Memorial, and that she was very disappointed in how Council was being talked to with a lack of respect.

Councilman Greenhoe stated that he was pleased and glad to see everyone out and their opinions have been voiced. Councilman Greenhoe apologized for the delay in the decision and that this is what caused this to become such an issue. Councilman Greenhoe stated that the citizens have spoken and that he is on Council because he was elected by the citizens. Councilman Greenhoe further stated that the Island would not be his choice for placement, but it is obviously the choice of the citizens. Councilman Greenhoe stated that Eaton Rapids is a nice City and with this issue behind us can be nicer, and that he agreed the concept for the Memorial Park would have been a nice Park and addition to the City.

Mayor Davidson stated that he felt it was in the best interest of the City to create a Veteran's Memorial Park, and to honor all of the wars. Mayor Davidson stated that the City is in the process of trying to create a historical district. Mayor Davidson stated that he was against the placement of this Memorial on the Island because it had a contemporary look and doesn't fit with the Island setting and that he was against the Memorial because of the weapon that was used on the Memorial and did not think that this appropriate to be on the Island where playground equipment was located and he could not support this.

The question was called for by roll call vote. The motion passed 4 yeas, 1 nay, (Davidson).

Councilwoman Brown reported on the following: thanked the citizens for coming; reminded everyone to vote at the Presidential Primary held at the Public Safety Building; that she is working for the citizens in the best way she knows how and that she is always available for questions, comments and concerns so to please contact her by either telephone or email, she is always available for the citizens of Eaton Rapids.

Councilman Greenhoe reported on the following: thanked the Mayor and Council for their support in appointing him as Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilman Letarte reported on the following: thanked the citizens for coming down and it was a warm welcome at his first meeting.

Councilman Harri reported on the following: thanked everyone for the large turn out at the meeting; that it was good to see Democracy in action and that their opinions were voiced clearly.

Police Chief Malewski reported on the following: Introduced Detective BJ Roach from the Tri-County Metro Narcotics Squad who presented Officer Sayer with an award for his service to their organization.

Mayor Davidson reported on the following: that he does not keep score, whether it's a 3 to 2 vote or a 4 to 1 vote, it is still a Council decision and that the City Clerk vote and the Monument vote are history.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

James E. Davidson, Mayor

Kristy Reinecke, City Clerk