

A regular meeting of the City Council was held at City Hall, 200 S. Main Street on Monday, June 23, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Davidson called the meeting to order.

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

The invocation was given by Pastor Sandra Carpenter of the Assembly of God Church.

The Agenda was approved as printed.

The minutes from the June 9, 2008, Regular Meeting and the June 16, 2008, Worksession Meeting were approved as printed.

Councilman Greenhoe moved that disbursements of \$2,642,394.75 be approved; seconded by Councilwoman Brown, passed unanimously.

Rod Schultz, 1303 Montgomery Street, appeared before Council regarding the 2009 Budget.

Patrick Rich, 208 S. East Street, appeared before Council regarding the City having a nepotism policy; and soldiers leaving as well as coming home from Iraq.

Councilman Letarte moved Council approve the Resolution to Adopt a Budget for the General Municipal Purposes of the City of Eaton Rapids for the fiscal year of 2009 to set the millage rates to be levied, and to appropriate funds for said purposes; seconded by Councilwoman Brown. Councilman Harri stated for the record that the funds coming from different line items for personnel needed to be more transparent, instead of having to jump around from fund to fund, and that a final analysis needed to be done in the future for clarity purposes. Councilwoman Brown asked when Councilman Harri first saw the budget was he satisfied with it. Councilman Harri stated that he was, but just in the future and moving forward the Budget needed to be more transparent to make it easily understood for the public. The motion passed 4 yeas, 1 nay (Harri).

Councilwoman Brown moved Council approve the 2008 Budget Adjustments as attached and recommended by the City Manager; seconded by Councilman Greenhoe, passed unanimously.

Councilman Greenhoe moved Council approve the Mayor's recommendation to appoint City Treasurer Robert J. Damon to be the Officer Delegate at the 2008 MERS Annual Conference; seconded by Councilwoman Brown. Councilman Letarte asked what occurred at these conferences. City Manager LeFevere explained that it was to review the MERS retirement system as well as elect the Board of Directors. The motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Greenhoe moved Council approve the election conducted by the City Manager to have Patrick Reinecke be the Employee Delegate and Jeff Verhougstraete be the Employee Alternate at the 2008 MERS Annual Conference; seconded by Councilwoman Brown, passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Brown moved Council approve the Resolution authorizing the City of Eaton Rapids to enter into a contract with Ingham County transferring the City's power to administer a Community Block Grant the City received from Michigan State Housing Development Authority to the Ingham County Housing Commission, Grant Number MSC-2007-0661-HO; seconded by Councilman Greenhoe. Councilman Letarte asked if the Administrator was the Inspector of this project and once approved authorized the monies to be paid out. City Manager LeFevere stated that this was correct. Councilman Harri asked why we were contracting with Ingham County and not Eaton County. City Manager LeFevere stated that this was the second Grant for the loft projects that the City had received, and that Ingham County had administered the first Grant, and that the previous Council had bid the project out and had interviewed and had selected Ingham County feeling that they were better qualified. The motion passed 4 yeas, 1 nay (Letarte).

Rod Schultz, 1303 Montgomery Street, appeared before Council regarding the Comcast Franchise Fees; Ordinance regarding Utility Billing Deposits for Rental properties; Legal Fees; and the Utility Fund Budget.

Patrick Rich, 208 S. East Street, appeared before Council regarding the City Treasurer.

Reuben Green, 630 Forest Street, appeared before Council regarding the City Cemetery and the Veteran's Memorial at the Cemetery.

Martin Vanek, 1211 S. Main Street, appeared before Council regarding the City Electric Crew and how fast they responded to the recent power outage.

Councilwoman Brown reported on the following: Welcomed City Treasurer Robert Damon; appreciates all of the comments from the citizens; and it was still a pleasure to serve the City of Eaton Rapids as Precinct 2 Representative and was proud to serve the City in this capacity.

Councilman Greenhoe reported on the following: Thanked the City Superintendent on how great the Parks looked around town and the lawn service that was contracted by the City was doing a great job; that the Veteran's Park at the Cemetery had been refurbished by Police Chief Paul Malewski and his wife Deb, and they had spent money out of their own pocket to get this done and it was greatly appreciated.

Councilman Letarte reported on the following: Welcomed Mr. Damon on the City Staff;

thanked everyone for their comments; and that students from the High School had worked

at the Cemetery as well.

Councilman Harri reported on the following: Welcomed Mr. Damon; thanked the City Staff for putting additional detail on the accounts payable checks so that there was full disclosure on expenditures; that the City crew does a great job with the recent addition of street lights.

City Manager LeFevere reported on the following: that the power outage today was due to a subcontractor for Consumers Energy doing some line clearance and some branches dropped on City lines and caused the outage.

Mayor Davidson reported on the following: that items that were brought up by citizens were not just dropped, but were discussed further at Council Worksessions; thanked Police Chief Malewski and his wife Deb for their hard work at the Cemetery; and thanked Mr. Vanek for his compliments.

City Manager LeFevere introduced Robert Damon as the new City Treasurer who was at the Council Meeting.

Councilman Harri stated that the City was looking into concerns such as the Attorney charges, and that the City Attorney has been excused from attending Council meetings to help cut costs.

Mayor Davidson stated that the Council is in the process of looking into a Charter Amendment to make it so it is not mandatory for the City Attorney to attend meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

James E. Davidson, Mayor

Kristy Reinecke, City Clerk