

City of Utica
Regular Council Meeting
November 13, 2007

The City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Noonan who led the pledge of allegiance at 7:31 p.m.

Members present: Figurski, Kraft, Sikora, Baker, Barthelmeh, Osladil
Absent: None

Minutes of 10/9/07

Motion by Sikora, seconded by Barthelmeh, to approve the minutes of 10/9/07 as presented. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Unfinished Business

None.

Consent Business

Motion by Figurski, seconded by Kraft, to approve the Utica Lion's Annual Candy Cane Drive, 11/16-11/25/07 as requested. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Correspondence

Motion by Sikora, seconded by Osladil, to receive and file correspondence from Ferris State University regarding the Intern program; FF Ryan Dickey on his FD resignation; Illinois State Attorney; Utica Pioneers appreciation of Police Chief's pie donation; Waste Management Holiday schedule, Treppa Family appreciation of the Fire Department Open House and Donna Custance appreciation to the FD. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

New Business

Department Reports

Mayor Noonan

Police and Fire Pension Board Appointment

Motion by Barthelemeh, seconded by Figurski, to affirm the Mayor's recommendation of Nancy Carter to the Police and Fire Pension Board vacancy. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Mayor Noonan indicated that the promotional DVD, prepared by Sterling Hts. Channel 5 with assistance from Shelby Twp. Cable Channel, will be shown on our cable channel for all to see.

Council Reports

Council member Mary Figurski expressed her thanks to all the voters and thanked them for the confidence shown by their votes; Council member Joyce Kraft indicated that the voter turnout was impressive and encouraged residents to attend the Council meetings in

person; Council member Jerry Baker agreed with all the comments made and thanked the voters for getting out and voting.

Assessing- Nancy Strehl, Assessor

No report.

Building- Ed Durbin

No report.

DPW- Bill Lang, Superintendent

No report.

Mayor Noonan thanked DPW Superintendent for all his work on the additional reports required by DEQ, and other water entities.

Fire- John Clark, Chief

Life Pak Maintenance Agreement

Fire Chief Clark requested permission to enter into a service contract for EMS Lifepak 12 monitors at a cost of \$2065.21 per year for a 2 year contract.

Motion by Osladil, seconded by Kraft, to enter into a 2 year maintenance agreement for the EMS Lifepak 12 monitors. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

2007 Assistance to Fire Fighter Fire Prevention Grant

Chief Clark is requesting permission to apply for the 2007 Assistance to Fire Fighter Fire Prevention Grant to upgrade Fire Reporting, Fire Inspection Systems and purchase new hardware equipment. If purchased without the benefit of the grant, total cost is approximately \$25,000. If the application for the grant is approved, the cost to the City is \$1,250 paid from the ambulance/fire equipment fund.

Motion by Figurski, seconded by Kraft, to approve the request to apply for the 2007 Assistance to Fire Fighter Fire Prevention Grant. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Sterling Heights Training Opportunities

Chief Clark thanked Sterling Heights for the joint training opportunities recently experienced by the Utica FD. The joint cooperation has led to many ways both departments have benefited for the good of the department.

Police- Mike Reaves, Chief

The Southeastern Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police has endorsed Utica Police Chief Reaves to represent the membership at UASI meetings. Mayor Noonan acknowledged that the City realized what a strong chief he was and was pleased with the endorsement of the SEMACP.

Budget Amendments

Chief Reaves requested two budget amendments for the current fiscal year: transfer funds of \$2,397 from ETSC/Act#32 training funds to 101-301-957-560 to allow payment of mandated dispatcher training in the amount of \$1710 and an amendment to 101-301-956-000 miscellaneous expense in the amount of \$1,615.66, for the arbitrator's services. Motion by Sikora, seconded by Osladil, to approve the two budget amendments as requested. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Treasurer- Philip Paternoster

Motion by Figurski, seconded by Kraft, to approve the resolution submitted by Comerica for authorization to make wire transfers. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Summer Tax Collections

Motion by Osladil, seconded by Sikora, to reaffirm the standing resolutions for annual summer tax collections for the various taxing entities. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Administration- Cathy McGrail, City Clerk

Uncollectible Accounts

Motion by Figurski, seconded by Kraft, to approve the request to remove the uncollectible accounts from the active collection process, as presented. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Election Results

Certified election results were received from the Macomb County Board of Canvassers; elected candidates are Mayor Noonan, Council Members Mary Figurski, Joyce Kraft and Jerry Baker. No action required.

Library- Marsha Doege, Director

Library Director Marsha Doege informed Council of the upcoming "Bake, Book and Craft" sale on Saturday, December 8 from 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

No report.

Historic District Commission

No report.

City Attorney

No report.

Planning Commission

No report.

Senior Housing Steering Committee

No report.

Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

No report.

Public Hearing 8:00 p.m.

13361 Hall Road, 2 Sign Variances

Motion by Figurski, seconded by Kraft, to open the public hearing. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**. Public hearing opened at 8:05 p.m.

Jason Arwell, from AEW representing the Christmas Tree Shop and Buy Buy Baby, was present to request the additional signage on the southside of the former Mervyn's building.

Review by John Ambrose recommended approval due to the design of the building and the lack of sight from the south especially for the foot traffic. Planning Commission recommended approval of the request at the 11/1/07 meeting.

Diane Mitchell, Stonefield Village, questions if the use is permanent. Christmas Tree Shop is a seasonal permanent store.

As there were no other comments from the public, motion by Figurski, seconded by Osladil, to close the public hearing. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**. Public hearing closed at 8:08 p.m.

Motion by Baker, seconded by Barthelmeh, to approve the request for 2 additional signs on the south side of 13361 Hall Road due to the building configuration. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Public Hearing 8220 Hall Road – Conditional Use and front setback and parking variances

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Osladil, to open the public hearing. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**. Public hearing opened at 8:10 p.m.

John Sirhan, a member of the development team, was present to request the conditional use approval and the approval of the front setback and parking variances.

Review by John Ambrose recommended approval of the conditional use as well as the two variances. The lot configuration is very unique due to the carving of the land due to the M59 expansion some years ago. MDOT was requested to combine the lots and resell them as one large lot but for some reason they chose not to abide by the City's request. Planning Commission recommended approval of both requests.

As there were no comments from the public, motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Sikora, to close the public hearing. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**. Public hearing closed at 8:21 p.m.

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Sikora, to approve the conditional use request for a 3 story office building at 8220 Hall Road. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Sikora, to approve the variance requests for the front yard setback and the 6 parking spaces for 8220 Hall Road due to the lot configuration. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Bills Payable

Motion by Baker, seconded by Sikora, to approve the payment of all bills as presented. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Tom Steeh, 45101 Cass Ave. Owner, Dumpster Request

Tom Steeh, owner of 45101 Cass Ave, is requesting permission for a roll off dumpster to be located in the loading zone on Cass Ave.

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Figurski, to allow the placement of the roll off dumpster at 45101 Cass Ave in the loading zoning, dumpster not allowed at the location on weekend, 5 day maximum. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Communication from the Public

Mary Lou Kinney, 7650 Greeley, congratulated the Mayor and Council Members on the recent election; and expressed concern for other Senior Housing items.

Matt Laise, 45630 Custer, expressed concern with taxes and the drop in the housing market; is questioning if the SEV will be lowered accordingly. Mayor responded that the County Equalization Department determines increases or decreases and the assessor must follow their direction.

Diane Mitchell, 12215 Noonan Court, expressed concern with width of roads in Stonefield Condos.

Adjournment

Motion by Barthelmeh, seconded by Osladil, to adjourn the meeting. Voting all ayes, motion **CARRIED**. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

M. Catherine McGrail
CITY OF UTICA
City Clerk