



Vassar City Council Regular Meeting

3/7/2022 - Minutes

1. Call To Order

Mayor Damm called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

2. Pledge Of Allegiance/Invocation

3. Roll Call

Members present: Mayor Damm; Mayor Pro-Tem Fabbro; Councilor Armstrong; Councilor McTaggart and Councilor Mecham. Members Absent: None

4. Approval/Adjustment To The Agenda

Motion by Fabbro; second by Armstrong to approve the Agenda with the addition of 10.III - Consideration of Fire Department Equipment Purchase. All else as presented. Motion carried.

5. Adoption Of Regular Minutes

Motion by Mecham; second by McTaggart to approve the February 7, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

6. Presentation

Paul Whitney - Keep Vassar Beautiful Committee - Mr. Whitney stated that the annual Petunia Planting Day will be Saturday, May 21, 2022. He also informed everyone that the Keep Vassar Beautiful Committee will be holding a fundraising Bingo event at the Vassar Eagles hall on Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 4pm to 7pm.

7. Public Comment

Carson Atkins - 133 N Cass, Vassar - Mr. Atkins spoke about businesses keeping sidewalks clear of snow, the activity of the Blight Officer and parking in the downtown by business owners.

8. Consent Agenda Items

Motion by Fabbro; second by Mecham to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

8.I. Vendor Listing

February 2022 Vendor Listing

8.II. Boards And Commission Minutes

DDA - Jan 12, 2022

Parks & Rec - Sept 22, 2021

Planning Comm - Sept 20, 2021

VAAS - Jan 20, 2022

9. Pending Ordinance/Public Hearing

#2022-01 - To Amend in part Chapter 78 - Utilities; Section 35 - Cross Connections

Mayor Damm opened the Public Hearing at 7:12pm

Public Comment - There was no public comment.

Mayor Damm closed the Public Hearing at 7:14pm.

City Manager Niedzinski stated that the City has been out of compliance since 2018 when the State of Michigan required all services connected to the Vassar City public water supply system be included as part of the Cross-Connection Ordinance. Currently the ordinance only addresses Commercial accounts.

Motion by Fabbro; second by Armstrong to approve Ordinance #2022-01 - To Amend in part Chapter 78 - Utilities; Section 35 - Cross Connections as presented. Motion carried.

10. New Business

10.I. Consideration Of Contractual Agreement For Cross Contamination Agreement - Commercial

City Manager Niedzinski stated that in order to comply with the new ordinance for cross-connection, the City will need to inspect and report every connection to its public water system. for Council's consideration is a proposal to contract with HydroCorp to develop the Cross-Connection Control (CCC) Program compliant with EGLE requirements for the municipal water system. The City would need to dedicate significant staff time and have extensive training to handle the program in-house. It is most cost effective to hire a specialized company to maintain our program. At this time EGLE requires this program to focus on our Commercial accounts and outside residential. This would be a two (2) year commitment with HydroCorp with the cost being \$7116 for Commercial Accounts annually - \$14,232 total; and \$8604 for Residential Exterior Accounts annually - \$17,208 total. These would be included in the water department budget for FY23.

Motion by Mecham; second by Fabbro to authorize the City Manager to accept and sign the two-year proposal from HydroCorp to develop and maintain a Cross-Connection Control (CCC) Program for Commercial accounts in the amount of \$7116 annually - \$14,232 total. Motion carried.

Motion by Fabbro; second by Armstrong to authorize the City Manager to accept and sign the two-year proposal from HydroCorp to develop and maintain a Cross-Connection Control (CCC) Program for Residential Exterior accounts in the amount of \$8604 annually - \$17,208 total. Motion carried.

10.II. Consideration Of Repairs To The RBC At WWTP

City Manager Niedzinski stated that a bearing on one of the Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC's) units at the WWTP has worn out. The RBC's are essential in removing pollutants from of our wastewater. WWTP Superintendent Scott Fetting stated that age of the current bearing was approximately 30 years old. These bearings are very expensive and require a company that specializes in and has the proper tools to replace them therefore the City did not receive 3 quotes for the replacement. Motion Industries of Saginaw has submitted a quote in the amount of \$15867.52 for 2 replacement bearings.

Motion by Armstrong; second by McTaggart to approve the emergency purchase from Motion Industries of Saginaw in the amount of \$15867.52 for two (2) replacement bearings. Motion carried.

10.III. Consideration Of Fire Department Purchase Of Equipment

City Manager Niedzinski stated the the Vassar Fire Department recently received a grant in the amount of \$7500 from Enbridge. The Fire department is requesting consideration to purchase boots, helmets, gloves and hoods from Dinges Fire Company in the amount of \$7500, paid for with the grant dollars.

Motion by Fabbro; second by Mecham to approve the purchase from Dinges Fire Company in the amount of \$7500 for fire equipment. Motion carried.

11. Council Discussion, Direction To City Manager & Future Agenda Items

Mayor Pro-Tem Fabbro - updated everyone about an event to be held in Vassar by a Substance Abuse Coalition that could possibly include an unused pill drop-off and a drug lockbox give-away. More details to come.

Mayor Damm - requested that the City Manager look into the cost of bleachers for the Fairgrounds now that there is renewed interest in holding events there.

Councilor McTaggart - The Riverfest committee is concentrating efforts to move from the Downtown to the Fairgrounds. There are several new events being planned at the Fairgrounds for Riverfest.

11.I. Committee Of The Whole

Budget Workshops:
Monday, April 4, 2022 @ 6pm - 7pm
Monday, April 18, 2022 @ 6pm - 8pm

City Clerk/Treasurer Lemcke reminded everyone of the upcoming Budget workshops.

12. Public Comment

Carson Atkins - 133 Cass, Vassar - Mr. Atkins asked when the Rotary quit hosting the annual pancake supper.

13. City Manager Announcements & Statements

City Manager Niedzinski stated that he was requesting direction from the Council as how to proceed with the DNR Trust Fund Grant for pavilion improvements and repairs. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$442,000 with the DNR Grant covering up to \$300,000. The City would be responsible for \$142,000 plus the cost of engineering. City Manager stated that the City would not be able to fund both the pedestrian bridge project and these renovations. City Manager Niedzinski stated that if it was the Council's intent to apply for the DNR Trust Fund grant, the Council must hold a public hearing prior to submittal of the grant on April 1, 2022.

Motion by Fabbro; second by Mecham to schedule a Public Hearing on March 28, 2022 at 7pm for

consideration of the DNR Trust Fund Grant submittal. Motion carried.

14. Motion To Go Into Closed Session (A)

15.268 Closed Sessions; Permissible Purposes

(a) To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named person requests a closed hearing.

Motion by Armstrong; second by Fabbro to go into a Closed Session for the permissible purpose of (a) To consider the dismissal, suspension, or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, or to consider a periodic personnel evaluation of, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual agent, if the named person requests a closed hearing at 8:07pm. A Roll Call Vote was taken:

Yes: Damm; Fabbro; McTaggart; Armstrong; and Mecham

No: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Fabbro; second by Mecham to reconvene in Regular Session at 8:21pm. A Roll Call Vote was taken:

Yes: Mecham; Armstrong; McTaggart; Fabbro; and Damm

No: None

Motion carried.

15. Adjourn

Motion by Fabbro; second by Armstrong to adjourn the meeting at 8:24pm. Motion carried