

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF
EASTPOINTE, MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN, HELD ON TUESDAY,
JANUARY 23, 2007, IN THE CITY HALL**

Invocation was rendered by Robert Hribar.

Pledge allegiance to the flag was presented.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Austin with the following Council Members present:

Klinefelt, Pixley, Selvidge and Sweeney

Administrators present: Hribar, Parks and Mancani

Mayor Austin made an announcement that the water bills are due on February 21st not January 21st.

Mayor Austin announced the first Hearing of the Public, at which time:

A resident discussed Ken Brown's request that money be put in the Community Service budget and asked why money needs to be put into it.

Bruce Tegtmeyer discussed the building of a new City Hall; discussed the Notice of Intention and discussed the publication of the Notice of Intention.

Jim Collins discussed the petition that is being circulated on the bond issue; discussed the empty houses in Eastpointe; discussed water main breaks; asked if he needs to have the bond petition notarized; discussed Council having a vote to replace the City Attorney and asked Councilman Selvidge to sign the bond petition.

Ken Brown thanked the City Manager for the quick clean up of the property on Beaconsfield; discussed funds for Community Service such as bottled water, gas for their cars, trash bags, tools, etc.; discussed the water bill lawsuit; discussed trying to get information from the City on the bond petition and discussed the committee going around the City to get voters to sign the petition.

Frank Zundl discussed a vacant house on Wilson and wanted to know if the City Manager called the Post Office to find out if the house is vacant; requested that the notices on the Council Chamber doors be removed; commended Councilman Selvidge for voting against the new City Hall and discussed foreclosures in the City.

John Sage discussed vacant houses on his street and that affordable houses are going in about one and half to two years and discussed looking at positives instead of negatives.

There being no further comment, Mayor Austin announced the Hearing of the Public closed.

Motion by Klinefelt, seconded by Selvidge, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 2, 2007, as written.

Yeas: Klinefelt, Selvidge, Pixley, Sweeney and Austin
Nays: None

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Sweeney, to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on January 9, 2007, as written.

Yeas: Selvidge, Sweeney, Klinefelt, Pixley and Austin
Nays: None

Mayor Austin announced the scheduled hearing on FY2007 Community Development Block Grant Funds in the amount of \$200,000.

A Turning Point representative requested \$3,000 in CDBG funds and discussed services offered by Turning Point.

Pastor Mel Gower from the Lighthouse Outreach Center requested \$12,000 in CDBG funds and discussed services offered by the Lighthouse Outreach Center.

A Wigs 4 Kids representative requested \$1,600 in CDBG funds; discussed services offered by Wigs 4 Kids and thanked the City of Eastpointe for their support.

Solid Ground representatives requested \$1,500 in CDBG funds and discussed that the building is near completion and thanked the City of Eastpointe for their support.

A Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team representative requested \$107,500 in CDBG funds and discussed services offered by the Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team.

A Macomb Family Services, Inc. representative requested \$1,200 in CDBG funds for their youth violence prevention program.

A Care House representative requested \$4,000 in CDBG funds; discussed the services offered by Care House and thanked the City of Eastpointe for their support.

Greg Brown discussed the CDBG allocation for the Semrau, Almond and Teppert area.

There being no further comment, Mayor Austin announced the public hearing closed.

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Sweeney, to approve FY2007 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications as follows: Senior Citizen Home Chore Program, \$8,000; Lighthouse Outreach Center, \$6,650; Society of St. Vincent de Paul, \$4,000; Macomb County Rotating Emergency Shelter Team, \$3,300; Carehouse, \$2,800; Solid Ground, \$1,000; Turning Point, \$1,250; Wigs 4 Kids, \$1,500; Macomb Homeless Coalition, \$1,000; Macomb Family Services, Inc., \$500 and roadway and storm drainage replacement on Semrau Street between Almond and Teppert, Almond Street south of Semrau Street and Teppert Street south of Semrau Street, \$170,000; and authorizing the Mayor to execute the necessary Subrecipient Agreements and the Public Service Agreements.

Yeas: Selvidge, Sweeney, Klinefelt, Pixley and Austin

Nays: None

Mayor Austin announced unfinished business.

Motion by Sweeney, seconded by Selvidge, to appoint Jean Bodenstedt to the Beautification Commission to fill an unexpired term to expire December 31, 2008.

Yeas: Sweeney, Selvidge, Klinefelt, Pixley and Austin

Nays: None

City Manager, Finance Director and City Attorney gave their respective reports from administration.

City Manager Parks asked if Council had any questions regarding his Friday report; responded to comments from the Hearing of the Public on the Notice of Intention; discussed not giving out information regarding the petition referendum; discussed that the City Attorney advised him of information he could give out regarding the process and responded to Mr. Zundl that he didn't contact the Post Office regarding the vacant house on Wilson.

Councilwoman Klinefelt discussed the bond issue and commented that Council made the decision and residents that disagree with the decision could put the City Manager in a bad position if he responded to certain questions because he reports to Council; discussed that the \$4.5 million is not the cost of the project but the total cost we can levy with the bond and asked if the project was still at \$3.8 million. Mr. Parks responded that the number hadn't changed. Councilwoman Klinefelt discussed that the project hasn't been put out to bid because it hasn't started yet. Mr. Parks commented that the new City Hall will be bid out by the Building Authority but the mechanical equipment for the Senior Center was purchased through a quote and installation will be through the bid tonight for Senior Center renovations.

Councilman Sweeney discussed general contractors and subcontractors and asked if Administration will research the general contractor so that if something happens the contractor is responsible. Mayor Austin discussed that that is the reason for hiring a general contractor instead of our own subcontractors. Mr. Parks commented that Partners in Architecture can give Council more information on this.

Finance Director Mancani discussed why the Notice of Intention was in the Macomb Daily; discussed the debt payment per year and discussed that interest is limited to no greater than 6%. Councilman Sweeney asked if the payment of the bond is coming out of the general fund and that Council is not levying or assessing new property taxes. Ms. Mancani responded yes. Councilwoman Pixley asked if the bond payment is almost equal to the maintenance fee to maintain City Hall. Ms. Mancani responded that the payment is equal to major repairs, maintenance and rising utility bills. Councilwoman Pixley discussed that the new building would be a thirty percent reduction in utility bills.

City Attorney Hribar discussed a proposed ordinance regarding removal of personal property from a rental dwelling unit. Mr. Hribar will bring the ordinance back at the next meeting for first reading. Councilman Selvidge asked for language for the Building Department to be able to clean up the property at the owner's expense if they don't clean it up. Councilwoman Klinefelt asked if he had feedback from Gary Young and he said he hadn't. Councilman Sweeney discussed that he would like to see a statement regarding within a 24-hour period.

Mr. Hribar discussed a proposed ordinance on solicitors from December and asked Council for direction.

Councilman Sweeney asked if there is going to be any difference between our ordinance and a sign that says no solicitors. Mr. Hribar explained that the solicitors would be given a license and will be given a list of homes that they cannot solicit at. Councilman Sweeney discussed that the City needs to make sure they can enforce the ordinance. Councilwoman Pixley discussed people dropping literature early in the morning. Mr. Hribar discussed that he has a problem with doing anything about political literature.

Mayor Austin announced new business.

Motion by Klinefelt, seconded by Sweeney, to award the contract for the Eastpointe Senior Center renovations, PIA Project No. 06-138, to Envision Builders, Inc. in the amount of \$126,150.00, including Alternate #1, and authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents related to the contract.

Yeas: Klinefelt, Sweeney, Pixley, Selvidge and Austin
Nays: None

Motion by Klinefelt, seconded by Selvidge, to reappoint Brian Curry to the Planning Commission for a new term to expire December 31, 2011.

Yeas: Klinefelt, Selvidge, Pixley, Sweeney and Austin
Nays: None

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Klinefelt, to appoint Joyce Lalonde to the Elected Officers Compensation Commission for a term to expire April 7, 2013.

Yeas: Selvidge, Klinefelt, Pixley, Sweeney and Austin
Nays: None

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Sweeney, to table the appointment to the Elected Officers Compensation Commission to fill an unexpired term to expire April 7, 2010.

Yeas: Selvidge, Sweeney, Klinefelt, Pixley and Austin
Nays: None

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Sweeney, to appoint Russell J. Thomas to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority for a term to expire April 15, 2009, Jean Bodenstedt for a term to expire April 15, 2010, Todd Moen for a term to expire April 15, 2010, Anthony Palleschi for a term to expire April 15, 2011 and Francine Duncan-Martin for a term to expire April 15, 2011.

Yeas: Selvidge, Sweeney, Klinefelt, Pixley and Austin
Nays: None

Motion by Pixley, seconded by Selvidge, to table the authorization for the City Manager to create and host a new City website.

Yeas: Pixley, Selvidge, Klinefelt, Sweeney and Austin
Nays: None

Council scheduled a City Council 2007/08 goal setting session on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. at the Library.

Council scheduled a joint meeting with the Building Authority for Tuesday, January 30, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. at the Library.

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Sweeney, to establish an ad hoc Holiday Decoration Advisory Committee with Councilman Selvidge as the Chairman; one representative of the Downtown Development Authority appointed by the DDA; one representative of the Parks and Recreation Commission appointed by the Commission; one representative of the Beautification Commission appointed by the Chamber Board of Directors, with the committee to expire on June 30, 2007, to be charged with formulating and recommending to the City Council on or before April 1, 2007, the followings: (1) proposed holiday decoration and lighting area boundaries; (2) a comprehensive holiday decoration and lighting plan; (3) detailed cost estimates for implementing the proposed decoration and lighting plan; (4) a phase approach for implementation of the decoration and lighting plan, together with cost estimates for each phase, as an alternative to a total, one-time completion of the plan; and (5) a five-year maintenance schedule and cost estimates to repair or replace holiday decoration and lighting components.

Yeas: Selvidge, Sweeney, Klinefelt, Pixley and Austin
Nays: None

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Pixley, approving the mid-year budget amendment B07-06.

Yeas: Selvidge, Pixley, Klinefelt, Sweeney and Austin
Nays: None

Councilman Selvidge discussed excluding Check No. 60221 in the amount of \$1,699.60 and Check No. 60279 in the amount of \$8,913.75 from the payroll and bills.

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Sweeney, approving the following payroll and bills in the amount of \$3,808,267.85.

Yeas: Selvidge, Sweeney, Klinefelt, Pixley and Austin
Nays: None

Mayor Austin announced the second Hearing of the Public at which time:

John Sage congratulated Councilman Selvidge for his new position on the decoration ad hoc committee; suggested looking at North Park for the tree lighting next year and wished him good luck.

Jim Collins discussed that we never got an actual bid for a new roof and heating and cooling system for City Hall; discussed renovating City Hall; discussed the bonding issue; discussed the petition on the bond issue; discussed political literature drops and informed residents that if they had questions on the bond issue or are interested in a petition he will take all calls.

Jeff Lubeck discussed the no knock ordinance and suggested an opt in list.

Ken Brown discussed an opt in list for the no knock ordinance; discussed community service volunteers; welcomed new neighbors on his street; thanked those who have supported the petition; asked where the funding for the Senior Center is coming from; discussed the blight ordinance and junk on the curb; commented that he didn't understand the single bidding process and discussed setting a defined path for the future of the family and City.

Frank Zundl asked why the City Manager didn't call the Post Office about the vacant house on Wilson and asked for the removal of the signs posted on the Council Chamber doors.

Jim Carpenter asked what percentage of the new water meter system is done; asked why is this City paying so much money on the Obidzinski lawsuit; discussed Stephens and Nine Mile water main break looks like the same place as where the contractor came through; discussed Christmas lights and looking for better deals for purchasing; suggested utilizing the entire Eight to Ten Mile Road medians and get groups to put Christmas decorations up and asked the DPW to put some more patch on the road at Nine Mile just east of Pleasant.

Lee Grant discussed Mr. Lubeck's idea of opt in list for solicitations; discussed time limits for solicitations or political literature handouts and discussed disposal for rentals.

There being no further comment, Mayor Austin announced the Hearing of the Public closed.

Mayor Austin announced Mayor/Council Reports.

Councilman Selvidge wished happy birthday to Councilwoman Pixley; asked the City Manager for a report on the tree on Wilson; asked if the DPW could pick up the tree branch on Gratiot; discussed the pension board and that the performance was fourteen percent last quarter; discussed that Council would have to look into the opt in list suggested; responded to Mr. Carpenter that water meters are ninety percent done; discussed the water main break on Stephens and Gratiot and asked for it to be looked into; discussed the petition drive; discussed the bond issue; discussed that the City Hall building is falling apart and to renovate it is too expensive; disagreed with building a new City Hall but can't support something that isn't going to be a solution to the problem; discussed that he supports renovating the Senior Center; discussed that Councilman Sweeney is spearheading the new grass ordinance and would like to put it on the next agenda for discussion; discussed that he received Ken Brown's e-mails and that the questions have been answered and discussed that Mr. Hribar can't work both sides of the bond issue.

Councilwoman Klinefelt discussed putting money into Community Services and that Council doesn't create the Court budget and it is up to the Court to create the individual line items; discussed political literature drops; discussed the City Hall referendum; discussed people saying that we only need to do a few minor repairs at City Hall and that is not true; discussed Council's decision to build a new City Hall; and that it is the Council's decision to make and residents can vote them out of office if they don't like the Council's decision and responded that she cannot discuss the water bill lawsuit until the case is concluded.

Councilwoman Pixley congratulated the Sages on their new daughter/granddaughter; suggested that John Sage be on the decoration ad hoc committee; discussed the ITC cable; discussed that AT&T and Consumers were digging in the Stephens and Gratiot area also; discussed the referendum issue; told residents to come to the Building Authority meetings; responded to Mr. Brown about the welcoming packets and that the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Department have packets for

new residents; discussed that she sees new people moving in and the rehabilitation of homes; discussed the grand opening of Kinko's; announced that St. Peters is making a \$2.5 million investment in an early childhood center; asked Mr. Parks about doing public relations through the Eastsider and announced the Art & Ice Festival this weekend at East Brooke Commons.

Councilman Sweeney commented that the chili cook off was awesome; encouraged everyone to come out to City events; announced PACE pancake breakfast on Saturday, February 10th; discussed the he is looking into revamping the lawn cutting program; discussed that there is no gag order regarding the referendum issue; encouraged everyone to read the petition before signing it; discussed that Mr. Hribar is employed by the City governing body and Council cannot loan him out to anyone to take care of their issues; discussed that the blight ordinance covers trash sitting out at other than rentals and offered condolences to the family of Sherri Kochan.

Mayor Austin announced the chili cook off this Saturday at St. Barnabas at 6:00; mentioned Bronners and about getting better prices for Christmas decorations and that it is a novel idea to support Michigan businesses; discussed the City Hall issue and that the building has so many things wrong with it that it is beyond repairing; discussed that residents can disagree with Council's decision; discussed that Council is doing the job they were elected to do; discussed that if people vote no on the referendum it will stop the growth of the community and discussed paying astronomical repair bills on the present City Hall building.

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Sweeney, to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

Yeas: Selvidge, Sweeney, Klinefelt Pixley and Austin
Nays: None

DARWIN D. PARKS
CITY CLERK

DAVID AUSTIN
MAYOR