

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF
EASTPOINTE, MACOMB COUNTY, MICHIGAN, HELD ON TUESDAY,
JULY 17, 2007, IN THE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Invocation was rendered by John Sage.

Pledge allegiance to the flag was presented.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Mayor Austin with the following Council Members present:

Klinefelt, Pixley, Selvidge and Sweeney

Administrators present: Hribar, Parks and Mancani

Mayor Austin and the City Council read a proclamation for Elizabeth DeSantos' 103rd birthday.

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

Steven Releford discussed the demolition of 20911 Beaconsfield and that he can bring the home up to code and the standards of the community and asked Council to table the demolition bid award for this project until the next meeting.

Bob Carroll asked if Council was aware of the rodent problem in his area and asked if the City has a plan to remedy this problem.

Jeff Goergen commented on some of the areas of the City that look less desirable than they have in the past and suggested that the neighbors call to see that codes are enforced; discussed people leaving their porch lights on and neighbors looking out for each other and discussed that he would like to try to get some kind of neighborhood watch program going in Eastpointe.

Frank Zundl discussed problems with his water bills; asked how long it takes to correct a water bill and discussed the number of seniors in the City.

Bill Lathan discussed the rodent problem in his neighborhood and asked if it could get addressed.

Kevin Grand discussed Erin Halfway Days; discussed the purchase of laptop computers for Council and asked for information why the computers are needed.

James Collins commented that he is still running for Mayor; asked who is in control of the "for sale" signs in the City and what is the ordinance for them and asked why code enforcement officers will violate one house for tall grass and not a house two doors down.

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

Motion by Sweeney, seconded by Selvidge, to approve the minutes of the special meeting held on June 19, 2007, as written.

Yeas: Sweeney, Selvidge, Klinefelt, Pixley and Austin

Nays: None

Motion by Sweeney, seconded by Selvidge, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on July 3, 2007, as written.

Yeas: Sweeney, Selvidge, Klinefelt, Pixley and Austin

Nays: None

Mayor Austin announced that there were no scheduled hearings.

Mayor Austin announced unfinished business.

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Austin, to approve the education policy for the Employees Retirement System Board members.

Yeas: Selvidge, Austin and Sweeney
Nays: Klinefelt and Pixley

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

City Manager Parks asked Council if they had any questions regarding his weekly report. Mr. Parks announced that the Clerk's office will be open August 4th from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for election purposes only and that this date is the deadline for requesting an absentee ballot and announced the election is August 7th and the polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Pixley asked Mr. Parks if the disposal authority would send a list of how they have invested their money and requested to see the portfolio and statements.

Councilman Selvidge asked if Mr. Parks was aware of the rodent problem on Cushing and asked for an e-mail response after he follows-up on it.

Finance Director Mancani discussed the correction on the water bill from utility bill to water bill and explained that there will always be a timing issue on a water bill if you pay your bill just before you receive your next bill. Ms. Mancani explained that in discussing and working with the City's financial advisors for the bond issue the City would receive a BBB rating and now the City has been approved for a solid A rating so when the City goes to issue bonds the City will get a much better interest rate and the bonds will be more competitive and this will benefit the City.

Councilwoman Pixley discussed that last year the City extended the time for people to pay their water bills and asked Ms. Mancani if that would be extended any further. Ms. Mancani stated not at this time. Councilwoman Pixley discussed that taxes arrived this last week and asked Ms. Mancani to explain what the process is for paying taxes in two payments. Ms. Mancani explained that taxes can be received in two equal payments one due by September 1 and the other due by December 1. Ms. Mancani explained that she is still looking into it with the City Attorney to see if this can be changed in the future. Ms. Mancani explained that the City has an opportunity to go to online bill paying with credit cards and she should have more information in a month to six weeks.

Councilwoman Klinefelt asked about a fee to do this. Ms. Mancani explained that there is a user fee and the City can't pay for this user fee.

Councilman Selvidge clarified to the residents regarding the article in the Macomb Daily about the payment of the water bills and explained that the City had waived penalties and fees for one year and been proactive in helping the residents out.

Mayor Austin asked if all the meters are changed and all these large bills should be done and the next billing should be actual reads. Mr. Parks responded that there are about 150 to 200 meters that still need to be changed. Ms. Mancani stated that Finance is now receiving reads from the new system. Mayor Austin stated that residents can go to the Finance Department to get a read out of their meters on an hourly basis

City Attorney Hribar discussed freestanding signs on Kelly Road and asked Council if they would like him to go forward with this and look at the sign ordinance to make changes.

Councilman Sweeney asked about the loss of parking spaces. Mr. Hribar responded that this wasn't an issue by the businesses but he doesn't know if you put in the signs if this would become a problem. Mr. Hribar asked Council if they wanted to put it on an agenda or he can wait for Council to inform him of what they want to do.

Councilwoman Klinefelt discussed that the signs would be uniform all the way down Kelly and the Planning Commission felt this would make it look more like a community; discussed that the Planning Commission didn't think parking would be an issue; discussed the possibility of not having to rezone but to refer to these signs as City informational signs and could require a fee from each business to maintain the signs and commented that the Planning Commission would like to know where Council sits on this issue.

Councilmen Selvidge and Sweeney and Councilwoman Pixley support the idea. Councilwoman Pixley discussed that the size of the letters on the signs might be difficult to read. It was decided that Mr. Hribar will move forward on this issue.

Mr. Hribar discussed that he received site plans from T-Mobile for the erection of the second cell tower in Spindler Park.

Mayor Austin announced new business.

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Sweeney, to authorize City Administration to secure the services of Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick, Inc., to prepare plans, specifications, solicit bids, and provide construction observation and testing for the 2008 Water Main Replacement Program in accordance with its proposal dated July 5, 2007.

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

Motion by Klinefelt, seconded by Selvidge, to award the bid for the 2007 Sewer Cleaning and CCTV Investigation (S2) Program to Lake County Sewer Company, Inc., of Willowick, Ohio, in the amount of \$475,260.00 to be charged to FY2007-08 Budget Account No. 592-538-985-538 Water and Sewer Fund – Sewer System Improvements; and authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents related to this contract.

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

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Sweeney, to table the award of the bid for the demolition of the residential structure located at 20911 Beaconsfield Avenue until the August 14, 2007 Council meeting.

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

Motion by Sweeney, seconded by Klinefelt, to approve the Building Agreement with St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church for the use of its facilities for City election precinct numbers 4 and 5 at a cost of \$200.00 per election and authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents related to the building use agreement.

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

Motion by Sweeney, seconded by Selvidge, to appoint the Election Precinct Inspectors and Substitute Precinct Inspectors for the August 7, 2007, City Primary Election as recommended by the Election Commission and Deputy Clerk/Assessor Linda Weishaupt.

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

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Sweeney, to approve the Offer to Purchase Real Estate from Lisa G. Dick for Lot 704 of Paradise Gardens Subdivision in the amount of \$2,542.68 and authorize the City Manager to execute all necessary documents relating to the sale of this property.

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

Motion by Sweeney, seconded by Selvidge, to adopt Resolution No. 1562 to transfer 2007 Class C licensed business with Dance-Entertainment Permit, located at 18842 E. Nine Mile Road from Eastside Fat Daddy's Inc., to Eastowne Bar & Grill, Inc.

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

Motion by Klinefelt, seconded by Selvidge, to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for membership in the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the City of Eastpointe.

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

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Sweeney, to appoint Mayor Austin as the City of Eastpointe's delegate to the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments and appoint Mayor Pro-Tem Klinefelt as the City of Eastpointe's alternate delegate in accordance with Article III, Section 1, of the Bylaws of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments.

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

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Sweeney, to approve the City of Eastpointe's 2007-08 dues for membership in the Michigan Municipal League in the amount of \$8,805.00 to be charged to FY2007-08 Budget Account No. 101-299-957-000 General Fund – Unallocated – Memberships and Dues.

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

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Pixley, to approve the City of Eastpointe's 2007-08 dues for membership in the Eight Mile Boulevard Association in the amount of \$2,640.00 to be charged to FY2007-08 Budget Account No. 101-299-957-000 General Fund – Unallocated – Memberships and Dues.

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

Motion by Sweeney, seconded by Selvidge, to authorize Administration to proceed to advertise for bids for seven laptop computers with hardware and software specifications to be established by the City Manager and the City's IT consultants.

Yeas: Sweeney, Selvidge and Austin
Nays: Klinefelt and Pixley

Motion by Austin, seconded by Selvidge, to appoint Marie Fournier, Jeff Lubeck and Barry Gray to the Zoning/Sign/ Fence Board of Appeals with terms to expire May 15, 2010.

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

Motion by Selvidge, seconded by Klinefelt, approving the following payroll and bills in the amount of \$1,291,678.57.

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

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

John Sage discussed the purchase of laptops for Council, City Manager, Finance Director, City Attorney, Assistant City Manager and Executive Secretary and that it is a good move.

Frank Zundl discussed the building of the new City Hall and discussed the purchase of laptops and the website.

Kevin Grand discussed portability of information and that Council might want to consider purchasing portable flash drives.

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

Mayor Austin announced Mayor/Council Reports.

Councilman Sweeney announced the Pond Tour this Saturday and tickets are on sale at the Community Center; discussed that the Farmer Jack on Nine Mile Road is now going to be a Fresh Choice grocery store; responded to Mr. Collins' comments regarding code enforcement; announced that Nine and Gratiot will be getting a clock tower and discussed the house at 20911 Beaconsfield.

Councilwoman Pixley congratulated Lt. Doug Richardson and Captain Kevin Weishaupt on their promotions; discussed the clock tower is a gift from First State Bank with a small match from the DDA; thanked all the people who came out to Erin Halfway Days this weekend; discussed that Saturn may build a dealership at Eight Mile Road and Gratiot; announced the air show at Selvidge base this weekend and explained her reasons for voting no on the travel policy.

Councilman Selvidge wished a happy birthday to his son; responded to residents on Cushing regarding the rodent issue; discussed that residents need to get involved in the City; offered special congratulations to former Councilwoman Colleen Cohan who received a promotion at work; responded to Mr. Zundl regarding laptops and senior citizens and discussed the demolition of the bleachers at Memorial Field.

Councilwoman Klinefelt explained why she voted no on the computer issue; discussed that she missed having Steve Horstman at the table and doesn't know why that has come to a halt and discussed the Beaconsfield house and that the Council does have a sense of urgency on this and asked Administration to tell him that.

Mayor Austin apologized for not making the Erin Halfway Days event; responded to the Cushing residents regarding the rodent issue; commented that he is excited about things going on in the community and some of the development that is being discussed – St. Peter's project, new City Hall, Eight Mile Road and Gratiot, Nine Mile Road and Kelly Farmer Jack and that developers are wanting to come back to Eastpointe and that is a good sign; announced that there is not a regular Council meeting before election day and urged residents to vote on August 7.

Motion by Sweeney, seconded by Selvidge, to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Yeas: Sweeney, Selvidge, Klinefelt, Pixley and Austin

Nays: None