

## BOVEY CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 2, 2024

6:00 p.m. Council Workshop

In-Person Club Room

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Stein called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Members present were Deborah Trbojevich, Nancilyn Meyer, Robert Lawson and Bob Stein. Trevor Guyer was absent. All motions passed 4-0 unless noted otherwise.

**PRESENT:** Staff present were Alan Johnson and Jestine Casey. Also present were Sarah Carling, Tony Yunk, Sean Lathrop, Dan Jensen, Steve Hurd, Lauren Meyer, and Michael Alton.

**GUESTS:** Developer inquiring about 9 lots behind Annabella's. Dan Jensen from Itasca Builders is interested in developing the 11 lots behind Annabella's. Water/sewer infrastructure, the type of houses he would like to build, and the need for a developer's agreement were all discussed. The city engineer provided his input and recommendations. Council requested Jensen provide a plan and proposed timeline to both the planning & zoning board and council to review. Jensen will work on drafting his proposal.

**PUBLIC FORUM:** (Limit comments to 3 minutes)

### DEPARTMENT HEADS & COMMITTEES:

1. Engineer, Alan Johnson
  - a. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Storm Sewer Project- Johnson is working with Casper Construction through the final punch list and hopes to have the final bill before the next council meeting.
2. Police,
  - a. Police contract to-date expenses- council reviewed spreadsheet listing the PD's yearly budgets & expenses.
  - b. Police Department Discussion- The current contract with Coleraine is on a month-to-month basis. Lawson & Stein recently met with the Sheriff's office to discuss other options for Bovey police coverage. One option they are considering is a small, one-man department. They were advised that if they decide to go that route, the County will be proactive by providing the training and background study. The County would also be involved in cases and respond to calls if the Bovey officer is off duty. Trbojevich recommended a special meeting to discuss all available options. The next step will be for Stein to put together a list of ways the city can recruit someone and required tasks such as, the background check, physical, start date, etc.
  - c. Cell phone contract/agreement – It was discussed that the city may need three phones: one for the code compliance officer, one for the public works supervisor & possibly one for a newly-hired police officer. The clerk will look into the government rate once all the hiring decisions are finalized.

3. Public Works, Rick Rogich
  - a. Council meeting Finckbone attendance: Council advised that it's okay for Finckbone to regularly attend meetings.
  - b. Sewer Cleaning Quote from Nelson Sanitation for \$7,500. Trbojevich advised Council that she spoke with Rogich & this is routine maintenance that has been budgeted for.
  - c. Opening account with Grand Rapids PUC- Nelson is requesting the City open an account for the sewage dumping. **Motion Trbojevich 2<sup>nd</sup> Lawson to approve opening an account. All in favor.**
  
4. Planning & Zoning
  - a. Vekich sign variance application- Council reviewed the building permit/variance application for a large sign at Vekich's new apartment building, **Motion Meyer 2<sup>nd</sup> Lawson to approve the variance. All in favor.**
  - b. Bike Racks status (Range News Story). Meyer advised that the bike racks haven't been put out & the city crew is just getting to the benches now. The bike rack/bench cement pads are currently being prepared and the bike racks will be put out next spring. Clerk will email the reporter & let her know.
  - c. Blight: Code compliance officers Lauren Meyer and Michael Alton updated Council on the blight citation process & the feedback they've received. It was discussed that the clerk received a complaint about brush being set out for pick up for several weeks without being addressed. Residents have complained to the compliance officers about brush pickup too. Councilperson Meyer also requested clarification about the city crew picking up appliances/white goods because this will help with some of the blight issues. It was discussed that the city crew will pick up white goods once a month. The appliance doors will need to be removed. **Motion Stein, 2<sup>nd</sup> Trbojevich to direct the city crew to pick up white goods. All in favor.** An apparent city skunk issue was also discussed and Stein advised that the police department hasn't dealt with wild animals for many years and information stating it does needs to be removed from the city website.
  
5. City Council
  - a. 2025 City attorney options- clerk will reach out & make some inquiries concerning criminal representation. There is an attorney interested in civil representation. Council requested the clerk contact him for more information. It was also discussed that an attorney will not be attending every council meeting in 2025.
  - b. Public Works Supervisor Position: The board of mediation got back to Mayor Stein and advised him that the City can hire whomever they want for the position. This position will have a separate union representation and will need a union classification & job description. **Motion Stein 2<sup>nd</sup> Lawson to create a new public works supervisor position & to move forward with hiring someone for the position. All in favor.**  
Mayor Stein asked if the city has a current employee to fill the position and Lawson recommended Mike Finckbone, as Finckbone is currently working toward obtaining the necessary licenses & Rick Rogich has previously advised that he feels Finckbone can handle the job. **Motion Trbojevich 2<sup>nd</sup> Meyer to offer the public works supervisor position to Michael Finckbone and proceed with contract negotiations. All in favor.**

- c. Land Sale ad draft- Council reviewed the draft ad for the sale of the Gun Club Property. Selling the property was discussed & it was determined that the ad will be placed in the paper two times to see what kind of response they receive.
  - d. Greenway Music Booster Club Donation Request- Council declined to approve a donation as only \$3 is currently in the gambling fund.
  - e. **CEDA:** Sarah Carling advised council that Bovey has received all the necessary funding to begin phase 2 of the park project. She relayed her frustration with the recent episodes of vandalism, and advised she would like to get new park street lights put up asap. The portion of the park on Vekich's property also needs to be addressed. Council discussed swapping the city-owned triangle Vekich can utilize for the portion of the playground land that is legally owned by Vekich. **Motion Trbojevich 2<sup>nd</sup> Lawson to move forward with developing the trade/ land swap. All in favor.** Carling will contact Vekich about this. The park/rink light poles will be discussed at the next meeting. Carling requested for either Finckbone or Rogich to contact MP so they can lock in prices before they increase. She also looked into security cameras for the area. There will need to be six cameras. It will cost about \$200 and the hiring of an electrician. Carling also advised that she will need to work with Councilperson Meyer to get the dog park ordinances established.
6. Fire Board
- a. Nothing to report
7. Clerk, Jestine Casey
- a. Treasurer- The clerk requested council consider other options as it appears that there is a significant gap in compensation between the clerk & treasurer positions.
  - b. Library Board inquired about CD investment- The library board would like to invest \$20K into a CD. Trbojevich requested the clerk contact the LMC to make sure it's okay to do.
  - c. Cory Trbojevich fence damage due to city snowplow- **Motion Lawson 2<sup>nd</sup> Meyer to compensate for the fence damage by crediting Cory Trbojevich for one month of utilities at \$102.80. A waiver will need to be signed by Cory. Motion passed with Councilperson Trbojevich abstaining.**
  - d. Credit Card- Clerk advised that the city credit cards are currently in former employee's names & the accounts need to be updated to current employees.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 1. WMMPB meeting minutes-8/01/2024

**ADJOURNMENT: Trbojevich motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.**

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Jestine Casey, Clerk

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Robert Stein, Mayor

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10/16/2024

Date approved