

City of Northville
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2016

Mayor Roth called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m. in the City of Northville Municipal Building, City Council Chambers, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Ken Roth, Mayor Pro Tem James Allen, Councilmembers Nancy Darga, Sam Ekong, and Marilyn Price

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Patrick Sullivan, City Clerk Dianne Massa, Finance Director/Treasurer Sandi Wiktorowski, Police Chief Michael Carlson, reporter from Northville Record, and two citizens

PRESENTATIONS

A. Citizens Comments

Jane Hix, 820 Revere Court, spoke on behalf of the Lexington Condo Homes Association. Hix requested a status update on the plan to resolve the issues with the Randolph Drain and retention pond that runs through their property. The pond is 50% filled with silt, and there is erosion caused by a failed weir. The pond needs cleaning and dredging approximately every 10 years. Calls made to the Oakland County Water Resource Commission have not been returned.

It was explained that proposed solutions to dredge the pond and repair the up/down stream weirs is costly (the exact amount was not known; it is a six-figure amount). The City would be required to pay approximately 65% of the cost. Council acknowledged that the funds for this project are not budgeted. The Director of Public Works is waiting for a response from the Water Resource Commission to see if the pond is necessary for drainage in the district, and if not, could it be eliminated.

The DPW Director will prepare a report and outline the repair costs and provide the same to City Council and the Lexington Condominium Association.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Allen, seconded by Ekong to approve the agenda and consent agenda as presented:

Approve City Council Minutes of:
- Regular Meeting of May 2, 2016

Receive Bills List:

- Checks #98552 to #98659, EFT #500234
Receive Board and Commission Minutes: None
Receive Departmental Reports:
- Youth Assistance: 5/16
Board and Commission Appointments: None
Amendments to Fees, Fines & Penalties Schedule
Special Event Request / Broughton Music / Open Mic Nights / May to September 7, 2016
Special Event Request / Addendum to Talent for the Title / Add date of May 19, 2016
Special Event Request / 2016 Friday Night Concert Series
Special Event Request / Summer Carnival / June 17-19, 2016
Request to Solicit / Poppy Days / VFW / May 17th, 19th, 24th, and 26th
Proclamation / 80th Anniversary of Northville Garden Club

Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

In accordance with City Charter, on April 4, 2016, City Council was presented with the proposed fiscal year 2017 budget. That budget and five-year financial plan was reviewed in detail at two special budget study sessions during April. In accordance with City Charter, the public hearing notice and notice of availability of budget were published in the Northville Record. The complete budget document has also been available on the City's website. Section 8.4 of the City Charter requires that the City Council adopt a budget by the third Monday in May each year.

The FY2017 General Fund budget has been balanced without the use of fund balance. The general operating millage will remain at 13.5864 mills. The street, drainage, and sidewalk improvement millage will decrease to 1.7329 mills.

City Council Comment and Discussion: The following points were discussed.

- The street, drainage, and sidewalk improvement millage is subject to rollback by Headlee because the full amount of the millage is levied.
- The General Fund is not affected by Headlee because there is .33 mill that is not being levied. Should the City levy the maximum, the General Fund would be subject to a Headlee rollback within a year to two years.
- Over the years, Headlee has rolled back the General Fund millage rate from 20 mills to the current millage rate.
- If the increase in Taxable Value exceeds the rate of inflation, then the millage rate is rolled back so that you only receive the rate of inflation.
- There is a misconception that when homes and property is sold and the City gets the uptick in assessed value it is an automatic gain in revenue for the City. Instead, Headlee compensates down by forcing the millage rate to rollback. The general operating millage will be affected by this, potentially next year. Property sales and reassessed values are not a windfall of revenue for the City because Headlee looks at the gross revenue as part of its formula. It is a "no-win" situation for the City.
- The rollback of Headlee is constitutionally mandated. The roll up provisions of Headlee is still allowable legislatively to occur and would only take a vote of the legislature to reinstate roll ups. No one has had the fortitude to do that. Without voter approval, revenues for municipalities may only perpetually roll down.

- Headlee is tied to inflation. An increase in inflation would give the City a potential opportunity to increase revenue.
- New construction also gives the City increased revenues for a few years.

Public hearing opened at 7:43 p.m. No comment. Public hearing closed at 7:43 p.m.

Motion Darga, seconded by Price to adopt the FY2017 budget resolution as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

A. Traffic Control Order #16-07 / Lot #2

At its regular meeting on April 18, 2016, City Council established Traffic Control Order (TCO) 16-04 for City Lot #2. Contained in TCO 16-04 are two parking spaces along the north side of the Long Building (114 – 126 W. Main Street) that are to be marked as “15 Minute Parking, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday” zones.

While conducting a count of the signs needed to comply with TCO 16-04, it was discovered that due to the design of the Long Building, it would not be possible to properly sign the eastern of the two 15 minute parking spaces (in front of 124 W. Main St.) as indicated in the TCO. The parking space abuts the glass store front of 124 W. Main. Also, the sidewalk in front of this location is heated. The Department of Public Works will not drill a sign post hole into it. Further, due to the glass store front, there is no place to hang a sign.

On May 12, 2016, this issue was brought before the Downtown Development Authority Parking Committee. The Parking Committee determined that the best solution would be to designate only the western of these two spaces as 15 minute parking and to keep the eastern of the two as 1 hour parking, consistent with the rest of the timed parking in the row along the north side of the Long Building. TCO 16-07 (Lot 2) was written to reflect the Parking Committee’s recommended change to TCO 16-04, restricting only the western of the two parking spaces as “15 Minute Parking, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday” and maintaining the eastern of the two spaces as “1 Hour Parking, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.” TCO 16-07 does not create any additional budget impact.

Motion Allen, seconded by Ekong to establish Traffic Control Order 16-07 as written and as a permanent order. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Mayor and Council Communications

Ekong spoke of the recently received letter from the Wayne County Executive’s Office pertaining to the City of Northville’s involvement and attendance at Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) meetings. The County Executive’s office acknowledged that the City of Northville representative does attend CDBG meetings and that the letter was sent in error. Ekong also noted that while Wayne County CDBG does have all of his contact information on file (two email addresses, address, telephone numbers), he does not receive CDBG meeting notices. The Housing Director has been forwarding the notices to Ekong as he does not receive them from the County.

Comments from City Council noted that the County Executive’s administrative office has had a few unfortunate communications sent in error. Council was hopeful that the tenor and quality of communication will improve.

B. Staff Communications

The City Manager spoke of proposed legislation that would affect parimutuel betting. The thoroughbred association is seeking certain revisions to update a very old law and the State Representative from Grand Blanc is proposing the changes.

It was explained that the Hazel Park race track is a thoroughbred race track, and Northville Downs is a harness racetrack. Currently, Northville Downs simulcasts thoroughbred races. The proposed legislation would require Northville Downs to seek permission from Hazel Park to simulcast any thoroughbred races. The proposed legislation (Senate Bill 504) pits the two racetracks against each other, and it is unlikely that Hazel Park would allow Northville Downs to simulcast thoroughbred racing. This legislation would impact Northville Downs and the City’s breakage revenue. Contact has been made with State Senator Colbeck regarding the local impact this bill would have on the City of Northville.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment: 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Massa, CMC
City Clerk

Ken Roth
Mayor

Approved as submitted: 06/06/2016