

**MINUTES  
CITY OF NEGAUNEE REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 8, 2018**

A Regular Meeting of the Negaunee City Council was held on Thursday November 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. in the Negaunee Senior Center.

Members Present: Mayor Gladwell, Council Member Maino, Wallner, Kantola, Anderson, Becker, and Kangas

Members Absent: None

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Council Member Anderson asked that the Claims and Accounts be pulled from the Consent Agenda as he had questions.

A motion was made by Council Member Wallner, supported by Council Member Kangas and unanimously carried to approve the agenda as amended.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Lex Exworthy, PAAC to address the Council regarding the grant they had won the night before.

Eric Miljour addressed the Council regarding the Property Maintenance Code and that he is opposed to it.

**PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #1428 DOWNTOWN DEFINING RENOVATION (BLIGHT)**

Mayor Gladwell opened the public hearing. No one from the public wished to comment.

A motion was made by Council Member Becker, supported by Council Member Maino and unanimously carried to adopt Ordinance Amendment #1428.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Ms. Jessica Flores, Preservation Forward was present to give an update regarding the Historic District. She has been meeting with staff and business owners and is working toward getting Negaunee listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

City Manager Heffron gave a brief report on the Economic Development Plan and that it would be presented to the community sometime in December. It can be reviewed on the City's website and Library.

A motion was made by Council Member Wallner, supported by Council Member Kangas and unanimously carried to accept the plan and place it on file.

## **2019 BUDGET RESOLUTION**

A motion was made by Council Member Maino, supported by Council Member Kantola and unanimously carried to adopt the 2019 Budget.

## **VISTA THEATER RESOLUTION**

City Manager Heffron stated that the VISTA Theater is in need of a feasibility study and business plan so that they may obtain grants and make necessary improvements to the building. The City would be contracting with a specialized service for this study and not giving the funds to the VISTA directly.

A motion was made by Council Member Becker, supported by Council Member Wallner and unanimously carried to approve a \$7,000 pmt for a feasibility study for the VISTA Theater with the monies coming from the City Improvement Fund.

## **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE ORDINANCE 1<sup>ST</sup> READING**

A motion was made by Council Member Wallner, supported by Council Member Kantola and unanimously carried to approve the 1<sup>st</sup> reading of the Property Maintenance Code and set a public hearing and 2<sup>nd</sup> reading for December 13, 2018.

## **BROWN AVE SEWER ENGINEERING SERVICES**

A motion was made by Council Member Maino and supported by Council Member Becker to accept UPEA's proposal of \$49,990 with money to be paid out of the sewer fund. After discussion Council Member Anderson asked that this item be postponed for more information and discussed at the next meeting. Council Member Maino and Becker accepted the friendly amendment.

## **CAMBRIA PUMP STATION BIDS**

A motion was made by Council Member Maino and supported by Council Member Anderson to accept the bid from Superior Electric in the amount of \$10,518.65 with money coming from the Wastewater fund repairs/maintenance.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Council Members Maino, Wallner, Kantola, Becker, Kangas and Mayor Gladwell

Nays: Council Member Anderson

The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

### **SENATE BILL #1031 RESOLUTION**

A motion was made by Mayor Gladwell, supported by Council Member Kangas and unanimously carried to approve the following resolution:

#### **RESOLUTION**

#### **OPPOSING SENATE BILL 1031, A BILL TO AMEND 1893 PA 206, ENTITLED “THE GENERAL PROPERTY TAX ACT” (MCL 211.1 TO 211.155)**

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill (SB) 1031 seeks to amend the General Property tax Act to exempt qualified utility personal property from the collection of taxes under the Act; and

**WHEREAS**, “Qualified utility personal property” under the Act would include both the following utility personal property, electric transmission and distribution systems, substation equipment, spare parts, gas distribution systems, water transmission and distribution systems, gas storage equipment, and transmission lines of gas or oil transporting companies; that was initially installed in the State after December 31, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1031 in its present form as introduced on May 29, 2018, will impose a financial burden on City of Negaunee County and other local units, as it will not only reduce personal property tax revenue in 2019, but every year thereafter those annual losses will continue to increase; and

**WHEREAS**, SB 1031 was reported favorably by the Senate Committee on Finance without amendment for immediate effect to the Committee of the Whole on June 6, 2018.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City of Negaunee City Council has gone on record in opposition to SB 1031,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** this resolution will be forwarded to all cities, villages and townships in Marquette County, State Representative Sara Cambensy, State Senator Tom Casperson, Governor Rick Snyder, the Michigan Townships Association, the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Association of Counties.

### **AT&T POLE RENTAL**

A motion was made by Council Member Maino, supported by Council Member Wallner and unanimously carried to accept the payment of \$7,936 from AT&T for pole rentals and authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to negotiate a new rate with AT&T.

### **DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY APPOINTMENTS**

The Mayor made the following appointments with Council approval:

Gary Nelson and Pete Munson 4 years terms, Haley Thomas and Jeff Plummer to 3 year terms, Maryhanna Ockerman to a 2 year term and Darrel Barber and Marybeth Kurtz to 1 year terms.

### **CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

Council Member Anderson questioned check #77975 in the amount of \$5,791.86 and check #78011 in the amount of \$7,000 as they were over \$5,000.

A motion was made by Council Member Anderson, supported by Mayor Gladwell and unanimously carried to approve the Claims and Accounts in the amount of \$301,057.96 minus the \$7,000 for check number #78011 (checks #77923-78068).

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Council Member Wallner, supported by Council Member Kangas and unanimously carried to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: October 11<sup>th</sup> Regular Minutes, October 11<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup> Special Minutes, Revenue/Expenditure Trial Balance Reports, Delinquent Utility Bills to the tax rolls, Senior Center Grants, 2019 Rural Development Grant Resolution – Brown Ave.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Rhonda Gravedoni addressed the Council commending the VISTA and spoke about the blight ordinance.

Rusty Bowers addressed the Council and thanked them for the help with the feasibility study.

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Mayor Gladwell stated that he is now a member of the 911 Board and had been attending meetings.

Council Member Maino commented on work being done at the bandshell.

Council Member Wallner spoke about the re election and the turn out and reminded everyone to be safe during deer season.

Council Member Kantola stated that he feels the City is moving in the right direction.

Council Member Anderson congratulated Council Member Kangas on his win for Mayor.

Council Member Becker congratulated the VISTA.

Mayor Gladwell congratulated the candidates that won in the election. He thanked everyone who voted for him. He stated that this was his last meeting as Mayor and he feels they are moving in the right direction. He also thanked the election works and reminded everyone that Tinseltown and the Tree Lighting is on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

## **CITY MANAGER**

City Manager Heffron thanked the VISTA and Blight Committee.

## **CITY ATTORNEY**

City Attorney O'Dea commented on the AirBnB issue, the Sundberg litigation and the Negaunee Cable litigation.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

A motion was made by Council Member Anderson, supported by Council Member Kangas to go into Closed Session per SEC 8 C union Negotiations.

The following roll call vote was taken:

Ayes: Council Members Wallner, Kantola, Anderson, Becker, Kangas, Maino and Mayor Gladwell

Nays: None

The motion passed 7-0

The meeting was called back into open session.

A motion was made by Council Member Anderson, supported by Council Member Becker and unanimously carried to approve the Police Union Contract and continue negotiations with the DPW and Administration Unions.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss a motion was made by Council Member Wallner, supported by Council Member Becker and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

---

Ann Ducoli  
Deputy Clerk