

July 5, 2017

**IMLAY CITY COMMISSION  
150 N. Main Street  
IMLAY CITY, MI 48444  
REGULAR MEETING  
July 5, 2017**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Barga called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Barga led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**3. ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Walt Barga

Commissioner Joi Kempf

Commissioner Al Ramirez

Commissioner Marty Rankin

Commissioner Robert Tanis

Absent: Commissioner Amy Planck and Commissioner Mike Romine

Also Present: City Manager Tom Youatt; City Attorney Brian Garner; Josh Hadley and Ryan Seames of Taylor Butterfield; one member of the community; and one member of the media.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Moved** by Rankin, seconded by Kempf, to approve the agenda as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

**Motion** by Rankin, seconded by Kempf, to approve the following Consent Agenda Items as presented:

**A.** Approval of Minutes - Regular Meeting – June 20, 2017

**B.** Payment of Bills - Payroll totaling \$101,173.11  
Accounts Payable and Trust & Agency totaling \$374,594.24

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Ayes: Rankin, Kempf, Ramirez, Tanis, Barga

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5 - YEAS; 0 - NAYS**

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## **6. CITIZENS FROM THE FLOOR**

Alan Rosenbalm, Imlay City, addressed the Commission to relay that he is in favor of slowing the traffic on M-53 but is concerned over the mixed messages sent by the electronic speed sign when it is set to a speed other than the posted speed. Mr. Rosenbalm also informed the Commission that Imlay City Community Schools is considering the placement of a sinking fund millage proposal on the November ballot and he had indicated to the school that a lot of expectations are being placed on the Imlay City residents and the City has its own ballot issues. Additionally, Mr. Rosenbalm stated his concerns that Michigan could follow other states such as Illinois and New Jersey into a financial crisis that could trickle down to grant funding and revenue sharing.

Mayor Borgen responded that Michigan might have been comparable to the current situation in Illinois about eight years ago, with much improvement to the economy since then. Mayor Borgen also thanked Mr. Rosenbalm for his comment regarding the school sinking fund millage, as the City may consider a public safety millage in the future.

City Attorney Brian Garner announced that Taylor Butterfield is growing and introduced Josh Hadley as the firm's new municipal attorney, and Ryan Seames as the firm's new legal intern.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. Change Order #2 – Improvements to Water System Controls**

City Manager Tom Youatt presented a letter of recommendation from ROWE Professional Services Company for Commission approval of Change Order #2 for the Meter Pit Project in the amount of \$6,929.25. Youatt explained that the extra work was required for the optimal operation and efficiency of the SCADA equipment. Youatt added that Change Order #2 also serves to extend substantial completion from December 9, 2016 to June 7, 2017 due to PRV backorders.

**Motion** by Rankin, seconded by Kempf, to approve Change Order No. 2 to the Meter Pit Project for Boddy Construction Co. Inc. in the amount of \$6,929.25, as presented.

### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

Ayes: Kempf, Ramirez, Tanis, Rankin, Borgen

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5 - YEAS; 0 – NAYS**

### **B. Scrap Tire Market Development Grant Agreement (FY2017)**

City Manager Tom Youatt presented the Scrap Tire Grant Agreement from the DEQ for a 50% match of the \$310,000.00 project costs to mill and resurface Capac Road from M-53 west to Almont Avenue and north on Fairgrounds Road to the City limits. Youatt noted that

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Commission approval was required for the agreement, along with authorization for him to execute it.

Mayor Bergen inquired as to whether a road diet would be implemented in this area with the incorporation of bike lanes. City Manager Tom Youatt responded affirmatively.

**Motion** by Tanis, seconded by Ramirez, to approve the FY2017 Scrap Tire Market Development Grant Agreement between the City and MDEQ, and authorize City Manager Tom Youatt to sign.

#### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

Ayes: Kempf, Ramirez, Tanis, Rankin, Bergen

Nays: None

**MOTION CARRIED 5 - YEAS; 0 – NAYS**

### **8. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. MERS Actuarial Valuation Report**

City Manager Tom Youatt reported that the MERS Actuarial Valuation Report for December 31, 2016 had been received with disappointing results. Youatt reported that the City's funding percentage had gone down from 67% to 65%, even though the City had made an additional \$100,000.00 contribution in December 2016. Youatt discussed some reasons for the declining funding percentage, noting three retirements in 2016 as the main reason for the decline. Youatt explained that the extra contribution had essentially been absorbed by the additional necessary pension payments and noted the good news that there are likely to be no further retirements for a few years.

Some discussion took place among the Commission regarding the financial impact of the MERS payments to the City, the similar situation experienced in other municipalities statewide, and the impacts of moving to a lesser retirement plan for new hires. Mayor Bergen noted that this topic would be part of the discussion with the City's Financial Advisor and reiterated the importance of maintaining fund balance for grant match dollars.

#### **B. Set July Board of Review Date**

City Manager Tom Youatt explained the requirement to hold a July Board of Review and for the Commission to set the date and time of the meeting. Youatt relayed the recommendation of City Assessor Nathan Hager that the meeting be set for July 18, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

**Motion** by Ramirez, seconded by Tanis, to set the July Board of Review Meeting for July 18, 2017 at 12:00 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

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## **9. MANAGER'S REPORT**

Additional information was attached to the packet.

City Manager Tom Youatt reported that City Hall has been busy with Treasurer Nicole Frost generating and distributing 2017 summer tax bills and with Utility Bills due today. Youatt reported that the M-53 Road Diet was favorably discussed in a local editorial and feedback thus far has very positively relayed that traffic flow is better, safer and is not getting backed up. Youatt added that the M-53 Road Diet could be further improved by adding a right turn only to the right northbound lane of M-53 at Old M-21 and with the incorporation of additional signage or striping at the origin of the lane reconfiguration. Youatt noted excellent collaboration with MDOT on the project. Youatt reported that design engineering is underway on the M-53 Gateway Project and he is hoping to complete the project this fall.

Commissioner Ramirez noted that the M-53 lane reconfiguration is a big step in the right direction and agreed that it could be improved by adding the right turn only lane at M-53 and Old M-21 as an additional safety measure. Commissioner Rankin noted that the real test was last weekend with the holiday traffic, but there proved to be a smooth transition and it has served to slow the traffic.

City Manager Tom Youatt requested input from the Commission regarding limiting the amount of time a fireworks vendor can be set up prior to the Fourth of July holiday. Some discussion took place regarding the allowable times that fireworks can be ignited surrounding the holiday and the complaints received due to noise and safety concerns. City Attorney Brian Garner noted that a limitation of the length of time vendors could be set up within the City could be applied uniformly to all vendors.

City Manager Tom Youatt provided notice of MML Convention 2017 taking place in Holland from September 13 – 15, 2017 and encouraged Commissioners to notify him of their interest in attending this worthwhile event. Mayor Barga noted that Imlay City is applying for a Community Excellence Award for the DDA Art in Action project and inquired as to whether this was the convention where it would be awarded if successful. Youatt responded it is.

## **10. OTHER BUSINESS**

Commissioner Ramirez reported he had met the new part-time Police Officer Cevin Brown and was very pleased with the experience he brought to the department. Commissioner Ramirez inquired as to how many applications were received for the position. City Manager Tom Youatt responded that 8 to 10 applications had been received, noting Officer Brown's experience with LCSD and MSP. Youatt noted additional new hires including part-time Police Department Administrative Assistant Melissa Anglebrandt and Code Enforcement Officer Dave Eady as well qualified, excellent hires.

Commissioner Ramirez noted that the Police Department will likely experience a number of retirements in four to five years and, as a citizen, he would like to see the new hires spend some time with the full-time officers before they retire, so as to not waste the experience the City has now. City Manager Tom Youatt noted an increase in staff and budget would be needed so the new employees can learn from the experienced ones.

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**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** by Kempf, seconded by Ramirez, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted by: Nicole F. Frost: \_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: July 18, 2017