

REGULAR MINUTES  
PERE MARQUETTE DEPOT  
Tuesday, January 5, 2010

A meeting of the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan was convened in open and public session at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 5, 2010.

The City Clerk took the roll call:

Members Present: Council Members Bunce, Scheid, Belding, Thompson and Wills.

Members Absent: None.

Mayor Wills delivered the invocation.

The Mayor led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Mayor called for the City Manager's Report – noted and filed.

The Mayor called for the Consent Agenda.

- A. Approval of Minutes 12-15-09
- B. DART Resolution of Intent FY/2011

Council Member Bunce made a motion to approve the consent agenda, supported by Council Member Thompson.

The question on the motion was called and the result of the voting is as follows:

Ayes: Council Members Bunce, Scheid, Belding, Thompson and Wills.  
Nays: None.

Following are the resolutions contained in the Consent Agenda.

**B. DART RESOLUTION FOR INTENT FY/2011**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-01-01**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN INDICATING THE INTENT TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011 UNDER ACT NO. 51 OF THE PUBLIC ACTS OF 1951, AS AMENDED.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Act No. 51 of the Public Acts of 1951, as amended (Act 51); it is necessary for the City of Belding, established under Act 51, to provide a local transportation program for the state fiscal year of 2011, and therefore apply for state financial assistance under the provision of Act 51; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary for the City of Belding, to name a official representative for all public transportation matters, who is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the state transportation commission or department for the administration of Act 51; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary to certify that no changes in eligibility documentation have occurred during the past states fiscal year; and,

WHEREAS, the performance indicators for this agency have been reviewed, and approved by the City of Belding; and,

WHEREAS, the certifications and assurances for state assistance have been reviewed and approved by the City of Belding; and,

WHEREAS, the accessibility plan amendment for FY 2011 has been reviewed, and approved by the City of Belding; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Belding, has reviewed and approved the proposed balanced (surplus) budget, and funding sources, estimated federal funds \$37,192.00 estimated state funds \$81,567.00, estimated local funds \$105,000.00, estimated farebox \$30,000.00, estimated other funds \$4,000.00 with a total estimated expenses of \$232,450.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Belding, hereby make it's intentions known to provide public transportation services, and to apply for state financial assistance with this annual plan, in accordance with Act 51; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Suzanne Christensen is appointed transportation coordinator, for all public transportation matters, and is authorized to provide such information as deemed necessary by the State Transportation Commission or Department for it's administration of Act 51 for 2011.

The Mayor called for Business Agenda Item **A – CIP PLAN APPROVAL**

The City Clerk read the preamble to the resolution.

Council Member Belding moved the passage of the resolution and the motion was supported by Council Member Thompson.

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-01-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN APPROVING THE SIX YEAR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN FOR 2010-2015.

WHEREAS, the Belding City Charter and the Code of Ordinances require the adoption of a six year Capital Improvements Plan; and

WHEREAS, the city staff has assembled the necessary information and formulated a six year plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan that the six-year Capital Improvement Plan be approved by the City Council.

The question on the resolution was called and the result of the voting is as follows:

Ayes:	Council Members Bunce, Scheid, Belding, Thompson and Wills.
Nays:	None.

The Mayor called for Citizen Comments.

Jeff Hunter presented city council with 352 signatures to see if they could take some of the ideas and keep dispatch. One idea was submitted earlier this week. Kentwood shuts city offices down one day a week.

City Manager DeBruine stated they have looked at that option, but do not have an exact cost. Basically it would be saving the electricity cost, because the 1970 boiler temperature cannot be altered much. It would be something to consider.

Mayor Wills stated he appreciated the effort, as it was very admirable. They will look at those ideas. People have been looking at those ideas.

Joe Feuerstein, W. State St., asked how many of the council members were involved on the project on M-44? Was it open for bids? Was there any type of a plan for it?

City Manager DeBruine stated MDOT put it out for bid. Engineers designed the project and MDOT reviewed the plans.

Mr. Feuerstein asked if it was built by plan, or were there additions to it?

City Manager DeBruine stated there was additional retaining wall along M-44. The engineers designed M-44 using MDOT drawings. Some were not correct. The gas line was really closer to the road. As the project was constructed, the engineers adjusted the drawings so the gas lines would be in the right place on the final drawings. The drawings were done from MDOT, and everything will be corrected in the final drawings.

Mr. Feuerstein stated what they showed people was not correct. The streetlights on the south side of the road are 30 ft. from the edge of the road.

Mayor Wills stated the lights are for the pathway. Council finally decided on the north side for the pathway. In the future, if a pathway goes on the south side of the road, the pathway will go

between the lights and roadway.

Mr. Feuerstein stated on Broas Street there is sidewalk on both sides of the corner. There is nothing going to the bridge, and nothing on the other side until Water Street.

Mayor Wills stated they have been dealing with MDOT, and have gone through a lot.

City Manager DeBruine stated on the original plans, there was sidewalk on the north and south sides to the bridge. They decided not to do it because when the sidewalks came down to the bridge, it brought pedestrians near the travel lane. They thought that was dangerous. They wanted to continue raised sidewalk off the bridge to connect to the sidewalk. MDOT would not allow raised sidewalk. The bridge would have to be extended out at a cost of \$350,000 to \$500,000, another whole project. The houses between Water St. and the bridge are very close to the road. One easement was tied up in court, another was very close to the road. That could be another project, which would be many, many years in the future. Where the pathway ends on M-44 near Loveland, just west of Water St., the pathway could continue on Fair or Spring, and connect to the pathway near Morgan St. They did not want to direct people into the road.

Mr. Feuerstein asked if the lift station on W. Ellis Ave. had to be replaced or repaired?

City Manager DeBruine stated work is needed on the electrical and pumps. Right now, it just serves Candlestone and a vacant house. The project is out to bid right now, with a cost estimate of \$130,000. With an 80% grant, the city portion will be from \$25,000 to \$30,000. Money is received from the Candlestone and the house. Water and sewer lines were run in 1994 for the Candlestone and future development.

Gayla Palethorpe asked who pays the electric bill for street lights?

City Manager DeBruine stated street lighting costs are paid by the city.

Mayor Wills stated the basic concept was to enhance the roadway to slow down traffic on M-44. There have been a lot of positive comments from citizens.

City Manager DeBruine stated the city pays for all lights in the right of way, about \$72,000 a year.

Ms. Palethorpe asked, regarding the city logo, instead of paying someone big bucks, why didn't the committee go to the art students and give them a couple hundred dollars? It looks like a kindergardener drew the logo.

Council Member Thompson stated \$4,500 was spent on design of the logo.

Mayor Wills stated it was a long process.

Council Member Thompson stated first a change was needed in the logo, then they would market the City of Belding. There have been improvements on M-44, and M-57 in Greenville is

growing. The city would be interested in any business that brings in jobs. They have to advertise, to make the city well known. He is making a DVD to advertise for businesses that are expanding.

Ms. Palethorpe stated there are vacant buildings on M-44.

City Manager DeBruine stated Macitawa Bank is trying to fill them up.

Council Member Bunce stated they have tried to advertise. They are working on bringing people in. It is a slow process. They need to market the city.

Ms. Palethorpe asked if they needed six cop cars?

Mayor Wills stated the number of police officers has gone down.

Police Chief Nelson stated there are five marked patrol cars and one administrative car. Four cars are used for patrol.

Council Member Bunce stated the city is unique, as it has a full time police and fire department.

Ms. Palethorpe asked if fundraisers were done, would it go to the General Fund?

Fire Chief Moore stated if it is a city, donations should go to general fund, as that is where the department is funded.

Council Member Thompson stated the city just needs the revenue sharing money back from Lansing that was cut.

Lynn Mason, Ionia County Commissioner, stated they would be having an organizational meeting next week. They are not expecting any major changes. She wished everyone a happy new year.

Mr. Hunter asked, regarding the sidewalk on M-44, have they thought about going down the sides of the hills and then back up on the tracks?

City Manager DeBruine stated that the trail project is in the acquisition stage.

Deb Curler, manager at Flats on the River, stated she saw a great need for the lights on M-44. There are a lot of people coming from other cities to look at the apartments and they go straight through. The lighting will help to direct traffic. It will be a great enhancement. There has been a lot of positive feedback on the parking lot. It is important to do enhancements. The thing pulling new residents to town is the pathway and walkability.

The Mayor called for Council Comments.

Council Member Bunce thanked Jeff and crew. They are concerned about their city and are

getting opinions. He appreciates it.

Mr. Hunter stated a lot of Belhaven residents can't get to council meetings. They should visit them once a month.

Council Member Bunce stated they have a lot of good ideas, and things are still in discussion. The TV 13 coverage about houses and grants was a positive effort. 3-4 people are looking at houses in Belding.

City Manager DeBruine stated WZZM was up here before the holidays and interviewed the mayor, himself, and homeowners about the housing program. It was a very nice article.

Mayor Wills stated the people saw an incentive of up to \$30,000, with a forgivable loan. They are thrilled to be in a house. They got a lot of home improvements and made it more functional. More people are looking to come to Belding.

Finance Director Andres stated he had a couple of inquiry calls. He has talked to realtors that have interested clients. Marilyn Smith's number should be given out.

Council Member Scheid had no comments.

Council Member Belding stated it is tough with the budget issues. The homeowners grant program is great. She stated what makes us special, aside from the river, is us as a people. That says more to her than anything. They will have to look at different options. She looks at things objectively. They have to represent and listen to the people. They will persevere through this.

Council Member Thompson stated if they have ideas, get together as a group of 5, to explore things they have to go through. They can see the plus and minus numbers. There are many numbers circulating. If they want the real truth, they can sit down and go over it. Get to the true numbers. They could then go back and explain it to the others. There are real threats to the city from tax and budget cuts. He felt it was so nice to see the number of people in attendance. Usually only half a dozen people are present. When the issues are done, they should still attend, as it sure is nice to see people.

Mayor Wills stated there was one thing that didn't happen at the special meeting. Several years ago, Marilyn Bruder asked what high form was keeping Mr. Tol from painting his building pink, and who was on the beautification committee? The enforcement of the code is important and there were major issues of blight and neglect of property. Roger May was making a positive impact. No one wants to be the bad guy. He did it well. Code Enforcement was moved to the short list. Someone will have to pick up those tasks. The position was removed, but enforcement does not end. The logo was a long process, it has been accepted, and they will try to sell our people and city.

Council Member Thompson stated the logo got started by one man. He looked at the logo, didn't understand what the meaning was, and it went from there.

Mike Tefft stated it was a full process, but they slowed it down due to the budget. There is a lot of potential there. It is a branding process. A lot of logos are simple, so they can be recognized without a lot of thought.

Council Member Bunce stated over the course of the last two meetings, things have gotten heated. There has been a lot of blasting. They love our community, but won't all agree. He hopes when discussions are held, they will have positive results, not blasting. They can get further ahead by positive communication.

Council Member Belding encouraged everyone to use the website, as Kareen forwards the emails. They can respond to the citizens. The citizens can contact council. It can be approached one on one.

The Mayor called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Bunce moved to adjourn the meeting, supported by Council Member Belding.

Ayes: Council Members Bunce, Scheid, Belding, Thompson and Wills.  
Nays: None.

Mayor Wills adjourned the meeting at 8 p.m.

---

Roger Wills, Mayor

---

Kareen J. Thomas, City Clerk