

REGULAR MINUTES  
PERE MARQUETTE DEPOT  
Tuesday, January 19, 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 19, 2010.

The City Clerk took the roll call:

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

Members Absent: None.

Council Member Thompson 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 12-22-09
- B. Approval of Minutes 1-5-10
- C. Recreation Board Appointment – Curtis Kirkendall

Council Member Bunce made a motion to approve Items A and B of the consent agenda, supported by Council Member Belding.

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.

Council Member Belding introduced Chelsea Wekenman, student representative of the Museum Board and Curtis Kirkendall, student representative of the Recreation Advisory Board. She stated they were very fine examples of youth in the community.

Mayor Wills stated that it was important to get the input of youth.

Council Member Bunce made a motion to approve Item C of the consent agenda, supported by Council Member Belding.

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.

**D. RECREATION BOARD APPOINTMENT – CURTIS KIRKENDALL**

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-01-03

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN APPOINTING CURTIS KIRKENDALL TO THE RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD.

WHEREAS, city code states one student who is a junior in the Belding High School and a resident of the city shall be appointed as a nonvoting member of the Recreation Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Kirkendall has indicated that he is interested in serving on the board in this capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Advisory Board and staff recommend the appointment of Curtis Kirkendall to the board as a student representative.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan that Curtis Kirkendall be appointed to the Recreation Advisory Board as a student representative.

The Mayor called for Citizen Comments.

Larry Sain, representing Clean Michigan, stated he wanted to meet the new members of city council. They are still working on getting a recycling center in Belding. There are two seats open on the board of directors. The property has not been solidified at this point, but they are still working on it. They are still looking for office space.

Michael Hinds, Belding, presented ideas for Belding. He stated they could work together and have more volunteers in Belding. He stated that the Old Gibson Building was milking them of time and resources, and it is a privately owned business. They should focus on a solution, not subjective ideas. There are people that can solve the problems. They should get a legal opinion and make a decision.

Mayor Wills stated the city patched the roof and boarded it up. Nothing can happen on it right away.

City Manager DeBruine stated a Phase I has been done on the property.

Mr. Hinds stated the city council should look into the Shawley Drain, as he doesn't think it was fair to have it on a special assessment.

City Manager DeBruine stated the project was done through the Ionia County Board of

Commissioners.

Mr. Hinds asked why there were openings on the TIFA Board?

City Manager DeBruine stated there was not a lot going on. The board was set up in the 1980's. Financing was set up in 1994. It has been very successful. The funds helped put in the industrial park, north water tower, water mains and the sewer lines down Ellis, toward M-91. The annual bond payment is from \$160,000 to \$190,000. The last payment will be due in 2015. It captures school, county and city taxes. After that, it will no longer capture school taxes, just city and county. Everything in the plan has been accomplished, except Merrick St. The board may be invigorated by adding business owners in that area.

Mr. Hinds stated timing was everything in applying for grants.

Mayor Wills stated the city was very fortunate, as they have been way above average in getting grants. The city is not able to fund the matches on the grants much any more. It takes a lot of long range planning.

Mr. Hinds stated they could get more information from the public, to ask if projects were a priority.

Council Member Belding stated a lot of advice and recommendations come from the boards to the city council.

Mr. Hinds stated the community must know the finances are in order.

City Manager DeBruine stated the former mayor did not have anything to do with the city's finances. He did not have an office in city hall.

Finance Director Andres stated the former mayor was not on any of the city check books and could not sign any checks.

City Manager DeBruine stated they go above and beyond what cities their size do. They have received a certificate of award from the Government Finance Officers Association since 2000.

Jeff Hunter asked if the Police Department could run without a clerk?

City Manager DeBruine stated they are still in the process of structuring that between three people in the finance department. They are still in talks to offer assistance with the clerking needs in the police department. They will be working within current staffing hours.

Mr. Hunter asked who would be lien certified, and performing PBT tests 24/7? Some are scheduled by probation officers.

City Manager DeBruine stated performing PBT tests is not mandated, but they plan to continue it as a service. It would be done during the hours offered within those positions, during business

hours from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Mr. Hunter asked if someone else was lien certified?

Police Chief Nelson stated the officers get lien certifications. There will be a lien tack officer for the integrity of the files. It will be worked out between the police and city manager. PBT off hours will be done by a police officer. Dispatch will send a car to the office.

Mr. Hunter asked why they couldn't run on part time?

Police Chief Nelson stated two part times have other jobs and their availability is limited. The other part times are dedicated, as they don't have other jobs. There must be one full time person to oversee the operation.

Mr. Hunter stated one full time could switch to part time.

Police Chief Nelson stated they talk about this in meetings. Whatever task they have to do, they will do it. There are other costs involved, in addition to personnel costs.

Mr. Hunter stated council could change their vote until all the questions are answered.

The consensus of the council members was their votes would stand.

Police Chief Nelson stated the recorder is on its last legs. They are bandaiding equipment. Now is the time to make the change. They have an opportunity and they have to take it.

The Mayor called for Council Comments.

Council Member Thompson stated until the citizens go to Lansing and begin yelling, they are going to keep taking money from the cities. The money needs to come back to the cities that sent it there. Let Lansing clean up their act.

Council Member Scheid stated Belding was the only community in Ionia and Montcalm counties that have their own dispatch. It is a shame they have to cut it. The county has new equipment. They could cut the funding to the city at any time, or minimize it. There are some services that the city needs to concentrate on. Dispatch is important, but the county does it for the rest of the county. There will be more cuts coming from the State, and it will not be getting better. He hated to cut planning, too. The city doesn't have the equipment if it fails. Regarding beautification on M-44, once the state put the curbs on, they had to have a place to walk. The street lights were not good enough. People were walking on M-44 and someone was going to get killed. That is what the capital improvement fund is for. They must maintain the infrastructure. Something needed to be done.

Council Member Belding stated she understood Jeff's point. She is extremely confident that 911 services will be excellent. If staff said they wouldn't have the service they need, they would pull the reins on this. She is 100% -150% certain it will be fine. They have a pooling of resources

for the whole county. They will try to provide the counter service they have come to expect, even if it has to be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. They have to work through this. She has faith in everyone at city hall to get through this.

Council Member Bunce stated he and Andrea sat down with Dale, Gregg and Randy. They didn't hold back on anything. The city will have the Police Department and Fire Department intact. He doesn't want to see dispatch go either.

Council Member Scheid stated they were guaranteed the money from the state. Most cities are going through this.

Mayor Wills thanked Larry, Mike and Jeff. They must move forward, and think about environmental issues for the town. They must exhibit due diligence in monitoring the lead in the air east of Mueller Industries, vinyl chloride from Viatec, and contamination from the Pitsch Landfill. He was glad people attended the meeting.

Brian Calley, State Representative for most of Ionia County, stated there is less money to go around. They had a revenue estimating conference and will not need mid year cuts. Next year should be level. Perhaps it has bottomed out. The big problem for next year is that the budget was based on an extra \$2B from the feds, and that is where the hole comes from. There may be a \$1.3B shortage in the general fund, which includes the medicaid match, corrections, non k-12 education and revenue sharing. Those are four big things out of the general fund. It is an ugly reality. The legislators will have 10% pay cuts next year. He wrote a check back for the furlough days, even though it was not required. They recommend keeping the work force the same size and taking a pay cut. Tax revenue sources have declined significantly. Income tax revenue is down 18%. He congratulated the new members on council.

Council Member Thompson left at 8:42 p.m.

Representative Calley stated that Belding has a good city manager. A disproportionate share of the grant funds have gone to Belding. It is worth going after the funds. He asked for the continued patience of everyone. Of the options, none of them are too pretty.

City Manager DeBruine stated that the city doesn't have matching funds for the grants anymore. They are now focusing on infrastructure projects. The city is struggling here, as they are everywhere.

Council Member Bunce thanked Representative Calley for all he has done for this town, even though he doesn't represent them. He had a conversation with him for two hours on a Saturday and he came over for the fireworks.

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 and Wills.  
Nays: None.

Mayor Wills adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.

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Roger Wills, Mayor

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Kareen J. Thomas, City Clerk