

REGULAR MINUTES  
PERE MARQUETTE DEPOT  
Wednesday, April 15, 2009

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 Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

The City Clerk took the roll call:

Members Present: Council Members Bunce, Wills and Satterlee.

Members Absent: Council Member Husted and Stout. Council Member Stout arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Mayor Protem Wills delivered the invocation.

The Mayor Protem led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Member Bunce made a motion to excuse Council Members Husted and Stout from the meeting per Section 4.5(f) of the City Charter, supported by Council Member Satterlee.

Ayes: Council Members Bunce, Wills and Satterlee.

Nays: None.

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

Council Member Stout arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Council Member Bunce inquired if a section of rail could be left by the depot?

City Manager DeBruine stated that was a possibility. It could be a part of the design process.

Council Member Satterlee asked if the \$800,000 demolition quote was for the north and south sections of the Tol buildings?

City Manager DeBruine stated that it was.

Council Member Bunce asked if the windows would be done if the city does not receive the grant for demolition of parts of the Tol building?

City Manager DeBruine stated that the windows would be boarded up and the building stabilized. He has quotes for the windows and tuckpointing. He still needs a quote for the roofing. The roof is still good on the historic building. The city is applying for a grant under the Neighborhood Stabilization through MSHDA. He believes priority will be given to communities to buy and fix up homes. Demolition projects would be on a lower level. He still feels the city has a good shot at it as they were asked to apply for it.

The Mayor Protem called for the Consent Agenda.

- A. Approval of Minutes 3-17-09
- B. Planning Commission Appointment – Larry Rummel
- C. DDA Appointment – Bruce Feuerstein
- D. DDA Appointment – Jon McGowan
- E. DDA Appointment – Jennifer Meyers
- F. DDA Appointment – Amber Rood
- G. Depot Street Temporary Street Closure
- H. Addition of School Bell Court and Sixth Street into Street System
- I. Addition of Pine Ridge and White Pine Ct. into Street System

Council Member Bunce made a motion to approve Item A – Minutes of 3/17/09, supported by Council Member Satterlee.

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

Ayes: Council Members Bunce, Wills and Satterlee.  
Nays: None.  
Abstain: Council Member Stout.

Council Member Stout made a motion to approve Items B, C, D, E, F, H and I, supported by Council Member Bunce.

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

Ayes: Council Members Bunce, Stout, Wills and Satterlee.  
Nays: None.

Council Member Bunce made a motion to approve Item G, supported by Council Member Stout.

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

Ayes: Council Members Bunce, Stout, Wills and Satterlee.  
Nays: None.

Following are the resolutions contained in the Consent Agenda.

**B. PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – LARRY RUMMEL**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-04-07

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN  
APPOINTING LARRY RUMMEL TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, the term of office of Larry Rummel on the Planning Commission has expired; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rummel has indicated that he is interested in serving another term on the commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan that Larry Rummel be appointed to the Planning Commission with a term to expire on April 15, 2012.

**C. DDA APPOINTMENT – BRUCE FEUERSTEIN**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-04-08

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN APPOINTING BRUCE FEUERSTEIN TO THE DDA BOARD.

WHEREAS, membership on the DDA Board will be increased to twelve members as approved by Resolution No. 2005-10-93 on October 18, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Feuerstein has indicated his willingness to serve a term on the board.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan that Bruce Feuerstein be appointed to the DDA Board with a term of office to expire on April 15, 2013.

**D. DDA APPOINTMENT – JON MCGOWAN**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-04-09

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN APPOINTING JON MCGOWAN TO THE DDA BOARD.

WHEREAS, membership on the DDA Board will be increased to twelve members as approved By Resolution No. 2005-10-93 on October 18, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Jon McGowan has indicated his willingness to serve a term on the board.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan that Jon McGowan be appointed to the DDA Board with a term of office to expire on April 15, 2013.

**E. DDA APPOINTMENT – JENNIFER MEYERS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-04-10

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN APPOINTING JENNIFER MEYERS TO THE DDA BOARD.

WHEREAS, membership on the DDA Board will be increased to twelve members as approved by Resolution No. 2005-10-93 on October 18, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Jennifer Meyers has indicated her willingness to serve a term on the board.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan that Jennifer Meyers be appointed to the DDA Board with a term of office to expire on April 15, 2013.

**F. DDA APPOINTMENT – AMBER ROOD**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-04-11

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN APPOINTING AMBER ROOD TO THE DDA BOARD.

WHEREAS, membership on the DDA Board will be increased to twelve members as approved by Resolution No. 2005-10-93 on October 18, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Amber Rood has indicated her willingness to serve a term on the board.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan that Amber Rood be appointed to the DDA Board with a term of office to expire on April 15, 2013.

**G. DEPOT STREET TEMPORARY STREET CLOSURE**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-04-12

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN AUTHORIZING THE REQUEST TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE DEPOT STREET BETWEEN BRIDGE STREET AND THE MALL PARKING LOT ENTRANCE FOR THE LIBERTY TREE CEREMONY.

WHEREAS, a request was received from Michael Simmons, fifth grade teacher at Woodview Elementary, to temporarily close Depot Street, between Bridge Street and the mall parking lot entrance directly across from the depot, for the Liberty Tree Ceremony on Sunday, May 3, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the closure will provide a safe area for the community members to enjoy the event.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan that Depot Street, between Bridge Street and the mall parking lot entrance directly across from the depot, be closed on May 3, 2009 from 1 p.m. to

5 p.m. for the Liberty Tree Ceremony.

## **H – ADDITION OF SCHOOL BELL COURT AND SIXTH STREET INTO STREET SYSTEM**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-04-15

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING ACCEPTING SIXTH STREET AND SCHOOL BELL COURT INTO THE CITY STREET SYSTEM.

Whereas, the City of Belding did on October 29, 2007 acquire title to Sixth St and School Bell Court. And whereas it is necessary to furnish certain information to the State of Michigan to place these streets within the City Street System for the purpose of obtaining funds under Act 51, P.A. 1951 as amended.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED:

1. That the center line of said street is described as:  
Sixth Street centerline is described as follows; commencing at the Southwest Corner of said Section 10; thence N 89°27'50" E, 862.74 feet along the South line of said Section 10; thence 00°54'00" W, 660.17 feet, along the east line of the proposed Belding School Plat, to the centerline of Sixth Avenue (66 feet wide) POINT OF BEGINNING; thence N 89°27'51" E, 86.03 feet; thence 88.88 feet along a curve to the left, said curve having a radius of 263.00 feet, a central angle of 19°21'46", and a chord which bears N 79°46'58" E, 88.46 feet to a point of reverse curvature; thence 85.16 feet along a curve to the right, said curve having a radius of 263.00 feet, a central angle of 18°33'11", and a chord which bears N 79°22'40" E, 84.79 feet; thence N 88°39'15" E, 0.51 feet to Point "A"; thence continuing N 88°39'15" E, 219.73 feet to a POINT OF ENDING of the centerline of Sixth Avenue;  
  
Thence from Point "A", being a point on the centerline of the proposed School Bell Court (66 feet wide), N 01°20'45" W, 59.71 feet; thence 306.60 feet along a curve to the left, said curve having a radius of 540.29 feet, a central angle of 32°30'49", and a chord which bears N 17°36'03" W, 302.50 feet to a POINT OF ENDING, said point also being the center of the School Bell Court Cul-de-Sac ( 66 foot radius).
2. That said street is located within a City right-of-way and is under the control of the City of Belding.
3. That said street is a public street and is for public street purposes.
4. That said street is accepted into the City Local Street System and was open to the public on June 14, 2006.

## **I – ADDITION OF PINE RIDGE AND WHITE PINE CT.INTO STREET SYSTEM**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-04-16

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, ACCEPTING PINEVIEW STREET, PINE RIDGE DRIVE AND WHITE PINE COURT INTO THE CITY STREET SYSTEM.

Whereas, the City of Belding did on October 8, 2004 acquire title to Pineview Street, Pine Ridge Drive, and White Pine Court. And whereas it is necessary to furnish certain information to the State of Michigan to place these streets within the City Street System for the purpose of obtaining funds under Act 51, P.A. 1951 as amended.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS RESOLVED:

5. That the center line of Pineview Drive is described as:  
Part of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 2 T8N,R8W, City of Belding, Ionia County, Michigan:  
Commencing at the W  $\frac{1}{4}$  corner of said Section 2, T8N, R8W: thence S02°20'36"E 1274.40 feet along the West line, SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Section 2 to the Point of Beginning: thence N88°06'00"E 180.01 feet to Reference Point A; thence continuing N88°06'00" 240.94 feet; thence SE'ly 193.77 feet along a 300.00 foot radius curve to the right, the central angle being 37°00'29", the long chord bearing S73°23'46'E 190.42 feet to the Point of ending of said centerline.

ALSO, the centerline of Pine Ridge Drive and White Pine Court described as:  
Beginning at said Reference Point A; thence S02°20'36"E 323.08 feet; thence SE'ly 47.27 feet along a 30.00 foot radius curve to the left, the central angle being 90°17'01" the long chord bearing S47°29'06"E 42.53 feet; thence N87°22'24"E 258.42 feet; thence S02°37'36"E 32.00 feet to the Point of Ending.

6. That said street is located within a City right-of-way and is under the control of the City of Belding.
7. That said street is a public street and is for public street purposes.
8. That said street is accepted into the City Local Street System and was open to the public on November 15, 2005.

The Mayor Protem called for Business Agenda Item **A – ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterling Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees; and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating

and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal; and

WHEREAS, the City of Belding has been recognized as a Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation for the sixth year and desires to continue its tree-planting practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Roger Wills, Mayor Protem of the City of Belding, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2009 as **Arbor Day** in the City of Belding, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.

The Mayor Protem called for Business Agenda Item **B – BUDDY POPPY PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the annual sale of Buddy Poppies by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has been officially recognized and endorsed by governmental leaders since 1922; and

WHEREAS, VFW Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled veterans, and the proceeds of this worthy fund-raising campaign are used exclusively for the benefit of disabled and needy veterans, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans, and

WHEREAS, the basic purpose of the annual sale of Buddy Poppies by the Veterans of Foreign Wars is eloquently reflected in the desire to “Honor the Dead by Helping the Living”.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Roger Wills, Mayor Protem of the City of Belding, do hereby urge the citizens of this community to recognize the merits of this cause by contributing generously to its support through the purchase of Buddy Poppies on May 8-9, 2009 as a symbol of appreciation for the sacrifices of our honored dead.

I urge all patriotic citizens to wear a Buddy Poppy as mute evidence of our gratitude to the men and women of this country who have risked their lives in defense of the freedoms which we continue to enjoy as American citizens.

The Mayor Protem called for Business Agenda Item **C – REZONING OF 121 W. STATE – ADOPTION**

The City Clerk read the preamble to the ordinance.

Council Member Satterlee moved the adoption of the ordinance and the motion was supported by Council Member Stout.

ORDINANCE NO. 452-A14

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF BELDING MICHIGAN, INCORPORATED IN THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELDING (BELDING ORDINANCE NUMBER 452) BY SECTION 3.2, OF THE BELDING CITY CODE.

THE CITY OF BELDING ORDAINS

SECTION 1 The Zoning Map incorporated in the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Belding by Section 3.2, of the Belding City Code is amended as follows:

The property rezoned from R-2 (Single Family Residential) to B-2 (General Business) is legally described as:

CITY OF BELDING FAIRHOME ADDN LOT 5

Location: 121 W. State, Belding, Michigan.

SECTION 2 All other parts of the zoning map and zoning ordinance are affirmed and shall remain unchanged.

SECTION 3 A copy of this Ordinance shall be filed with the Ionia County Register of Deeds.

SECTION 4 This Ordinance shall be published as provided in the City Charter and shall become effective ten (10) days after publication.

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

Ayes: Council Members Bunce, Stout, Wills and Satterlee.  
Nays: None.

The Mayor Protem called for Business Agenda Item **D – RFP – FILTERING SYSTEM FOR FIRE STATION**

The City Clerk read the preamble to the resolution.

Council Member Bunce moved the passage of the resolution and the motion was supported by Council Member Satterlee.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-04-13

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN AUTHORIZING THE BELDING FIRE DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF A VEHICLE EXHAUST REMOVAL SYSTEM FOR THE FIRE STATION.

WHEREAS, the Belding Fire Department was awarded a 2008 Department of Homeland Security, Assistance to Firefighters Grant in the category of Station Modifications; and

WHEREAS, the grant funds will be used for a station exhaust removal system and an upgrade to the current electrical service; and

WHEREAS, staff wishes to issue a Request for Proposals from qualified vendors for the supply and installation of a vehicle exhaust removal system for the fire station.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan that the Belding Fire Department is hereby authorized to solicit Requests for Proposals from qualified vendors for the supply and installation of the vehicle exhaust removal system for the fire station.

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

Ayes: Council Members Bunce, Stout, Wills and Satterlee.  
Nays: None.

The Mayor Protem called for Citizen Comments.

Deb Curler, 101 N. Front, thanked Jon for explaining Item G as it helps to know what is going on. She reminded everyone about the tree giveaway at the depot on Friday, April 24, 2009 from noon to 3 p.m. Each resident may pick up two trees. Clean Green, headed by Jeff Smith with volunteers, will be at the Community Showcase. Beginning in April they will start cleaning around the Belding area, beginning at the mall. They will meet at Water St. Park. They will also be working on the riverbanks throughout the summer, eventually going down the river with kayaks and canoes.

City Manager DeBruine stated his effort is great. He is trying to get volunteers together for a Saturday clean-up to pick up trash.

Ms. Curler stated that they filled hundreds of Leppinks bags last year. They noticed there was not as much trash by the end of the summer.

City Manager DeBruine stated the city will furnish the bags.

Ms. Curler stated that there would be coloring books for the kids and information to be given out.

The Mayor Protem called for Council Comments.

Council Member Satterlee had no comments.

Council Member Bunce stated this Saturday is dump day between 8 a.m. and noon. Items may be disposed of at the Pitsch Landfill.

DPW Director Thomas stated that residents are allowed to get rid of four car or pickup tires on rims. There will be a cost on any amount over four. Tractor and loader tires are extra. A product with Freon is \$25.00. Staff will assist people unloading.

Fire Chief Moore stated that the Household Hazardous Waste Collection will be held the third Saturday in May.

Council Member Wills encouraged everyone to attend the community showcase. There will be a lot on display and the great things going on in town will be showcased. Everyone should see the people and displays. The robot, from the successful Robotics Team, will be on display. It was a nationally qualified robot. It has been a real thrill for him to work with the kids.

The Mayor Protem called for Work Session **A – FISCAL YEAR 2009/10 BUDGET**

City Manager DeBruine stated the projected General Fund fund balance in June, 2010 is estimated at 18.5% of expenditures. The goal has been to maintain an 18% fund balance ratio. The budget ordinance requires a 10% fund balance ratio. The 14.95 millage has been the same since 1991/92 and an additional 2 mills for CIP was passed in 1994. The city can levy 20 mills, but it has been rolled back to 18.5 mills by Headlee. The city has a structural budget issue and the budget is extremely tight. The proposed budget uses \$186,133 of General Fund fund balance. \$100,000 of that will replenish the Ambulance Fund. \$86,000 is appropriated for the General Fund, of which \$39,000 is for contingency. \$47,000 is the amount actually appropriated from fund balance.

There is one less police officer in the budget, but the city has applied for a COPS grant. Two part-time officers could be used if the city does not receive the grant. Police Chief Nelson stated that he thinks the agencies that have performed well with grants may be given consideration. He has great expectations. They pay for everything and the city will make up the difference as they make their way up the wage scale.

City Manager DeBruine stated the proposed budget has a 0% salary increase for all non-union employees, including him. In the last five years, the city has gone down from 42 to 31 full time employees. That is a decrease of 11 of employees, or 22% of the work force. Five were in Ambulance and the rest were spread over the other departments.

The easements have been acquired for the M-44 Enhancement Project and it will go out to bid in

the next four weeks. The project will commence in August. The project cost is \$1,050,000. The city received a grant in the amount of \$650,000 from MDOT.

The city will continue implementation of the Downtown Marketing Study for downtown renovation. The Bridge and Main St. intersection project will take place later this summer. That is a \$208,000 project, with a \$180,000 grant from the state. \$10,000 will be contributed from the DDA and \$18,000 from city coffers.

He doesn't know the status of the Gibson Bldg. grant.

For sanitary sewer improvements, an upgrade is needed to the W. Ellis lift station due to the Candlestone hooking on to water and sewer. A funding mechanism is needed for that. Stimulus funds are not a good option. He hopes MEDC has a grant program that they can apply for, which they will explore. The residuals from the lagoons will be removed in July, 2010. That \$200,000 project is required by DEQ. The Sewer Fund is struggling. There are no water improvements scheduled, as they need to build up cash reserves after a lot of projects have been completed over the past years. Sewer and water revenues are down from residents and businesses.

Finance Director Andres stated that 79 homes have had the water shut off within the last year. That is a loss of about \$15,000 to \$16,000 over the year for water and sewer.

City Manager DeBruine stated that the highest needs are in street improvements. The city has done a lot on major streets since 1994. The problem is that a lot of work has to be done on the local streets. Efforts should be focused there in the coming years.

In recreation, due to lack of city funds, there are no park improvements or applications for trailway funds scheduled. The city will have Music in the Park and the BAAC will have programs. A Recreation Director sometime in the future would have to be a joint venture with the schools or townships.

Volunteers are doing Belrockton improvements. They are talking about working on the remaining section of the second floor with volunteer efforts and funding, no city funding.

The CIP which was reviewed in January was included in the budget.

The Police Department has only six full time employees and the chief, and are in hopes of getting a COPS grant. That would require a budget amendment.

The Fire Department has a pre app to USDA Rural Development for a new pumper tanker. The cost would be \$300,000 if the city receives a 35% grant. The city has excess monies in the health insurance funds of \$300,000. Those funds could be refunded back to other departments, shown as an increase in the General Fund fund balance, or used for a capital project. He would propose the funds be used for a new pumper tanker. The city would have a loan over 15 years and could repay the loan early. Money would be reserved to pay the loan each year.

The property tax revenues are less than what was received this year. For the first time, they are a little less. There is no new revenue available in the General Fund. Some funds contribute to other funds. They are proposing to keep dispatch in this budget. It takes a total of \$45,000 to subsidize dispatch from several funds, as well as using some of dispatch fund balance.

He asked that council look the budget over and call he or Sam with questions. Sam spent more time on this than he has. It is getting very challenging, it is becoming a structural issue, and they are doing the best they can with what they have. He thanked everyone for their work on this. Everyone has a certain portion to work on – it is a team effort.

Council Member Stout stated he deals with a lot of communities and they hear the same story. He thanked the staff as it has been incredibly challenging. The city is far better off than a lot of other communities. They are incredibly blessed with all they have accomplished and the level of effort from all the staff. He is happy with what they have been able to do. The staff makes the jobs of council incredibly easy.

Jennifer McGowan, 326 W. High St., stated she has lived in town a lot of years, has a lot of pride in and loves the town. She hopes council is staying abreast of the news. She wants the negativity gone. She asked if it was against the laws of the city for an official to be in poor standing in the city?

City Manager DeBruine stated he thought she was referring to a city council member, and asking if they could be in default to the city? He stated he did not know the exact wording, but if a council member wants to run, they cannot be in default to the city. An existing council member cannot be in default to the city. He would need the exact wording in order to comment.

Mrs. McGowan stated she wanted to make a positive step here.

City Manager DeBruine stated he could get a copy to her and the council members tomorrow morning.

Mrs. McGowan stated it needs to be heard to stop things going on. Belding is a great place to live and has done a lot. There is a lot of negative and they should keep abreast of it.

The Mayor Protem called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: Council Members Bunce, Stout, Wills and Satterlee.  
Nays: None.

Mayor Protem Wills adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

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Roger Wills, Mayor Protem

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Kareen J. Thomas, City Clerk