

REGULAR MINUTES
PERE MARQUETTE DEPOT
Tuesday, December 1, 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 Tuesday, December 1, 2009.

The City Clerk took the roll call:

Members Present: Council Members Scheid, Belding and Wills.

Members Absent: Council Members Bunce and Thompson.

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

Ayes: Council Members Scheid, Belding and Wills.

Nays: None.

Council Member Scheid 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.

Marilyn Smith, Smith Housing Consulting, stated she has been working on the Home Buyer Purchase Rehab Program, which the city has advertised on the website and in the newspapers. She will be meeting with the banks and realtors. She has been working with Mr. May on the code issues. Mr. Pohl will be involved with assessing issues. Buyers must be able to secure a 30 yr. fixed rate mortgage. The buyer must use the home as the primary residence. It is a 2-year grant. Additional funds can be accessed. A home buyer class is required at no charge. There are income guidelines. Up to \$10,000 in down payment and closing costs is available. The grant is a 10 year forgivable loan. It is a terrific program. There is up to \$20,000 available for rehab. If a down payment isn't needed, those funds could be put toward rehab. It must meet housing quality standards.

Amber Zelenock, recipient of the grant funds, stated she worked with a realtor and mortgage broker. She felt it was a very good program.

The Mayor called for the Consent Agenda.

- A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES 11-17-09**
- B. PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – ROGER WILLS**
- C. CENTRAL DISPATCH APPOINTMENT – DALE NELSON**
- D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPOINTMENT – ROBERT THOMPSON**

Council Member Belding made a motion to approve the consent agenda, supported by Council Member Scheid.

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

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

Following are the resolutions contained in the Consent Agenda.

B. PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – ROGER WILLS

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-12-91

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN APPOINTING ROGER WILLS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION.

WHEREAS, Chapter 2, Section 2-192 of the Code states that the mayor shall be a non-voting member of the Planning Commission; and,

WHEREAS, Roger Wills was elected to the position of Mayor of the City of Belding on November 17, 2009; and,

WHEREAS, Roger Wills has indicated his willingness to serve on the Planning Commission.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan that Roger Wills be appointed to the Planning Commission with a term to expire on 12/1/11.

C. CENTRAL DISPATCH APPOINTMENT – DALE NELSON

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-12-92

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN APPOINTING DALE NELSON TO THE CENTRAL DISPATCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

WHEREAS, Dale Nelson is currently serving on the Central Dispatch Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, Chief Nelson has indicated his willingness to serve another term on the board.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan that Dale Nelson be appointed to the Central Dispatch Board of Directors with a term of office to expire on 12/31/11.

D. ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS APPOINTMENT – ROBERT THOMPSON

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-12-93

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN APPOINTING ROBERT THOMPSON TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS.

WHEREAS, Chapter 18, Section 18.1 of the City Code states that one member of the Zoning Board of Appeals may be a member of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, Robert Thompson has indicated his willingness to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan that Robert Thompson be appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term of office to expire on 12/1/12.

The Mayor called for Business Agenda Item **A – TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDERS**

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 Scheid.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-12-94

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELDING, MICHIGAN APPROVING TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER #0009-01.

WHEREAS, Police Chief Dale Nelson, Traffic Engineer for the City of Belding, has requested the approval of Traffic Control Order # 0009-01; and,

WHEREAS, the traffic order concerns:

- Oakwood Street and Harding Street currently has a Stop sign in force for westbound Oakwood Street
- North State at Bradford is currently a three-way stop intersection
- Morgan Street and Blaine Street currently has a stop sign for northbound traffic at Blaine Street
- There is a Stop sign in place for southbound York Street at the intersection of Edna and York Streets.

WHEREAS, authorization is required to:

- Replace the Stop sign with a Yield sign for westbound Oakwood Street at Harding Street
- Remove the Stop signs on North State at Bradford Street
- Remove the Stop sign for northbound traffic on Blaine Street at Morgan Street

- Remove the Stop sign for southbound York Street at Edna Street; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Belding must approve a traffic order to make it a permanent addition to traffic control orders.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Belding, Michigan that pursuant to Subsection 2.53 as amended, of Section 82.26 of Chapter 82 of the Code of the City of Belding, Traffic Control Order #0009-01 is hereby approved.

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

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

The Mayor called for Citizen Comments.

Jon McGowan, 105 E. Main, stated he would like to encourage council to start talking about what they will do as a community regarding the mall. There are a lot of problems, including financial, and he doesn't think everyone is well informed. It is very bleak and bad. The city is facing budget issues. The ripple effect is far and wide. In the next few times together, they can brainstorm together and figure something out. Home for the Holidays is this Saturday, from noon to 5 p.m. at the mall.

Mayor Wills stated he talked to Brad Kessel today and he understands where Independent Bank is. He tries to make suggestions.

Mr. McGowan stated it was difficult to supply what Independent Bank needs. It is a community problem, not just a mall issue.

Carl Jonas, 1130 W. State, stated that he understands the Gibson building fencing is up and done, to secure the building. There is a wide open area on the one end of it. At the retaining wall of the Library, they would just have to slip down 3-4 ft.

City Manager DeBruine stated he would take a look at it.

Mr. Jonas stated there was an open water situation at the Belding Commons project. He asked about Roger sending a letter out.

City Manager DeBruine stated a letter was sent out to Macatawa Bank. The Drain Commissioner does not require fences for detention or retention areas. That is the way the site plan was approved. Staff feels it is a liability not to install a fence. It would be prudent to fence in the retention pond. They want Macatawa Bank to fence it in. Randy will get an answer for Carl.

The Mayor called for Council Comments.

Council Member Scheid asked if it was Macatawa property, as he thought it was Rockford Construction?

City Manager DeBruine stated the loan was from Macatawa, went into default, and was foreclosed.

Council Member Scheid asked if the bank had intentions for the property?

City Manager DeBruine stated they are trying to market it as strip mall businesses, but have not had any success so far.

Council Member Belding stated Lights at East Riverside Park would be held on Saturday, December 5, 2009 from 6-8 p.m. She is looking forward to working with Marilyn Smith. She extended a welcome to Amber.

The Mayor called for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Mayor Wills adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Roger Wills, Mayor

Kareen J. Thomas, City Clerk