

CITY OF MACKINAC ISLAND
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
CITY COUNCIL

Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 3:00 PM

City Hall – Council Chambers, 7358 Market St., Mackinac Island, Michigan

I. Call to Order - 3:00 pm

II. Roll Call

Chambers & Sehoan absent

Chief Topolski joined the meeting at 3:50 pm

III. Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the December 28, 2023 City Council Meeting

Mayor Doud stated that the minutes stood approved as presented

V. Approval of the Treasurer's Report

January 10, 2024 Treasurer's Report

Motion by Moskwa, second to the motion by Myers, to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

VI. Approval of Payments for:

Motion by Moskwa, second to the motion by Bailey, to approve the Payroll and Payables in the amount of \$78,714.63. All in favor. Motion carried.

VII. Additions to / Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Bailey, second to the motion by Corrigan, to accept the agenda as presented. All in favor. Motion carried.

VIII. Committee Reports

IX. Correspondence

None.

X. Old Business

Corrigan - winter boat passes

- Attorney Evashevski reached out to Jim Murray, attorney for Mackinac Island Ferry - Company, and has not heard back. Will follow up again and see where we are at.
- Councilman Corrigan sent attorney Evashevski two resident complaints
- Councilwoman Myers sent attorney Evashevski an email on requirements as well

Moskwa - Inquired where we were on the Star Line main dock inspection

- Attorney Evashevski has been in communication with Al Walker and will report back to the Council at a later date.

XI. New Business

- a. Discussion and / or action regarding the engagement letter from Warren Creamer - Forest Way Townhomes Phase III

Motion by Myers, second to the motion by Moskwa to acknowledge the receipt of the engagement letter from Warren Creamer.

- Intent is to use Warren's services for the bond council for the FWT Phase III funding
- Attorney Evashevski noted that the engagement letter from Warren Creamer is for the capital improvement bonds.
- Using the \$1.5 million estimate that the City was looking at

- b. Request for approval to adopt the Notice of Intent Resolution - Capital Improvement Bonds - Forest Way Townhomes Phase III

- Councilwoman Myers noted the need to have a Finance Committee meeting to discuss this funding further and hear from Dennis Dombroski about when we might see estimates for the project.
- Dennis Dombroski noted that he has some numbers, but they're a bit higher than originally expected - \$2 million may be on the lower side, might want to bond for higher. But only have numbers in from one (1) bidder. Number for one (1) building was over \$1 million.
- Councilwoman Myers inquired how soon the resolution needs to be adopted.

- Attorney Evashevski stated that if adopted within the month of January, the City will be good to go with getting started in July for the bonding process. This notice gives the City a do not exceed of \$2 million for the project (does not mean we will be borrowing \$2 million - going higher on the side of caution).
 - Resolution was tabled until the January 24, 2024 meeting to be able to discuss further with Mr. Creamer.
- c. Request for approval for the Forest Way Townhomes to move forward with a visible and audible alarm system
- Dennis Dombroski noted that this came up in John E Green's 2023 inspection on the sprinkler system. Type of system that is there currently does not require an alarm, but would be a good idea to have anyways.
 - Highly recommended by John E Green. JEG will order all parts and do their part of installation, and Northern Power Electric will need to be hired to do the wiring.
- Motion by Myers, second to the motion by Corrigan, to authorize the installation of an audible and visible alarm system, for all four (4) Forest Way buildings, in an amount up to \$5,000.00, and if the cost exceeds that amount, KMG will need to bring the request back to the table. All in favor. Motion carried.
- d. Request for Approval of a Competitive Event Application - Mackinac Island Swim - August 2024
- Motion by Myers, second to the motion by Bailey, to approve the Competitive Event Application.
- All in favor. Motion carried.
- e. Request for approval of a preapproved motor vehicle permit - Franklin Holwerda - Biddle Point Pump Station
- Motion by Moskwa, second to the motion by Myers, to approve a vehicle permit, submitted by Franklin Holwerda Company for work at the Biddle Point Pump Station. The vehicle arrived on January 3rd and will be in use for one (1) day. Fee waived as this is work for the Dept. of Public Works. All in favor. Motion carried.
- f. Request for approval of a preapproved motor vehicle permit - Mission Point Resort - Propane Delivery
- Motion by Moskwa, second to the motion by Corrigan, to approve the preapproved vehicle permit, submitted by Mission Point Resort, for propane delivery to the resort. Vehicle will arrive for one (1) day between January 8th and January 12th. All in favor. Motion carried.
- g. Request for approval of a motor vehicle permit - Mackinac Axe - Tree removal for Sue Sisson & Neal Liddicoat
- Motion by Myers, second to the motion by Moskwa, to approve the vehicle permit, submitted by Mackinac Axe, to use a JLG lift to remove a tree for Sue Sisson and Neal Liddicoat at their residence location on M-185 / Stonebrook. Application listed a use date "to be determined" - council requested that the Clerk's office be updated on the use date and an escort through the Police Department be set up. All in favor. Motion carried.

XII. Miscellaneous / General Council Discussion / Additional Agenda Items

New Business:

Councilman Bailey inquired about the Council's thoughts on Shepler's new charges for bags

- Councilman Bailey voiced concern about the new charge, not sure what the advantages are compared to the pushback from residents and visitors - another expense that everyone has to endure. Do residents have to pay this at full or discounted price? As a hotel GM, concerned about the dock porters and how this will affect their tips. Cannot track once baggage leaves dock on both ends, so what is the point of this new system? Can't track if taken to wrong hotel, only showing that Shepler's transported bags to the Island.
- Mayor Doud also voiced concern for residents and as a hotel owner for guests. Agrees with Councilman Bailey regarding dock porters and their need for tips. This system will kill tips for dock porters.
- Councilman Moskwa noted that he has not been hearing any positive responses to this new service. For residents, it creates another cost to live here. How much time will this add to trips? From a residential position, do not see the need for it.

- Councilwoman Myers agreed with the rest of the members and was surprised by the announcement. Islanders use these boats as public transportation, we are not here on vacation. We should not be charged to bring home our groceries and necessities that we bring over on the boat. We handle our own possessions many times during the process of getting them to the island, and need everything to be as practical as possible. Now residents will have to que in a line for groceries along with the rest of the visitors with their luggage. Councilwoman Myers has expressed her concern to Mr. Shepler.
- Tourism Bureau had a meeting with Shepler's regarding this charge last fall. Mr. Wiley noted that Shepler's had a zoom call regarding this subject with the Bureau. Q&A discussion on the direction Shepler's was moving with this idea. Mayor Doud noted that she believed there was a lot of opposition to it at that time as well. Currently hearing that everyone on the island is very much opposed to the idea.
- Tom Sullivan, resident - Never lost a piece of luggage on the ferry. Very concerned as many residents do annual large shopping trips and this will only add to our living costs. Concerned about the Shepler's employees too and the time this will add to their work.
- Seasonal employees moving to and from the Island was also mentioned - what will they be charged?
- Dave Jurcak, President Grand Hotel - concerned about the impact to the residents and bringing back larger amounts of groceries. Team members are now spending more money to get groceries off island - team members do not make a large amount of money, and continuing to add barriers makes it harder to keep team members. Questioned if fees are supposed to be approved by the City Council as they are fees associated with the boat.
- Brad Conkey - Shepler's already has video cameras and lost baggage can be tracked that way. Does not improve the efficiency of finding a lost bag. Seems like a money grab. Shepler's has been known for their great service, but this may hurt their cliental.
- Councilwoman Myers commented that she hopes we can come to a different conclusion on this issue.
- Mr. Wiley of Shepler's noted that many years of thought and planning has gone into this. Would like from council a clear definition of resident, pass holder, and employee. What is a resident? Who qualifies as a resident? Groceries and household goods - where is the line between luggage and freight?
- Councilwoman Myers received the 2024 renewal resident pass email from Shepler's and thinks that the wording in there for resident is what the City would agree with - to obtain a pass, a person needs to present one of the following - tax bill, voter registration, OR a Mackinac Island street address drivers license. Employee aspect can be discussed - maybe they could provide a job offer or letter from their employer.
- Mr. Wiley inquired what was considered luggage vs. freight that should be hauled by one of the freight companies? Councilwoman Myers responded that there needs to be further discussion of what issues will be encountered.
- Transportation Committee - set up a meeting to discuss this issue further. Mayor's Assistant will look into setting up a meeting with Shepler's.
- Mr. Dombroski noted that he was made aware of the tracking panels that Shepler's installed on their Island dock, which were described to him as unsightly. Work should have been brought to the Historic District Commission for approval.

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, Motion by Myers, second to the motion by Moskwa, to adjourn the meeting at 3:55 pm. All in favor. Motion carried.