

**CITY OF ST. CLAIR, MICHIGAN
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2018 - 6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Cedar convened the Special Meeting of the City Council to order in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 547 N. Carney Drive, St. Clair, Michigan, at 6:00pm to discuss the Charter and Code of Ordinances, road repair and maintenance and the council's responsibilities as Zoning Board of Appeals.

PRESENT: Mayor Cedar, Members Ellery, Kindsvater, Klieman, Kuffa, LaPorte, McCartney

ABSENT: None

ADMINISTRATION: Michael E. Booth, City Superintendent; James T. Downey, Jr., Kane, Clemons, Joachim & Downey; Jessica Gilroy, Administrative Assistant

AUDIENCE: There were 2 people in attendance

Council agreed to change the topic order to allow for ample discussion time- A, C, B. No objections.

1. Charter and Code of Ordinances- Reference was made to the history of the city Charter provided by Judge Cummings regarding the intent for council members to have specific ward requirements. According to Cummings, the current charter holds two requirements only; live in the city limits and be registered to vote. The original intent, years ago, was also that each council member must live in the ward they are candidate for. However, for some unexplained reason, that was not what appears in the final Charter. Example: (You could run for Ward 1 only if you live in Ward 1 and have the 20 signatures required). If 5 out of 7 members of council approve a proposed Charter amendment, the question would then move to public election. Councilmember McCartney would like to have the wording changed to properly state the original intent. Discussion included the need for strategic wording of the amendment, because of language requirements of less than 100 words, and possible scenarios of invalid residency due to ward line changes or moving while in office. Council will continue to discuss before moving forward with any vote. No action taken.

Zoning Board of Appeals- Council is aware of upcoming sign ordinance issues ie. lighting, banners, etc. Council requested Attorney Downey to research the cost for appeal. Discussion included Council continuing to act as ZBA or a possible change to the current structure. No action taken.

Road Repair and Maintenance-Confirmed road repair in 2019 includes Clinton from M29 – to Third St. to be funded by a Federal Grant. There isn't a confirmed list for 2018 yet. The city's Financial Audit is next week. After the books are closed, Finance Director Booth will discuss available funding and 2018 road plans. When considering which streets to repair, it is important to consider the fact that some have watermains under the street. To repair now and again when receiving water main repairs could be costly. Mayor Cedar requested support from council to request Finance Director Booth place high priority to funding specific local roads.

Public Comment- No Comment

Adjourned 6:48 pm

Jessica Gilroy, Administrative Assistant

Bill Cedar, Jr., Mayor