

**CITY OF ST CLAIR, MICHIGAN
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020- 7:00 P.M.**

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00pm by Mayor Cedar in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 547 N. Carney Drive, St. Clair, Michigan, 48079.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

PRESENT: Mayor Cedar, Members Ellery, Kuffa, LaPorte, McCartney, Watt

ABSENT: Member Kindsvater (excused)

ADMINISTRATION: James T. Downey, Kane, Clemons, Joachim & Downey; Warren Rothe, City Superintendent; Annette Sturdy, City Clerk.

AUDIENCE: There were 7 people in attendance.

AGENDA AMENDMENT: McCartney moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to accept Mayor Cedar's recommendation to add "Discussion of Pending Litigation" to Closed Session. Voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA – LaPorte moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to approve Consent Agenda items A., B. and C. as presented.

- A. City Council Minutes of August 3, 2020 Regular & Closed Meetings: Approved
- B. Planning Commission Minutes of July 8, 2020 Meeting: Received
- C. Resignation from Golf Commission: Accepted with Regrets

PROCLAMATIONS

Recognition of Mildred Cowell's 100th birthday- Mayor Cedar presented a Certificate of Recognition and Member Watt spoke of Ms. Cowell.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS- None

REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

City Superintendent – Road update included continuing discussion for N Riverside sewer work and the intended timeline for 3rd Street, Cass and St. Clair Highway projects. The Master Plan has been reviewed by the Planning Commission. 2020 Cleaning services bids are due August 25. Compliment received for finishing the Laura Street crosswalk in a timely manner.

City Attorney- None

City Departments- Reviewed August 4, 2020 election results

Authority, Board, Commission, Committee Chairman or Council Representative – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Designate Michigan Municipal League representative & alternate- As a member of MML, the city must designate an official to attend the yearly convention at which resolutions may be voted on. Kuffa moved, McCartney seconded, CARRIED, to appoint Warren Rothe as representative and Mike LaPorte as delegate.

Discuss purchase agreement of Industrial Park property- Dan Casey, EDA, discussed the history of the Industrial park, the EDA and MEDC involvement and other the events leading up to the purchase agreement before Council. The Non-Disclosure Statement signed from members of the EDA prohibits discussion of several details now, but after late October 2020 the information should then be public. Richard "Trae" Allman, Innovo, stated this was a highly competitive multi-phase project. If the purchase agreement is approved, the development will begin immediately. The deadline to complete the build will be within a year (July 2021). Projections for job creation is approximately 300 with the initial phase of 150 new jobs. The purchase is for approximately 114 acres for \$200,000. Discussion occurred that no infrastructure needs are present at this time and the wetlands in the area have already been addressed. Jeff Bohm, St Clair County Commission Chairman, stated this project will produce one of the highest tax bases within the County. Kuffa moved, McCartney seconded, CARRIED, to approve purchase agreement from Innovo Development Group as presented.
Ayes: Kuffa, LaPorte, McCartney, Watt, Ellery, Cedar
Nays: None

CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS – August 6 & August 13, 2020

Check registers listing the bills for the period ending August 6, 2020(check numbers 50732-50751) in the amount of \$167,641.37 and the period ending August 13, 2020(check numbers 50752-50845) in the amount of \$472,563.83 were presented for Council review.

LaPorte moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to approve payments of August 6 & August 13, 2020 Claims and Accounts as presented.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – None

MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS – Thank you to EDA, MEDC and all involved in the Industrial Park sale.

CLOSED SESSION: McCartney moved, Kuffa seconded, CARRIED, to grant request for Closed Session to Discuss Strategy Connected with the Negotiation of a Collective Bargaining Agreement with Employees Represented by AFSCME and to Confer with Legal Counsel for the purpose of Discussing Pending Litigation.

Ayes: LaPorte, McCartney, Watt, Ellery, Kuffa, Cedar
Nays: None

At 7:26pm, Council recessed into closed session and resumed regular session at 7:53pm.

Kuffa moved, LaPorte seconded, CARRIED, to accept legal counsel's recommendation to move forward with the pending litigation within the limits discussed.

Ayes: Watt, LaPorte, Kuffa, McCartney, Ellery, Cedar
Nays: None

ADJOURNMENT at 7:54pm

Annette Sturdy, City Clerk

Bill Cedar, Jr., Mayor