

MINUTES OF THE ST. JOSEPH CITY COMMISSION MEETING HELD IN THE COMMISSION CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, ST. JOSEPH, MICHIGAN ON JUNE 3, 2013.

PRESENT: MAYOR JUDD, COMMISSIONERS CHICKERING, GAREY, GOFF AND RICHARDS
CITY ATTORNEY LAURIE SCHMIDT
CITY CLERK DEB KOROCH

ABSENT: INTERIM CITY MANAGER JOHN HODGSON

Mayor Judd called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Judd led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Richards; seconded by Commissioner Garey, moved approval of the June 3, 2013 Agenda, as presented. Roll call resulted as follows: Yeas: Commissioners Chickering, Garey, Goff, Mayor Judd and Commissioner Richards. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Mayor Judd called for public comment. Jill Stone, Executive Director of St. Joseph Today announced that St. Joseph Today would be relocating from 421 State Street to 301 State Street on Thursday and Friday, June 6th and 7th and would be closed to the public on those days. She welcomed everyone to visit them at their new location beginning Saturday, June 8th.

Mayor Judd presented the June 3, 2013 Consent Agenda:

- Disbursements paid since May 16, 2013 in the amount of \$329,334.58
- Minutes of May 20, 2013 Regular Meeting
- Minutes of May 29, 2013 Study Session
- Special Event – Save a Stray Adoption Day – June 29th
- Special Event – Flying Aces Frisbee Demonstration – St. Joseph Library – July 17th
- Special Event – SJT Mike Yore Memorial Car Show – July 18th
- Special Event – SJT Grand Indiana Auto Tour – August 1st
- Annual Administrative Resolutions – Resolutions 13-17 through 13-21

Commissioner Chickering; seconded by Commissioner Goff, moved approval of the June 3, 2013 Consent Agenda, as presented. Roll call resulted as follows: Yeas: Commissioners Chickering, Garey, Goff, Mayor Judd and Commissioner Richards. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Goff requested the City Commission consider amending Item #7 of the Sidewalk Amenities Policy to include all of the Downtown Development Authority District, as recommended by the Downtown Development Authority. She stated that the policy was originally written to include only the area within the downtown pedestrian mall, bounded by Main Street on the east; Elm Street on the south; Lake Boulevard on the west; and Ship Street on the north. The request to include all the Downtown Development Authority area was precipitated by a request from Player's Club Restaurant to allow outside tables; under city ordinance, outside tables would not be allowed. Under the Sidewalk Amenities Policy, the restaurant would be allowed to place tables on the public sidewalk, providing that the sidewalk remain ADA compliant.

Commissioner Richards; seconded by Commissioner Garey, moved approval of a recommendation from the Downtown Development Authority to amend Item #7 of the Sidewalk Amenities Policy to read, "This policy applies to the Downtown Development Authority District." Roll call resulted as follows: Yeas: Commissioners Chickering, Garey, Goff, Mayor Judd and Commissioner Richards. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Garey presented a draft City Manager contract which has been agreed to and signed by Richard Lewis. If approved, Mr. Lewis would earn \$125,000 annually and the City would contribute 10% of his base salary into a Defined Contribution Retirement Fund. The contract would become effective July 1, 2013.

Commissioner Chickering; seconded by Commissioner Garey, moved approval of the proposed City Manager contract, effective July 1, 2013, subject to the acceptable results of an ongoing background check. Roll call resulted as follows: Yeas: Commissioners Chickering, Garey, Goff, Mayor Judd and Commissioner Richards. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Interim City Manager John Hodgson joined the meeting.

The Director of Public Works reported on the current status of both the Lions Beach Park Improvement Project and the City Boat Launch Fish Cleaning Station and Restroom Project. He stated that he expects the Lions Beach project will be complete in mid-June, while the Boat Launch project should be complete in late August.

Commissioner Richards; seconded by Commissioner Garey, moved to go into Closed Session at 6:28 p.m. for the purpose of discussing a potential property acquisition and to receive a legal opinion. Roll call resulted as follows: Yeas: Commissioners Chickering, Garey, Goff, Mayor Judd and Commissioner Richards. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Commissioner Richards left the meeting at 6:52.

Commissioner Goff; seconded by Commissioner Garey, moved to close the Closed Session at 6:55 p.m. Roll call resulted as follows: Yeas: Commissioners Chickering, Garey, Goff and Mayor Judd. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioner Richards. Motion carried.

The Interim Manager presented a proposal to purchase the property located at 1302 Niles Avenue, which is currently in forfeiture and is for sale through the County of Berrien for approximately \$14,400 in unpaid taxes. He explained that this property has been vacant and a blight on the community for some years now.

Commissioner Goff; seconded by Commissioner Chickering, moved to purchase the property located at 1302 Niles Avenue from the Berrien County Treasurer at a cost of approximately \$14,400 for neighborhood preservation. Roll call resulted as follows: Yeas: Commissioners Chickering, Garey, Goff and Mayor Judd. Nays: None. Absent: Commissioner Richards. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Mayor Judd moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor

City Clerk