

**CITY OF COOPERSVILLE**  
**“SPECIAL” MEETING OF THE CITY OF COOPERSVILLE CITY COUNCIL**  
CITY HALL, 289 DANFORTH ST., COOPERSVILLE, MICHIGAN

**March 27, 2018**

**Present:** Council Member Bush                      Council Member Ward  
Council Member Lampe                      Council Member Wheeler  
Council Member Mooney                      Mayor Crandle  
Council Member Veldheer

**Absent:** None

**Petitions and Communications**

**Discussion/Action on Payback Agreement with Coopersville Public Schools**

City Manager, Steven Patrick explained that in 2009 the City and the School entered into a Payback Agreement relating to certain infrastructure, including a lift station built by the school for their use as well as the Reserve of Coopersville housing development. Under the terms of the Agreement of public improvements which were paid for by the School District the City agreed to impose a per unit charge and to collect from the Reserve of Coopersville and in turn remit the collected charges to the School District. There currently is a difference in opinions on the some of the wording within the Payback Agreement between the City and the School District and new options are being explored at this time.

City Manager, Steven Patrick stated that he would keep the Council informed on the status of this matter.

**Discussion/Action on City Manager Vacancy**

Mayor Crandle stated that he thought the Council was going to inquiring with Assistant City Manager, Jonathan Seyferth on his interest in the position at this meeting.

City Manager, Steven Patrick stated that the consensus at the March 12, 2018 City Council meeting was that not all Council Members agreed, with only interviewing Assistant City Manager, Jonathan Seyferth at this time.

Council Members Bush and Ward stated that they would like Council to explore other candidates first.

City Manager, Steven Patrick asked the Council as whole if they feel they are qualified to review the resumes of potential applicants or candidates.

Assistant City Manager, Jonathan Seyferth stated that the Council owes it to their Constituents and to themselves to open the search for the position.

Council Member Mooney stated that he would like to see the Council interview, Assistant City Manager, Jonathan Seyferth but that he would also like to see the City Manager reside in the City. City Manager, Steven Patrick stated that state law does not allow for this to be a condition or requirement of hiring or employment.

**Discussion/Action on City Manager Vacancy continued**

Council Member Lampe stated that he would like to see the Council hold a formal interview with Assistant City Manager, Jonathan Seyferth, and if the position is open for other applicants, the potential applicants or candidates tend to step back when they find out that there is an internal candidate that has applied.

Council Member Wheeler stated that he believes that you should hire and promote within otherwise there is no incentive for employees.

Motion by Council Member Ward with second by Council Member Veldheer to hold an official interview with Assistant City Manager, Jonathan Seyferth with all present that are in attendance today and if they are not satisfied with Jonathan Seyferth they will move on and explore other options. Motion carried with Council Member Bush opposing. (2018-028)

The position will be posted internally for six (6) days and a "Special Meeting" will be held to interview Jonathan Seyferth. City Manager, Steven Patrick will have Anisa Williams send the Council Members potential dates and times for the "Special Meeting."

**Discussion/Action on Budget Workshop**

Assistant City Manager, Jonathan Seyferth presented the Financial Trends 2007-2018 Report. Mr. Seyferth stated that looking back over the past ten (10) years there are not any major long-term financial health issues.

The first two (2) "Drafts" of the 2018-2019 Budget were presented.

City Manager, Steven Patrick stated that "Draft A" included all needs and critical wants. This "Draft" provides information to Council and Staff as to what needs attention now and what will require attention in the future. Draft "A" is over \$1 million in the red and does not have all the details on the projected revenues and expenditures such as the cost for health insurance, etc.

Draft "B" is a balanced budget, which is what a few of the Council Members requested. Additional discussion will be required on this Draft on a Fund Balance Policy and how the City will save for capital projects, to minimize, choosing bonding as an option to fund large projects. Mr. Patrick explained that requesting a balanced budget does not allow for achieving substantive progress in providing services to our residents and business owners and it also does not include a critical capital project.

Council Member Wheeler stated that he still has mixed feelings on what our fund balance should be.

City Manager, Steven Patrick stated that the City has a healthy fund balance at this time and that he would be comfortable even if it was lower than it currently is.

City Manager, Steven Patrick informed the Council that Staff is already working on Draft "C" for the Budget. This Draft will bridge the gap between Draft "A" and Draft "B" as an option for Council's consideration.

**Citizen Input and Suggestions** None

**Adjournment**

Motion by Council Member Ward with second by Council Member Wheeler to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 P.M. (2018-029)

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Larry Crandle, Mayor

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Kimberly Borgman, City Clerk