

CITY OF COOPERSVILLE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF COOPERSVILLE CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL, 289 DANFORTH ST.; COOPERSVILLE, MICHIGAN

September 13, 2021

Present: Council Member Bush Council Member Gavin
Council Member Degeus Council Member Mooney
Council Member Fynewever Mayor Crandle

Absent: Council Member Lampe

Motion by Council Member Mooney with second by Council Member Degeus to excuse the absence of Council Member Lampe. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-089)

Additions/Corrections to Agenda NONE

Scheduled Guests and Public Hearings NONE

Citizen Input & Suggestions NONE

Consent Agenda

Motion by Council Member Bush with second by Council Member Mooney to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-090)

- ***Minutes of the Special City Council meeting of July 21, 2021***
- ***Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of August 9, 2021***
- ***Invoice from Schippers Excavating, Payment #2 totaling \$206,558.85***
- ***Invoice from Georgetown Construction, Payment #4 Final, totaling \$2,500***
- ***Invoice from Lakeshore Advantage Renewal, totaling \$8,000***
- ***SKYE Contracting Change Order No. 4- \$13,623.40***
- ***Invoice from SKYE Contracting Water Supply Improvements Final, totaling \$40,000***
- ***Checks written through 9/13/2021 totaling \$2,279,221.32***
- ***Council Information Packet***

Petitions and Communications

Motion by Council Member Mooney with second by Council Member Bush to renew the contract with PCI (Professional Code Inspections) for two (2) years. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-091)

Motion by Council Member Bush with second by Council Member Mooney to renew the contract with Micro Visions to provide the IT needs and services for the city for five (5) years. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-092)

Motion by Council Member Gavin with second by Council Member Fynewever to approve the resolution to appoint City Manager Dennis Luce as the city's MDOT Street Administrator. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-093)

Motion by Council Member Gavin with second by Council Member Degeus to appoint City Manager Dennis Luce as the Grand Valley Metro Council Representative for the City. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-094)

Motion by Council Member Mooney with second by Council Member Degeus to approve the 2022 Emergency with Generator Commercial and Industrial Demand Response Customer Agreement with Consumers Energy which applies only to the WWTP at 5497 Garfield Street. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-095)

Motion by Council Member Bush with second by Council Member Mooney to approve the appointment of Peter Ryder to the Zoning Board of Appeals as a regular member. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-096)

Motion by Council Member Bush with second by Council Member Fynewever to approve the proposal for engineering services from Brechting Bridge and Engineering, Incorporated for Preliminary Plan Phase and Final Plan Phase for Grove Street bridge not to exceed \$20,000.00. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-097)

Discussion was held on the Fire Authority Boards need to hire a full-time Fire Chief and possibly an additional full-time person for the Coopersville-Polkton Fire Department.

Council Member and Council Representative for the Fire Authority Board Bush stated that the Fire Department is losing staff. There has been five (5) resignations and current Fire Chief Scott Schoolcraft will be done beginning the first of year 2022. Council Member stated that they are seeking additional funds from the City to financially support the staffing issues.

Council Member Degeus asked what other area Fire Departments were doing. A list of surrounding area Fire Departments showing which ones had full-time staff personnel was provided to the Council Members. Fire Chief Schoolcraft informed the Council that of all the Fire Departments in Ottawa County, Coopersville-Polkton is the only department that does not have a full-time staff member.

Council Member Degeus Asked if business inspections were being performed by the fire department and what services are other departments charging for. Fire Chief Schoolcraft stated that he recently performed an inspection over the phone for one local business because they are so short staffed and some area departments charge non-residents for calls related to vehicle accidents, etc.

Council Member and Council Representative on the Fire Authority Board Renee Gavin asked if there was a job description drafted up for the Fire Chief position. Polkton Township Representative on the Fire Authority Board Bill Courtade stated yes and no, depending on if it will be a full-time or part-time position.

Fire Chief Schoolcraft informed the Council, that most of their calls are medicals. This past Saturday they had six (6) calls.

Polkton Township Representative on the Fire Authority Board, Dave Biller stated that eighty (80) percent of the calls in 2020 were medicals. Mr. Biller also stated that Polkton Township has penciled in Option #3 on the estimated full-time staffing cost options form that was provided. Option #3 includes the hiring of one (1) full-time day staff person and one (1) full-time Fire Chief at an estimated cost of \$200,000.00 per year for wages and benefits.

Council Member Gavin stated that the Fire Authority is already paying out for those responding to calls during the day. Would we be saving anything by hiring full-time staff?

Council Member Degeus stated that response times should improve if we have full-time and part-time staff.

Fire Chief Schoolcraft stated that response times should improve, stating further that everyone is burnt-out as they cannot take any time off. On call staff should supplement the full-time staff. Full-time staff could overlap each other as there is not any around during the weekdays to respond to calls. Chief Schoolcraft stated further that "what the department has been able to accomplish with such a small number of staff is incredible.

Petitions and Communications continued

Council Member Bush stated that the Fire Department personnel is grossly under paid.

Fire Chief Schoolcraft stated that the on-call personnel get paid \$20.50 per hour and we should be able to pay our staff at least what McDonalds is paying their employees.

Council Member Gavin stated that she felt the cost of benefits that was proposed was quite high. Where did these costs come from? Fire Authority Board Representative Biller stated that the costs were provided by former City Manager Jonathan Seyferth as he and Council Member Bush put the costs together.

Discussion was held on the cost for Firefighter schooling. Fire Chief Schoolcraft stated that it cost approximately \$6000.00 per person for the schooling but the Fire Works Fund pays for most of the cost and Medical First Responder training costs approximately \$1,100.00 per person. Council Member Bush stated that the Fire Authority pays for Firefighter and Medical First Responder training.

Polkton Township Representative Dave Biller stated that there have been nine (9) resignations submitted so far for 2021. Currently there are sixteen (16) on staff. Eleven (11) are dual trained in fire and medical, four (4) in fire only, and one (1) in medical only.

Council Member Fynenever asked what the ages of those that have resigned are? Fire Chief Schoolcraft stated that they were all different ages, and they have resigned for all different reasons.

Council Member Mooney stated that hiring full-time staff is a great idea, but more data is needed to make some hard decisions.

Fire Chief Schoolcraft stated that they have been to the school and the kick-off for school event that was held at Vet's Park trying to recruit new members. Council Member Bush stated that the fire department staff do a lot of extra things on their own time without any compensation.

Council Member Bush informed everyone that if they have any questions to please contact himself, Renee Gavin, Dave Biller, Bill Courtade or Scott Schoolcraft.

Duane Young, Resident inquired as to how many staff members are needed to run the department without everyone getting burned out? Fire Chief Schoolcraft stated maybe twenty-five (25).

Council Member Degeus thanked Council Members Bush and Gavin for bringing the fire department issues before the Council.

Citizens Input and Suggestions None

City Manager's Report

City Manager, Dennis Luce asked if the City Manager's weekly reports were good. Council Members responded by stating they were good.

City Clerk's Report

City Clerk, Kimberly Borgman informed the Council that one (1) write-in candidate declaration of intent has been received and the deadline to file to run as a write-in is October 22 @ 4:00 P.M.

City Treasurer's Report NONE

Adjournment

Motion by Council Member Mooney with second by Council Member Fynewever to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 P.M. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-098)

Larry Crandle, Mayor

Kimberly Borgman, City Clerk