

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

**October 11, 2021**

**Present:** Council Member Bush Council Member Lampe  
Council Member Fynewever Council Member Mooney  
Council Member Gavin Mayor Crandle

**Absent:** Council Member Degeus

Motion by Council Member Mooney with second by Council Member Fynewever to excuse the absence of Council Member Degeus. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-099)

**Additions/Corrections to Agenda** NONE

**Scheduled Guests and Public Hearings**

CAPS Superintendent Matt Spencer and CAPS Board President Mike Michalak were present to update the Council on the CAPS Rocket Football PILOT Program. Mr. Spencer stated that they have had super turnout and thanked the Council for the use of the City's equipment. Mr. Spencer stated that Todd VanHouten is CAPS Liaison for the Rocket Football Program and Board President Mike Michalak is the Rocket Football President. Mr. Spencer stated that the school has had overwhelming success with the PILOT Program, much unsolicited positive feedback, and CAPS plan to maintain the Rocket Football Program.

Youth Rocket Football President Mike Michalak stated that there is currently one hundred fifty-nine (159) kids in the program, and they are learning from watching and interacting with the varsity players which has created a positive outcome.

Todd VanHouten, CAPS Liaison for the West Michigan Youth Football League stated that the program has been a great success. The head varsity football coach and players are very involved with the program. Mr. VanHouten stated that they would like to bring back "rocket night" and other events from the 1970's and 1980's.

Council Member Mooney stated that he likes what he is seeing with the program and encouraged them to "keep up the good work."

Council Member Bush inquired as to how long the PILOT Program was going last as the school dumped the program several years ago.

Mayor Crandle stated that while he is not against the PILOT Program, the school is ten (10) months late getting to the City. Even though it has been said that our previous City Manager swept this under the rug, the school should have addressed the city on this earlier and they went about the wrong way. The City has been twenty-five (25) years of their budget on this program. Mayor Crandle stated that this is not considered being cooperative with the city.

Council Member Fynewever stated that we came from great roots, and he is sure the program is going to be great.

### **Citizen Input & Suggestions**

Todd Adams, City Resident stated that he feels that the school took over the football program as a power stroke to stroke a few egos. Mr. Adams asked why the relationship between the city and school has deteriorated? He has heard that there is talk of the city not being allowed to use the school facilities for sports programs and that there has been talk of the school taking away other sports from the city in the future. Mr. Adams would like some answers from the city.

Mayor Crandle stated that he made an accusation against our new City Manager at the last meeting that could have potentially destroyed the new City Manager's career and his relationship with him, and he would like to apologize for making that accusation. Mayor Crandle stated that that accusation was all on himself and not on City Manager Dennis Luce.

### **Consent Agenda**

Motion by Council Member Lampe with second by Council Member Gavin to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-100)

- ***Minutes of the Regular City Council meeting of September 13, 2021***
- ***Invoice from Schippers Excavating, WWTP Driveway Payment #3, totaling \$173,029.56***
- ***Checks written through 10/11/2021, totaling \$1,229,868.13***
- ***Council Information Packet***

### **Petitions and Communications**

Motion by Council Member Mooney with second by Council Member approve the appointment of Jeff Cunningham and Rob Stogsdill to the Zoning Board of Appeals as Alternates. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-101)

Motion by Council Member Bush with second by Council Member Mooney to approve Addendum #1 to section 6.4 of the Asset Purchase Agreement for the Historical Society. Council Member Bush volunteered to be the City Liaison for the Historical Society. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-102)

Discussion was held on amending City Ordinance 672.04 Hunting within City limits by removing 672.04 (b) which allows hunting within the city limits using a firearm with fine shot #6 to #9. City Manager Dennis Luce informed the Council that Staff recently received some concerns from residents and business owners involving subjects that were legally hunting (per our current ordinance) in an area within the city that is surrounded by local businesses. Mr. Luce explained to Council that Fine Shot #6 to #9 when fired from a twelve (12) gauge shotgun at an elevated position can travel up to 200 yards before the pellets drop to the ground, which could potentially create an unsafe situation. Mr. Luce informed the Council, that Staff recommends that if ordinance 672.04 (b) is amended, that hunting with a bow and arrow is maintained and crossbow is added to this section.

Some discussion was held on the possibility of issuing special permits for using firearms with #6 to #9 fine shot for nuisance issues such as geese and deer. Mr. Luce stated that he would provide the Council with a proposed amended ordinance in November.

Motion by Council Member Gavin with second by Council Member Fynewever to approve the full payment to Ottawa County, for the Meadow Green Estates Drain Project totaling \$150,445.69, when the project is completed and approved. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-103)

Motion by Council Member Mooney with second by Council Member Fynewever to approve the budgeted purchase of a Flood Pump for the Main Lift Station totaling \$44,541.00. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-104)

### **Citizens Input and Suggestions**

Tammy Huff, City Resident and retired 911 Ottawa County Dispatcher addressed the Council concerning the desperate need for the Fire Authority to hire a Full-Time Fire Chief and a full-time Firefighter. Ms. Huff requested that the Council budget for these two (2) positions in the future, and to also add funds to the budget to cover the Firefighters wages as they are not paid properly for what they do. Ms. Huff stated that the Fire Department will be losing six (6) Firefighters at the end of this year, adding further that her husband has been on the Fire Department for thirty-eight (38) years, and he is also retiring at the end of the year. Ms. Huff stated that it is now an emergency to hire personnel for the Fire Department. Ms. Huff stated that we are relying on our neighboring departments and the insurance rates will be going up as the city's fire ratings goes down. Ms. Huff stated that time is running out and the fire personnel is getting burned out. They ran six (6) calls in four (4) hours today.

### **City Manager's Report**

*City Manager, Dennis Luce reported on the following:*

- *Auditors will present the audit results at the November meeting*
- *He is working on revising city manuals such as the DDA Bylaws, Personnel Handbook, and the Safety Manual*
- *DDA meeting tomorrow and discussion/action will be taken on the DDA Administrative position*
- *Plan for the football equipment will need to be take place now that we know CAPS plan for the PILOT Program*

### **City Clerk's Report**

City Clerk, Kimberly Borgman informed the Council that there are two (2) write-in candidates for one Council Member seat for the November Election.

### **City Treasurer's Report** NONE

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Council Member Mooney with second by Council Member Fyneweaver to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 P.M. Motion carried unanimously. (2021-105)

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Larry Crandle, Mayor

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Kimberly Borgman, City Clerk