

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

February 12, 2024

Present: Council Member Bowman Council Member Gerard
Council Member Bush Council Member Weise
Council Member Degeus Mayor Young
Council Member Gavin

Absent: NONE

Additions/Corrections to Agenda NONE

Scheduled Guests and Public Hearings

Four Pointes

Amy Florea and Kim Kroll of Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging presented a resolution requesting that the City of Coopersville place a millage renewal proposition for .25 of one mill for ten (10) years, 2025 through 2034 inclusive on the August 6, 2024, ballot to fund an annual appropriation to Four Pointes to provide social services and wellness opportunities for older adults residing within the City of Coopersville.

Ms. Florea and Ms. Kroll also presented an annual report on all the different services that were provided to the Seniors within the City.

Recognition of Firefighter Brent Veldheer

Mayor Duane Young presented Coopersville-Polkton Fire Department retired Fire Captain, Brent Veldheer with a proclamation for his thirty-four (34) Years of Service as a Firefighter, and Mr. Veldheer was also presented with the "Citizen of the Year" award by Mayor Young.

Coopersville/Polkton Fire Department/Fire Authority Board Member Dave Biller & Chief Kroll Present Staffing Proposal

Chief Kroll presented the need for an additional full-time firefighter due to the significant reduction in daytime staffing. The department has experienced a drop from an estimated average of five (5) full-time equivalents at the beginning of 2023 to just three (3) full-time equivalents at the start of 2024. Currently the department faces challenges in maintaining adequate staffing levels to respond to emergency calls, particularly during daytime hours. The current system relies on a combination of one (1) full-time Chief and paid-on-call staff. The staffing crisis is not only affecting the well-being of our Fire Department but also jeopardizing the safety of the residents within our community. Chief Kroll stated that many Fire Departments are experiencing the same issue. Since the beginning of 2024, eighty-one (81) percent of the calls have been during the day.

The City of Coopersville would be responsible for \$35,998.00 (64%) of the total cost of the additional full-time firefighter. This would bring the City's total contribution to the Fire Department from \$442,906.00 to \$478,904.00. Polkton Township is responsible for the remaining thirty-six (36) percent of funding for the Fire Department. Chief Kroll stated that he understands that the City is nearing three quarters (3/4) of the way through our 2023-2024 budget, and hiring additional personnel is typically a budgeted item, and with the Fire Department being on a different budget cycle, there really is no perfect time to ask for additional funding. Chief Kroll stated that there are many safety concerns when there is only one (1) person available to respond to any call during the day.

Citizens Input and Suggestions

Boy Scout, Isaac Emery thanked everyone that attended their recent auction and presented the importance of recycling. Isaac added that the Ottawa County Sustainability Center is a suitable place to take all your recyclables which in turn will conserve our natural resources. Isaac also led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance tonight.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Council Member Bush with second by Council Member Gerard to approve the Consent Agenda which consists of the following: Motion carried unanimously. (2024 006)

- ***Minutes of the City Council Meeting of January 8, 2024***
- ***Quarterly Financials***
- ***Checks through February 12, 2024, Totaling \$1,688,900.48***
- ***Council Information Packet***

Petitions and Communications

Motion by Council Member Bush with second by Council Member Degeus to postpone taking any action on the proposed Four Pointes Center for Successful Aging Resolution for a millage renewal until Council can hold a workshop to discuss the proposal. Motion carried unanimously. (2024 007)

Discussion was held on the Coopersville-Polkton Fire Departments Staffing Proposal. City Manager Dennis Luce stated that he has requested that the Fire Authority Board allows the City for some time to review our current budget, and he also requested that the Fire Authority Board covers the cost of the additional full-time firefighter should they hire one before the City's new budget takes effect on July 1, 2024. The Fire Authority Board Treasurer Dave Biller stated that the Fire Department currently has three (3) months of fund balance, and it is going to take some time to get the position posted, perform interviews, etc.

Additional review and discussion will take place during the upcoming budget process for 2024-2025

Motion by Council Member Weise with second by Council Member Gerard to approve the Staffing Proposal, totaling \$90,964.80 from Infrastructures Alternative for a contracted full-time employee for WWTP. Motion carried. (2024 – 008)

Motion by Council Member Weise with second by Council Member Bowman to approve the quote from Horizon Exterior Cleaning totaling \$17,400.00 to power wash the interior of the Clarifier Building. Motion carried unanimously. (2024 – 009)

Motion by Council Member Bush with second by Council Member Degeus to approve the quote from Plummers Environmental to clean the identified sanitary sewer lines within the city, totaling \$39,400.00. Motion carried unanimously. (2024 – 010)

Motion by Council Member Bowman with second by Council Member Gavin to approve the appointments of Council Members Degeus, Gerard, and Weise to the Wage and Compensation Sub-Committee. Motion carried unanimously. (2024 – 011)

Motion by Council Member Degeus with second by Council Member Weise to approve the Resolution of Support for the Countywide Road Millage Renewal. Motion carried unanimously. (2024 – 012)

Motion By Council Member Gavin with second by Council Member Weise to approve the Resolution for the Bridge Investment Program, "BIP." Motion carried unanimously. (2024 – 013)

Motion by Council Member Bush with second by Council Member Bowman to approve the Coopersville Historical Society Project Partnership Agreement. Motion carried unanimously. (2024 – 014)

Motion by Council Member Gavin with second by Council Member Bush to reappoint Norine Fox to the Coopersville Area District Library Board for a four (4) year term. Motion carried unanimously. (2024 – 015)

Motion by Council Member Gavin with second by Council Member Gerard to approve the Coopersville Payment Policy. Motion carried unanimously. (2024 – 016)

Motion by Council Member Bowman with second by Council Member Weise to approve the Generator Maintenance Contract Proposal from Michigan CAT for three (3) years totaling \$62,768.00. Motion carried unanimously. (2024 – 017)

Citizens Input & Suggestions

Resident Bob Lacross stated his opinion on the hiring of an additional Staff Member from Infrastructure Alternatives for the WWTP, stating further that the City should hire an employee instead that could work at the WWTP, perform generator maintenance, and several other task instead of contracting out for these services.

Resident Michael Hammond stated that Michigan CAT Technicians are always on-site right away to get things back up and running when the City has an issue that requires their assistance.

City Manager, Dennis Luce reported on the following:

The Dollar Tree has terminated their project in the city.

Presented update on the Grove Street Bridge Project.

Celebrate Coopersville is February 22nd. RSVP ASAP.

Pump #2 has been installed at the Main Lift Station.

IFT Annual Report has been completed.

Comerica Banks in Coopersville and Marne are closing permanently.

Virtual Training is coming up for "Elected Officials."

Congratulations to Fire Captain Brent Veldheer on his retirement.

City Clerk's Report

City Clerk, Kimberly Borgman informed everyone present that the Early Voting Centers for the Presidential Primary will be opening on February 17, 2024. The hours will be 7 A.M. – 3 P.M. except for February 20, and February 22, when the hours will be 11 AM – 7 PM.

City Treasurer's Report NONE

Adjournment

Motion by Council Member Bush with second by Council Member Weise to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 P.M. Motion carried unanimously. (2024 - 018)

Duane Young, Mayor

Kimberly Borgman, City Clerk