

MINUTES OF REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

January 19, 2021

The regular meeting of the Pontiac City Council was held on January 19, 2021 via Zoom in accordance with the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamations and Executive Order in regards to the Open Meeting

Mayor Alvey called to order the meeting of the City Council at 7:00 P.M.

The City Clerk was directed to call roll, and the following members of the Council were present: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Causer, Hicks, Bradshaw, Myers, Gabor and Wille.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Alvey stated that there were four items on the consent agenda. He asked if there was a need to have any item removed for later discussion. Hearing none, motion made by Myers, second by Barr that the items on the consent agenda be approved as presented.

A. Motion by Myers, second by Barr to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2021 City Council meeting. On a roll call vote, motion carried 10-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Causer, Hicks, Bradshaw, Myers, Gabor, and Wille.

B. Motion by Myers, second by Barr to approve the payment of bills totaling \$255,504.30 from all funds. On a roll call vote, motion carried 10-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Causer, Hicks, Bradshaw, Myers, Gabor, and Wille.

C. Motion by Myers, second by Barr to refer to the Planning Commission a petition filed by Donna Saratoris for a variance from the City sign code. On a roll call vote, motion carried 10-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Causer, Hicks, Bradshaw, Myers, Gabor, and Wille.

D. Motion by Myers, second by Barr to refer to the Planning Commission a petition filed by Terra Maning for a variation from the City sign code. On a roll call vote, motion carried 10-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Causer, Hicks, Bradshaw, Myers, Gabor, and Wille.

REGULAR AGENDA

A. Ordinance 2021-O-001 - Sales Tax Referendum

Motion by Kallas, second by Gabor to approve Ordinance 2021-O-00, an ordinance to cause a proposition or resolution to authorize the City to impose an retailers sales tax at the rate of 1% to be voted at the consolidated election to be held on April 6, 2021, as written. On a roll call vote, motion carried 9-1. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Eckhoff, Kallas, Causer, Hicks, Bradshaw, Myers, Gabor, and Wille. Nay vote recorded: Giovanini

B. Fire Truck Disposition

Motion by Hicks, second by Causer to approve classifying Fire Departments Engine 2 as surplus and sell to Cornell Fire Protection District for \$22,000.00. On a roll call vote, motion carried 10-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Causer, Hicks, Bradshaw, Myers, Gabor, and Wille.

C. Library Correspondence

Motion by Causer, second by Kallas to approve the funds of \$63,000.00 to the Library for the emergency elevator repair. On a roll call vote, motion carried 9-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Causer, Hicks, Bradshaw, Gabor, and Wille. Abstain vote recorded: Myers

D. Madison Street Plans - Chicago Street to Oak Street

City Engineer, Brian Verdun, explained to the Council the plans to make Madison Street, One Lane, from Chicago St. To Oak Street, with possible “bump outs” for restaurant outdoor dining and to improve visibility for cars and pedestrians. Only a few parking spaces will be lost.

Motion by Eckhoff, second by Bradshaw to approve the changing of Madison Street from Chicago Street to Oak Street, to one lane as proposed. On a roll call vote, motion carried 10-0. Aye votes recorded: Barr, Giovanini, Eckhoff, Kallas, Causer, Hicks, Bradshaw, Myers, Gabor, and Wille.

E. Elks Golf Course

Continued discussion on the possibility of the City purchasing the Elks Golf course from the Elks Club and creating a Municipal Golf Course. Recaps of assets of the course, acreage, pool, buildings, and equipment. Also the development of tourism, the use by non-profit groups and the revenue and expenses. Shown to Council a proposed contract and lease and a preliminary budget.

F. COVID Update

The City has moved to Tier 1, which will allow restaurants & bars indoor seating at 25% capacity. Also more activities will be allowed. Information can be found at the City’s website.

Mayor Comments

Mayor Alvey remarked how well the Ice Rink is being used.

Administrator Comments

Committee of the Whole will be Monday January 25th at 7:00 P.M. with an Executive Session.

Council Comments

None

Public Comments

Several emails from residents were sent in for public comments. Those are attached.

Adjournment

On motion duly made and seconded, the regular meeting of the City Council was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon L Dunham
City Clerk

Robert M. Karls

From: joanE lipinski [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, January 3, 2021 2:48 PM
To: Bill Alvey
Cc: Robert M. Karls; Kelly Eckhoff; Jayme Bradshaw; Jerry Causer; John Wille; Don Hicks; Curt Myers; Brian Gabor; mike.barr@pontiac.org; Bill Kallas
Subject: Elks Club Purchase

Mayor Alvey and members of the council,

We read with interest the newsletter and rationale for the city to spend \$500,000 of taxpayers money to purchase the Elks Club and golf course for the city of Pontiac, and we have a few questions.

While golfing is an all ages, recreational activity, how many people presently use the golf course? What projected number of people will be using it? What is the estimated income from this?

Will additional walking pathways be established in the area? At what cost? Will these be available free of charge? Will they be accessible? Will the required restrooms for the area be provided? At what cost? Are there safety issues (flying golf balls) accounted for on these paths? Will these pathways have limited time availability?

What is the projected schedule for completing the bike path?

What considerations have been made for entering and exiting traffic from the club area? Will there be safe pedestrian access to the entrance?

Have the condominium residents been included in this consideration, their interests considered?

Basically, what are the " numbers" for the benefits you envision? What losses has the Elks Club sustained? What are other community golf course profits? How many more jobs will this create? What are community non- profits incomes from golf outings? What numbers do businesses and glcedc have to show how this would benefit the community growth? How do you plan to include local businesses in benefitting from this investment?

Have you considered, or will you consider a referendum to allow voter input on this issue?

While we see the benefit of the "early" consideration of preserving this property, as some properties have been "lost" to the community in the past, we would like to see more research and more public discussion on this topic.

We await the response to these questions ,and hope they will be publicly addressed.

joanE s. and Ed Lipinski

Sent from my iPad

Stephanie Kennedy

From: casey hicks [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 10:31 AM
To: City of Pontiac
Subject: Elks purchase

Hello, my name is casey hicks. I have been a citizen of pontiac my entire life. I have also worked at the elks when I was in high school and some after college. I do not believe it is the best intrest for our city to purchase the club. They have never wanted the public's help before so why now? They wouldnt even let me as an employee golf for free because i wasnt a member. They are as cheap as possible. They have no true follow thru in the kitchen on safety/cleaning. No matter what if your not a member they dont care, even if it's the smarter option. The city will be the elks bailout for what they cant handle, due to their ways. I'm sorry but you cant bully the public all these year with" your not a member" then expect our help. Sorry that's not how it goes. If the city follows thru with the purchase, it shows our citizens that we dont matter if you dont have a pocket. Pontiac citizens are screaming for change. This is not it. Honestly who wants this other than people connected to the elks. It may not be failing if the community wasnt shunned away. Sorry theres no bail out for me if I run my life the same. So no to the purchase of the elks. I also think the few member that are on the board and have property on the course, should not be allowed to voice or control the show here.example eckhoffs. They are in both side of it and I think that's an issue. There are a few. Thank you and I hope for success in our town, but not by screwing the citizens. Thank you

Stephanie Kennedy

From: william alvey [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, January 13, 2021 9:30 AM
To: Stephanie Kennedy
Subject: Fw: Elks Club Bailout

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Steven Durham [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 12, 2021, 08:41:15 PM CST
Subject: Elks Club Bailout

Mayor Alvey and City Council Members

Good evening. I'm just writing to you to voice my concern with the possible city/taxpayer purchase of the Elks Club. I do not believe it is a good venture as I believe it will become a money pit for the taxpayers. If it is such a good deal as was voiced at the last council meeting we listened to, why doesn't another private group purchase it. We taxpayers are not here to bailout failing businesses, especially a private club that has been failing for years. I am totally against this idea.

Steve Durham