

City Commission
April 20, 2015

Mayor Mark Warba called the regular meeting of the City Commission to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Tom Hogenson, Lorraine James, and Dan Rothstein; Mayor Mark J. Warba; City Attorney Eric D. Williams; City Manager Steve Sobers; and City Treasurer Jon Locke.

Absent: None

There were 41 persons in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA – none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Hogenson that the minutes of April 6, 2015 meeting be accepted.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

PARK AND RECREATION AWARDS

Public Works Director Mark Gifford and Park and Recreation Board Chairperson Dick Spedowske presented the Park and Recreation Citizen Recognition Awards for 2014 as follows:

- (1) Dave Murray, Ferris State University Welding Department, in recognition of the valuable work and contributions towards the Mitchell Creek Park project.
- (2) Mark Warba and Law Offices (Robert Stanton and Mark Viel) and Gordon and Patricia VanDyke, in recognition of the valuable contributions towards the Riverwalk by allowing the public to cross their property.

RECOGNITION OF MECEOLA DISPATCHERS

Awards were presented to four of Meceola Dispatchers for going over and beyond in finding a missing elderly person. Officer Liz West presented the situation. Dispatchers receiving the award: Bridgett Enos, Wanda Taylor, Renee Macheit, and Meloney Handley.

PROCLAMATION DECLARING APRIL 24, 2015 – GFWC FEDERATION DAY

Mayor Warba presented the Proclamation to Joyce Iltis.

WHEREAS, GFWC-Big Rapids, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and its members have enhanced the citizens and community of Big Rapids and the surrounding communities through their commitment to volunteer service, which include Picture Lady, Riverwalk and Post Office Garden maintenance, support of reading programs at the Big Rapids Community Library, support of community organizations such as WISE, the Historical Museums, Artworks, the Susan Wheatlake Center, veterans through a Veteran's Day proclamation, the Veteran's Luminary Tribute, and Heifer International, and

WHEREAS, the more than 100,000 members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs provide, on average, more than \$21 million in direct donations and almost \$16 million for in-kind donations as well as over 11 million volunteer hours to more than 200,000 programs and projects benefitting their local communities, and

WHEREAS, GFWC and its more than 4,000 member clubs in all 50 states and more than a dozen countries are at the forefront of grassroots community service, providing crucial support to cultural, educational, health, and legislative issues of importance to women, children, and families throughout the world.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Big Rapids Mayor Mark Warba, calls on the citizens of Big Rapids to recognize

April 24, 2015 as GFWC Federation Day

in celebration of the 125nd anniversary of the founding of this esteemed organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor expresses much gratitude to GFWC-Big Rapids and its members for their continued work in making Big Rapids and the surrounding communities a better place for all citizens.

Mayor Mark J. Warba

ARBOR DAY PROCLAMATION 2015

WHEREAS, in 1872, J. Sterlin Morton proposed to the Nebraska Board of Agriculture that a special day be set aside for the planting of trees, and

WHEREAS, this holiday, called Arbor Day, was first observed with the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska, and Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world, and

WHEREAS, trees reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil by wind and water, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife, and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood for our homes, fuel for our fires and countless other wood products, and

WHEREAS, trees in our City increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and beautify our community, and

WHEREAS, trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal, and

WHEREAS, Big Rapids has been recognized as a Tree City USA by The National Arbor Day Foundation and desires to continue its tree-planting practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark Warba, Mayor of the City of Big Rapids, do hereby proclaim April 24, 2015 as



ARBOR DAY

in the City of Big Rapids, and urge all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands, and further, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations. Dated this 20th day of April, 2015.

Mark Warba, Mayor

STUDY SESSION

a. Festival of the Arts Video – TVMP Students

Bruce Dilg and Connie Morcom, Associate Professor of the Television and Digital Media Production program, introduced the students who developed the Festival of the Arts Video. Steven Uring, Charles Madison, and Ronnie Latimore shared the video.

b. Sidewalk Use Request – Blue Cow BBQ

City Manager Steve Sobers presented the request of the Connie and Chuck Freiberg to extend seating of her new barbeque restaurant onto the City sidewalk. They are requesting the opportunity to provide outdoor dining during the summer months. He provided the proposed layout. There would be seating within a fenced area immediately adjacent to the building, as well as a fenced area on the sidewalk immediately next to the street curb. There will be a six-foot corridor on the sidewalk between the two fenced areas and the fencing will be removable. It was explained that new liquor laws now allow for the serving of liquor when there is a break in the service area.

The City Commission previously has adopted legislation which allows for the use of City sidewalk. The proposal by the Freibergs adhere to the regulations and conditions set by ordinance, maintaining a 6' corridor. Because of the proposed use of the sidewalk, staff wanted the City Commission to be aware of what is being proposed. This is information for the City Commission, and no action by the City Commission is required.

Mrs. Freiberg stated that they will be adding some string lighting for the outdoor dining area. The entirety of the patio fencing will be dismantled for the winter. Several cities are utilizing the separated dining areas.

c. Financial Update – Jon Locke

City Treasurer Jon Locke presented his report on the Fund Balance – Fiscal Year 2014/2015, as of March 31, 2015. He also updated the Commission on the budget process and the challenges being faced financially and some of the adjustments that can be made in the budget process.

The formal presentation of the budget will be at the May 4th City Commission meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Kevin McBride, Woodward Avenue, stated that the City had been to his address checking the water line depth and wondered what has been determined. Mr. Gifford stated that there is not accurate determinations at this time. City staff is working with other utilities to get more precise equipment to read the depth and that has not happened yet.

Mr. Williams stated that staff has checked with the City's insurance carrier regarding any claim that may be filed on behalf of Mr. McBride. The insurance carrier stated that the City is not liable for this type of expense, therefore there is no coverage.

Mr. Sobers stated that if the necessary equipment is not available, the next action to determining the depth of the service line is to actually digging down to the service line.

Warba requested that a policy regarding frozen pipes be established prior to the next winter season.

Rose Mary Jennings, 606 Bjornson St., questioned if they will be responsible for the broken water line on Bjornson Street. Mr. Gifford reported the break is under the road and the City will be repairing that.

PUBLIC HEARING - none

RESOLUTION NO. 15-41

Commissioner Rothstein moved, supported by Commissioner Hogenson, the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION SECTION 5311 OPERATING FORMULA GRANTS
AGREEMENT NO. 2012-0047/P4/R1 – DART**

WHEREAS, the Big Rapids Dial-A-Ride Transportation (DART) system derives approximately 16% of its operating revenue from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), which is administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation, and

WHEREAS, under the City of Big Rapids Annual Local Transportation Program Grant Application for the period of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, the City has requested federal funding in the amount of 16% of the City's proposed operating budget (\$85,776.00), and

WHEREAS, this project authorization, Agreement No. 2012-0047/P4/R1, is an increase of 2.5% for a total of \$99,179, which represents a partial payment of \$51,573.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Big Rapids hereby agrees to enter into the Project Authorization Agreement for FY 2015 Section 5311 Operating Formula Grants, Agreement No. 2012-0047/P4/R1, in the amount of \$51,573.00 and authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement documents.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: April 20, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 15-42

Commissioner Anderson moved, supported by Commissioner Hogenson, the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION
PERTAINING TO REVIEW OF CITY OWNED PROPERTY
514 BJORNSON STREET (PARCEL NO. 54-17-11-200-010)
AS SURPLUS PROPERTY**

WHEREAS, the City Commission, per Resolution 15-14, dated February 16, 2015, referred the discontinuation of City owned property on 514 Bjornson Street (Parcel No. 54-17-11-200-010) to the Planning Commission to determine if it may be surplus property, and

WHEREAS, this parcel of land is immediately adjacent to Parcel No. 54-17-11-100-003, which is to the East of the DNR property, which the City Commission declared surplus property per Resolution 15-22, dated March 2, 2015, to be included as part of 603 Bjornson with a provision of a 20 foot utility easement, and

WHEREAS, at its March 18, 2015 meeting, the Planning Commission held a public hearing and determined that Parcel No. 54-17-11-200-010 be declared as surplus property, and

WHEREAS, their recommendation of this as surplus property includes that a 20 foot City easement be created for public utilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission accepts the Planning Commission recommendation and declare Parcel No. 54-17-11-200-010 as surplus property with the provision of a 20 foot utility easement be created for all public utilities.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

Date: April 20, 2015

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS

Mr. Sobers stated that the City Policy Book has been updated. The revised document will be distributed to the City Commission through their tablets. The Commissioners are requested to review the policies. There will be follow-up at a study session or retreat. The process of filling the City Clerk's position continues, while waiting for some input from the classification/compensation consultant.

Commissioner Anderson was able to accompany the Park and Recreation members as they toured the City parks.

Commissioner Rothstein stated the Big Event was a huge success. The community is fortunate to have Ferris involvement.

Commissioner Hogenson also complimented the Big Event's success. He stated it is one of the largest mobilization of university students for public benefit in the State. The City Commission will be doing a bus tour on April 27th at 4:00 p.m. in an attempt to find some commonality and have an annual strategic plan that focuses on City planning, so that the Good Neighbors can support that, understand it and integrate it with some concerns about the neighborhoods. The intent is to look at some roadways, parking issues, infrastructure, esthetic issues and those privately improved properties.

Mayor Warba spoke on the following:

- He also complimented the Big Event. It was estimated that up to 1,600 students were involved with 256 homes.
- There are 22 cities in the State that have income taxes. There is a lobbying group for Grand Rapids and Detroit that invited the other cities to a meeting in Lansing. They want to propose that the legislature do three things: require universal withholding requirements for all employers with payrolls over a quarter million dollars to withhold applicable city taxes; streamline the Board of Appeal process; and allow the Michigan Treasury to collect City income tax.

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

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Mayor Mark J. Warba

Roberta R. Cline, City Clerk