

City Commission
June 15, 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; and City Manager Steve Sobers.

Absent: None

There were 11 persons in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hogenson moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, that the minutes of June 1, 2015 meeting be accepted with corrections.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

STUDY SESSION

Public Safety Deputy Director Steve Schroeder updated the City Commission on the new Public Safety radio equipment.

- All equipment for the upgrade to the 800 megahertz radio system is in place and was operational on June 3.
- The full-time employees had 8 hours of required State training. The digital signal is a little more complex.
- Staff has noticed an improvement in dependability of the radios. There have not been the dead spots that existed with the analog system.
- Mr. Schroeder displayed the radios carried by the police and fire personnel.
- The City now has the capability to communication with the County and State law enforcement agencies. The hospital and emergency management also has the same channel.
- The new equipment has more zones and more channels. It allows for a statewide network.
- Currently there is no mechanism for the radios to be keyed to an open position, but there is programing features that may be activated in the future that will allow the mic to remain open for a certain amount of time. They are not set up currently because Central Dispatch does not have the capability of receiving that emergency signal.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Adam Gac introduced himself as the new Pioneer reporter for the City and County.

RoseMary Jennings stated the downtown flowers are beautiful. She would still like to see flowers on the bridge.

PUBLIC HEARING – none

RESOLUTION NO. 15-55

Commissioner Rothstein moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXTENSION
OF AUDITING FIRM SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the City Commission approved per Resolution No. 13-60, dated May 20, 2013, City auditing services beginning 2012/2013, and

WHEREAS, there is a provision within the original contract to renew the agreement for up to five additional years, for a total of six years, subject to annual review by the City Treasurer and acceptance by the City Commission, and

WHEREAS, the Treasurer’s Office is pleased with the performance of Gabridge & Company and wishes exercise its second yearly renewal for fiscal year 2014/2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission authorize the renewal of the auditing contract with Gabridge & Company to audit Fiscal Year 2014/15.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: June 15, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 15-56

Commissioner Hogenson moved, seconded by Commissioner James, the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION AWARDING BID FOR EXTERIOR OVERCOAT,
WET INTERIOR REPAINT AND MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS FOR THE
WATER TOWER AT 1000 PERRY AVENUE AND LOGO
FOR WATER TOWER LOCATED AT 1401 S. STATE STREET**

WHEREAS, the Perry Avenue water tower is in need of exterior and interior repainting and miscellaneous repairs and bids were solicited, and

WHEREAS, the three bids that were received and reviewed by Dixon Engineering, who recommends the bid of MC Sandblasting of Cedar Springs, Michigan as the best bid to repaint and do miscellaneous repairs in the amount of \$199,400, and

WHEREAS, this bid also included the option for the painting of the Ferris Bulldog logo on the Ferris water tower at a cost of \$8,400, as requested by the University, and

WHEREAS, the \$8,400 cost of this logo is included in the MC Sandblasting bid for reimbursement by Ferris State University with the option of excluding it if the University decides to opt out of placing the Bulldog logo on the Ferris water tower.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission accepts the bid of MC Sandblasting in the amount of \$199,400 for the exterior and interior repainting, logo implementation and miscellaneous repairs of the Perry Avenue water tower and expense the cost to Account No. 599-561-998.000 (CIP High Priority)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Big Rapids fund the amount of \$8,400 for the Bulldog logo on the Ferris water tower with reimbursement from Ferris State University if approved by University personnel.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: June 15, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 15-57

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

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BIG RAPIDS DIAL-A-RIDE (DART) AND MECOSTA OSCEOLA TRANSIT AUTHORITY (MOTA)

WHEREAS, DART and MOTA are public entities within the State of Michigan authorized to provide and operate public transportation services, and

WHEREAS, DART and MOTA both have territorial service which need the permission of the other service to enter, and

WHEREAS, this Inter-Local agreement would allow City of Big Rapids residents to be dropped and picked up in the MOTA territory and people living in the MOTA territory may have the same privilege.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission accepts the Inter-Local Agreement to cross jurisdictional boundaries between the City of Big Rapids Dial-A-Ride (DART) and Mecosta Osceola Transit Authority (MOTA) and authorizes Stephen Sobers and Roger Schneidt to sign said agreement.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba
Nays: None
The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.
Dated: June 15, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 15-58

Commissioner James moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson, the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE 2015/2016
COMPENSATION PLAN FOR NON-BARGAINING EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, through union negotiations, the City has changed the effective date of pay increases from July of each year to January, and

WHEREAS, in order to make this change for the full-time non-bargaining employees, the 2015/2016 compensation plan establishes a 0.5% COLA increase for full-time employees for the period of June 28, 2015 to December 26, 2015 and a 1% COLA for full-time employees for the period of December 27, 2015 to the last full pay period in December 2016, and

WHEREAS, the compensation scales for the long-term part-time employee positions shall be adjusted by the same percentages as stated above, and

WHEREAS, the recently adopted 2015/2016 budget includes funding for this total 1.5% increase on this calendar basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the .5% and 1% compensation adjustments for full-time non-bargaining and long-term part-time employees shall commence with the pay period beginning June 28, 2015.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba
Nays: None
The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.
Dated: June 15, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 15-59

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

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING MUTUAL SUPPORT
BETWEEN FERRIS STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, BIG RAPIDS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, MECOSTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S
DEPARTMENT AND MICHIGAN STATE POLICE**

WHEREAS, Ferris State Department of Public Safety has requested mutual support from the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety, Mecosta County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police to enhance the ability of all agencies to communicate about and respond to crimes of violence, and

WHEREAS, this also establishes a standard procedure for the notification of these crimes between agencies and issuing timely warnings and emergency notifications to the University community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Big Rapids City Commission hereby approves the attached Memorandum of Understanding for mutual support between Ferris State Department of Public Safety, Big Rapids Department of Public Safety, Mecosta County Sheriff's Department and the Michigan State Police and authorizes the Mayor to sign said agreement.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: June 15, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 15-60

Commissioner Rothstein moved, seconded by Commissioner James, the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING TAMYRA K. GILLIS AS
CITY CLERK/EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

WHEREAS, the City Clerk will retire from the City of Big Rapids effective August 1, 2015, and

WHEREAS, Tamyra K. Gillis has been in the position of Deputy Clerk since October 2005, and has diligently broadened her professional knowledge with educational opportunities through the State Bureau of Elections, the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks, and

WHEREAS, Ms. Gillis has obtained her designation as IIMC Master Municipal Clerk and the MAMC Certified Michigan Municipal Clerk, and

WHEREAS, the City Commission recognizes the value of secretarial assistance for the City Manager, whereby, the designated position will be City Clerk/Executive Secretary, and

WHEREAS, the recent classification/compensation study recommends the position as a Division level, being a Grade 5, and

WHEREAS, beginning salary for the position will be \$50,315.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Tamyra K. Gillis be appointed City Clerk/Executive Secretary effective August 9, 2015.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor Declared the Resolution adopted.

Dated: June 15, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 15-61

Commissioner Hogenson moved, seconded by Commissioner James, the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION ON MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission hereby confirms the following Mayoral appointment/recommendation:

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

John Milan re-appointed to a full term ending August 2019

Charlene Nowlin re-appointed to a full term ending August 2019

Paula Robison re-appointed to a full term ending August 2019

INCOME TAX BOARD OF APPEALS

Sandra Modena re-appointed to a full term ending March 2018

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: June 15, 2015

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS

Commissioner Hogenson stated that there had been some complaints of fireworks the day before Flag Day. The recent path created by the Legislature a year or so ago continues to be problematic for people with PTSD and people who are disturbed by the local fireworks in the middle of the night by those who are disrespectful. Commissioner James and RoseMary Jennings stated that they clearly heard the fireworks in their area.

Mayor Warba reminded the City Commission that there is a June 29th Retreat. Discussion topics will include:

- Policy Revisions
- Freeze-up Policy

- Rental Dumpsters/Parking
- Historic District

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

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Mayor Mark J. Warba

Roberta R. Cline, City Clerk