

City Commission
October 5, 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 people in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Hogenson moved, seconded by Commissioner Anderson that the minutes of September 21, 2015 regular meeting be accepted as corrected.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

STUDY SESSION

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY – None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

PUBLIC HEARING – None

RESOLUTION NO. 15-100

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

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GRANT TO RECEIVE FUNDING FOR
PAINTING MARKINGS ON AIRPORT RUNWAY AT
ROBEN HOOD AIRPORT**

WHEREAS, the City has applied for and has been granted a Block Grant from the Michigan Department of Transportation for projects at Roben-Hood Airport, and

WHEREAS, this grant will be used for painting markings on the airport runway at Roben Hood airport, and

WHEREAS, the total amount of this project is \$16,500, whereby \$15,675.00 comes from Federal and State grant monies with a City match of \$825.00.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission authorize the Mayor to sign Contract No. 2015-0353, Federal Project No. B-26-0013-2013 for the Federal/State/Local Airport Project under the MDOT Block Grant program in the amount of \$16,500.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: October 5, 2015

Commissioner Anderson asked if the 50/50 cost sharing would be for water and sewer lines or just water lines that are in the public right-of-way. Mr. Sobers explained that the proposed Frozen Water Line Policy was written for frozen water lines and does not encompass the repair of sewer lines. Mayor Warba suggested that the staff review and propose a policy for a 50/50 cost sharing for sanitary sewer line repairs in the public right-a-way.

Mayor Warba asked Mr. Williams, "If a private line (water or sanitary) runs under or within a public right-of-way does it grant ownership or control to the municipality?" Mr. Williams explained that it did not, stating that right-of-ways are different from place to place. Some are simple ownership by the City and others are just right-of-ways over the privately owned property. Land owners may own to the center line of the street or road and the City may own the right-of-way to put the road on top of the ground and work within the right-of-way. In many instances the land owner maintains ownership of the ground underneath the right-of-way.

If this policy passes, Mr. Williams will review the City code (Section 51.06 subsection D) to see what code modification needs to be made to be consistent with the policy.

Commissioner Hogenson referred to the section "Adjustment Policy" subsections d. and e. of the proposed Frozen Water Line Policy. One subsection of the proposed policy refers to a frozen neighbor and the other subsection refers to a frozen customer. The Clerk was authorized to make grammatical corrections to clear up the language on the policy.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-101

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

RESOLUTION APPROVING CITY OF BIG RAPIDS POLICY ON FROZEN WATER LINES FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF BIG RAPIDS

WHEREAS, some residents of Big Rapids experience frozen water lines during severe winters, and

WHEREAS, to this date no systematic policy has been written governing this difficult condition, and

WHEREAS, the City Commission wishes to have clear and supportive action taken to assist property owner's whose service lines may freeze.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission hereby adopts the attached Policy on Frozen Water Lines for the residents of the City of Big Rapids.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: October 5, 2015

RESOLUTION NO. 15-102

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

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INCREASE IN EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION FOR FULL TIME EMPLOYEE HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, the City of Big Rapids has been contributing the amount established by the State of Michigan hard cap, and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan has increased the hard cap according to the medical care component of the United States consumers price index for the most recent twelve month period, and

WHEREAS, the hard cap limits have been adjusted to reflect the 2.5 percent increase for 2016 that the State of Michigan adopted September 16, 2015.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission authorizes the State of Michigan hard cap increase for employer contribution of 2.5 percent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Commission adopts the attached letter of Understanding regarding insurance coverage for 2016.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: October 5, 2015

Commissioner James clarified that the stipend of \$1,000 for moving expenses for Mr. Kuhn would be on a reimbursable basis. Commissioner James also requests that Mr. Kuhn have a performance review after 60 days, six months, and one year. She would like each review reported to the City Commission.

RESOLUTION NO. 15-103

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

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING AARON KUHN
TO BIG RAPIDS CITY TREASURER**

BE IT RESOLVED, that Aaron Kuhn be appointed to the position of Big Rapids City Treasurer effective on October 12, 2015.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the Resolution adopted.

Dated: October 5, 2015

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS

- A trip to Lansing is set for Tuesday, to discuss the Regional Recreation Authority with State Senators and Representatives.
- The City has received a check from Blue Cross/Blue Shield for over-payment proceeds in the amount of \$273,565. After closing out the self-insurance fund and the retiree fund the remainder total was \$124,918.
- Ferris State University is slated to receive 17 million dollars in reimbursement for over-payments made to retiree pensions.
- The Holland Park monument is in place and scheduled to be unveiled in the spring.
- While investigating the vandalism of the handicapped swing in Hemlock Park, it was found that several people had used the swing inappropriately over the course of four days. Signs are being installed promoting proper use of the swing, extra patrols are being scheduled, and cameras are being installed.
- The Brook assisted living facility had an open house last week. This facility has 42 units and is looking to expand. It is a beautiful facility.
- There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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Mayor Mark J. Warba

Tamyra K. Gillis, City Clerk