

City of Carson City
Council Meeting Minutes
June 20, 2023
652 Williams Street
Carson City, Michigan 48811

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present at roll call: Gage, Hauck, McCracken, Miller, Parmenter, Kapustka.
Absent: Kurt Keiffer.

Others in attendance: Pam Hagerman, Mark Crawfis, Nate Plath, Chris Johnston, DTE representatives Biczana Peco, Jonathan Wilson, Matt Kaleyta, Tim McCallister, John Bradley, Jim Neuman, Mary Ann Harden, Tom Haradine, Tim Swore, Ginny Bohlen, Bonnie Walthorn, Sharon White, and Nan Hagerman.

Moved by Parmenter, supported by Gage to approve the Agenda as Presented. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None were given.

Moved by Parmenter, supported by Miller to approve Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Tim Swore was in attendance to get the cities support in the vaping issue. It is just real time consuming for support staff at the school in trying to stop this habit. They are finding that the students that are having behavior issues the underlying issue is that these students are vaping. Many are addicted even at the age of 14. He would like the city to have the city look into adopting a vaping ordinance. School is moving their effort into preventing students in even starting this habit. With the city having an ordinance the school would be able to call the police and have a fine, and be able to call the parents. He did pass out a sample letter from Manistique middle and High School with ideas of what 1st, 2nd, 3rd, offense fines would be instead of just kicking out students. Tim and Chief Schrameck have talked on how they could work together.

Lezlie Hauck asked wouldn't it be like contributing to a minor if a parent is buying a vap pen, or letting them do this?

Jonathan Wilson, from DTE reported that the DTE plant has been operating more frequently. He would like to answer any questions the council or audience has. He did state the DTE employees 10,000 with the main office being based in Detroit.

Dave Gage asked what are they doing to help with the noise situation. He said that they had replaced some baffles, that do help some. DTE did ask if Neil was still willing to put a monitoring system on his front porch to help monitor the noise situation.

Ginny Bohlen stated today it was so loud with banging. She is worried about the resale value if she ever decided to sell her home. Sharon White agreed today was bad. Bonnie Walthorn stated that it seems to travel over the corn field right down Division street.

Chad replied also that when they first introduced building the plant DTE agreed to plant a tree berm with helping the noise from carrying unfortunately many of those trees have died, and not been replanted. Wondered if they would be willing to replant more?

DTE permit does state through DEQ that they have to have a 69-foot stack. DTE has been monitoring at the fence. Gas prices increase the amount of time they run. If gas prices are high, they are running more to produce cheaper electricity to offset energy bills.

Neil thanked DTE for coming and updating Council.

Motion by Gage, supported by McCrackin to approve the Rachel Hubler's Rezoning application from Public Semi Public to Commercial. She will be opening a Quilt retreat in the old Masonic Lodge building she recently purchased. Motion Carried

Motion by Gage, supported by Miller to approve Dr. Tom and Lisa Ferguson's Rezoning application from commercial to Residential. This is for their building located at 221 E. Maple Street. Dr. Tom & Lisa Ferguson are planning to remodel inside and will be moving in to reside in the city. Motion carried.

Nate has had couple inquiries regarding sidewalks. Currently our fees don't even cover our cost. When we had these fees this low, was when we had Prison workers on work release. It was \$1.25 a lineal foot. Currently the concrete alone for 50' to 60' feet would be \$500.00 minimum. It takes two guys two days to prep, and pour and clean up. Our cost for 60' would be a minimum of \$1500.00 to \$1600.00.

Chad asked what percentage of sidewalk would need to be done? Nate replied around 25% really need to be replaced. Chad feels there needs to be a partnership with the home owner. Dave asked would 50/50 be reasonable. Chad suggested maybe have them pay for all the concrete, and the city will provide the labor.

Motion by McCrackin, supported by Parmenter to adjust the sidewalk fees to have the home owner be required to pay for the concrete and the City will furnish the labor. Motion Carried.

Nate also mention that recently we had a residence on Garlock Road apply and pay the \$2250.00 hook up to the city Water. Generally, this would cover the cost to the city to hook up completely. This application required a boring under the road that cost the city \$2000.00. He would like to change the fees to be \$2250.00 and any additional cost to be paid for the home owner.

Motion by Gage, supported by Miller to require home owners to be responsible for any additional cost above the set fee for tapping fees. Motion carried.

Hauck would like to go back to 9-5 Monday through Friday for Office Hours. She stated that she has had many people ask what are office hours are? That there is only one person in the office. How many people we employ? She feels we need to go back to the 9-5 hours Monday thru Friday. Mayor Kapustka feels that we are getting out of line with continuing to change things. We need to let the Personnel and City Administrator to do their business. That is what we hired her for. Hauck asked then why isn't the City Administrator hardly ever in the office. Kapustka said she could be out investing things around the city, she could have vacation time. She doesn't need six different bosses. Hauck responded that the Mayor has not be cordial toward her on the phone. Kapustka responded that he had some personal issue going on at that time, and he apologizes for not being cordial in the past. Miller stated that he doesn't feels the office hours are the problem

Motion by Hauck, supported by McCrackin, to move office hours to 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday. Ayes: Hauck, McCrackin. Nays Parmenter, Miller, and Gage. Motion failed.

Motion by Parmenter, supported by McCrackin to send office hours back to Personnel Committee for review. Motion carried.

Time Clocks were brought up and Pam stated that the cost for Time clocks would be \$8585.00 to implement, with a \$640.00 annual fee through our current Software company BSA. This would be compatible for the DPW in how they separate out their hours amongst the departments during the day. Miller asked what kind of time clock would this be? It would be One that would have remote access. Miller asked City Administrator how many seminars has she attended, and then proceeded to ask how many has Nate DPW Supervisor. Miller feels anyone attending a conference is on the honor system for their time. Miller said to Kapustka that he stated we were going to get a face recognition time clock. Miller asked City Administrator how many times has she worked over 80 hours. Miller then proceeded to state well when we change the hour's we will just change the lunch hour to a half hour unpaid.

John Bradley from Spicer had a couple updates on the DWAM grant for a pre bid meeting for the 29th will need the council room. He won't be in attendance on that day but will have an associate from Spicer.

Pam went over the three bids obtained for cameras. Big E Technologies. for \$16,705.64, CMS Internet LLC., for \$24,796.48, and EPS for \$26,092.00.

Motion by McCrackin, supported by Miller to accept the bid from Big E Technologies for a cost of \$16,705.64. to install cameras at the parks, and city hall. Motion carried.

Chris Johnston County Commissioner reported that the County has been looking at implementing a new blight ordinance template, but have stopped that. Clerk will be moving out first business day of the new year. Having trouble finding another Prosecutor to fill a vacancy. Treasurers' office will be hiring filling another position.

Mark has a few new recruits for the fire department. He gave you a copy of a Sourcewell for the purpose of helping with the setting up of the bid cost for a new truck.

Chief Schrameck read his report. Frontier's days went well. Has been in contact with Montcalm Care Network, will be getting two tablets to use in the case the department was called out on a mental crisis they can connect with a 24 hour on call Psychologist to help with the individual.

Nate DPW Director reported that some street work left over \$\$ in local and Major streets. So, we were able to secure last years pricing. We are currently fixing S. Third Street in front of the Morey Rikers old place. This is out of 22-23 budget. Since we are so close to the new fiscal year and they were in the area they were able to give us a highly discounted rate, they were able to pave dead end of S. First Street, E. Montcalm Street this will be the 23-24 budget. This allowed us to get more done then even what was planned.

Splash pad is opened everything went well. Have a leak in the roof of the utility room. This isn't affecting the bathrooms. It currently has tongue and groove, but will not be replaced with that.

Fort Frontier is in need of woodchips, he found a place in Maple rapids that is park grade for a reasonable cost.

Spring discharge went without a hitch.

He has obtained concrete bids for the recycling bins. Received one for \$13,500, and \$12,500 this will be paid from the County Solid waste.

Being at the end of the fiscal year we have a few equipment that needs to be upgraded. These are used for both Departments Water and Sewer. A new camera around \$8000.00 he feels he will be able to sell the old one. Our current camera is very antiquated. Need a new compactor, the cost for this is \$2000.00. Would like a new laser transit, the current one he has is not a laser cost for this is around \$1000.00. He is asking if he can get approval to upgrade these from the leftover in this year's budget.

Motion by McCrackin, supported by Gage to allow Nate to purchase the above equipment for the estimated cost of \$11,000. Motion carried.

Pam stated we received the money from North Shade Township for the Fire contract. Currently we were receiving \$4717.00 now we are making \$35,652.00 for a year. Received \$7000.00 donation for the Fire Department from North Shade Township as well.

Received check for the old Ford Taurus police care for \$6250.00. Waiting for the check to clear before we schedule a pickup.

Clean up day was not very busy. Thanked Nan and Joni for working that Saturday morning.

Pam has received request for softball/baseball fields, pickleball courts, and a dog park. The need for scheduling a park committee meeting may be needed to discuss.

Public Comment: Sharon White asked if the city owns any of the sidewalks?
Jim Neuman asked how does the employees keep track of their time now?

John Bradley said he couldn't believe how many people/kids at the park and splash pad during the Frontier days.

Neil would love to see a little more investment in our city. (Flowers, pickle ball courts, ball fields).

Neil thanked the Pam, Joni, Nan, Mark, and many firemen who took the time to volunteer their time during frontier days.

Motion by Miller, supported by McCrackin to adjourn at 7:48 pm. Motion carried.

Neil A. Kapustka, Mayor

Nan Hagerman, Comptroller