

A regular meeting of the Leslie City Council was held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2008 at Leslie City Hall, 107 E. Bellevue Street, with Mayor Ron Schmit presiding.

ROLL CALL. PRESENT: Councilmembers Motes, Beegle, Beyer, Wood, Zamora, Fox, Mayor Schmit.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Brian Reed, City Clerk Vyrna Dotte Weideman, City Finance Director/Treasurer Cheryl Neu, Director of Public Works Martha Owen, City Engineer Don Heck, Senator Valde Garcia, John Lynch, from Capital Area District Library Liz Kudwa and Barb Keeler, guests Jeanne and Gary Fink, Jerry Miers, *Jackson Citizen Patriot* writer Larry Hook, Ron Antcliff, Clint Martinez, John Lynch, and Tammi Stanfield.

Senator Garcia led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA ITEM I. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.

Moved by Wood, seconded by Beegle, to approve the agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM II. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve the minutes of the Council meetings of March 4 and 18, 2008.**
- B. Approve Payment of the Bills as presented.**
- C. Council Correspondence:**

- 1. Tri-County Office on Aging - Regarding Funding, Meals on Wheels.**

Moved by Wood, seconded by Zamora, to approve the Consent Agenda. Discussion of the bills. All yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM III. 7:05 P.M. Leslie Library Head Librarian Barb Keeler - Annual Report.

Head Librarian Keeler presented a summary of the 2007 Annual Report from Capital Area District Library to Council, reviewing special events which took place at the Leslie Branch. Council thanked for the information.

(SOME ITEMS NOW TAKEN OUT OF SEQUENCE DUE TO TIME RESTRICTIONS. The Public Hearing scheduled for 7:15 p.m. will be held at that time or as soon thereafter as possible.)

AGENDA ITEM V. PUBLIC COMMENT - Non-Agenda Items that Cannot Be Handled During Regular Business Hours.

Senator Valde Garcia addressed Council at this time, offering a "Legislative Update". He noted the focus of legislation has been on the economy and the State budget. Concerns regarding some less than scrupulous mortgage brokers are being addressed. Plans are for investments to encourage more tourism, and also to bring in the movie industry, which helps boost local economy. Also, the State hopes to attempt to offer tax credits to companies maintaining jobs here in Michigan. He noted that the inexperience in the legislature contributed to the shortfall in the 12/06 to 6/07 budget of 8-9 million dollars. He stated this year there will be balanced budget.

Mayor Schmit asked about an article he read indicating it was being considered to end the State Income Tax and increase the Sales Tax, noting his concern this would hurt the "little people".

Sen. Garcia explained no plan will be perfect for everyone, but an effort will be made to be fair to the most people.

Mayor Schmit thanked Senator Garcia for attending this meeting.

Jerry Miers, 299 Blair, noted he read in the paper that Michigan is a leader in the Ethanol debacle.

Senator Garcia explained we need to explore all options in the energy field.

Ron Antcliff, 425 Blair, stated he spoke to Representative Byrum regarding mortgage companies not escrowing for taxes, and asked if this could be made a legal requirement.

Sen. Garcia stated he is not aware of a planned change in the law.

Again, Council thanked Senator Garcia for attending this meeting.

7:24 p.m. PUBLIC HEARING: 2008 Leslie Local Street Improvement Project. This hearing is to hear and consider any objections which may be submitted by any interested person with respect to the making of improvements and assessing of part of the cost to the special assessment district.

Mayor Schmit turned the gavel over to Mayor Pro Tem Zamora, stating this is government by, for and of the people, and he wished to stand with the audience and listen closely to their comments.

The hearing was opened by Mayor Pro Tem Zamora, who invited public input at this time.

- Tammi Stanfield, 423 Blair, explained she feels this is a bad idea, and would increase traffic, speed of traffic. Also, maintenance on other paved streets is not done. She noted the bricks at the Main Street crosswalks need to be replaced with blacktop. Maintenance on their dirt road is better than other streets. Leslie Township residents don't pay to have paved roads. The economy is worse this year than last year. She asked what the benefits are of paving. She noted her concerns regarding drainage, since currently areas of Blair St. wash away, and if the street is paved, it may need maintenance and in five years residents would have to pay again. She doesn't feel the City currently maintains streets, and referenced the bad sections of North and South Main Street. She suggested the City use this money where it is more needed.
- DPW Director Martha Owen responded: the bricks downtown are being considered for a temporary repair, hopefully this summer. Main Street being a Major Street is a different fund, and plans are in the works to apply for funding for major repairs there.
- Fin. Dir./Treas. Neu noted North and South Main Streets are a totally different fix, requiring total street reconstruction along with water and sewer main repair/replacement. Local Streets are being proposed for an asphalt overlay with some drainage work.
- DPW Dir. Owen noted the proposed 2008 Street Project does cite areas needing drainage work. Discussion.
- Jerry Miers, 299 Blair, stated in 1952 he lived on Blair Street, which was a dirt road at that time, and he had no problem then or now. He stated currently the only traffic they get is residents of Blair Street. If Blair Street residents don't want this paved road, why proceed? The economy has worsened, and the City could wait another 1-2 years for this project.
- Mayor Schmit noted most of the people in the community have paid for paving one time or more, and this is part of a 10-12 year program designed to keep the street infrastructure in good shape.
- Jeanne Fink, 303 Blair, responded the overall economy was better when the prior projects were done.
- Mayor Schmit explained the City-at-large pays 30% of the total cost for local street

- improvements, assessing the rest over a period of years to the property owner.
- Mayor Pro Tem Zamora noted this is an improvement to the City, and the City's budget has set aside funds for the project.
- Clerk Weideman reported one written objection has been received from June H. Pallottini, owner of 220 Russell Street, mainly regarding the paving of Williams Street, and also outlining concerns regarding drainage issues. Weideman went on to further explain the theory and plan of Council in adopting their Street Improvement Program and Policy.
- Elaine Antcliff, 425 Blair, suggested Council wait another 2-3 years. She asked if the City would increase their funding.
- Fin.Dir./Treas. Neu explained the funding has been set by Council adoption of the policy, with the City paying 30% of the total project cost, and the property owners paying the remaining 70%.
- Ron Antcliff, 425 Blair, explained he would love to have their street paved and enjoy improved drainage, but they are just trying to "hold on", and asked Council to wait.

Mayor Pro Tem Zamora then thanked everyone for coming to this meeting and expressing their concerns.

Public Hearing was closed, 7:50 p.m.

Mayor Schmit returned to Chair the remainder of this meeting.

AGENDA ITEM VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Approve recommendation for Dive Pool Renovations.

DPW Director Owen reviewed this subject with Council, recalling the bids for renovations to the City Pools received in 2007 were too high to renovate both pools, so the swim pool was done in 2007. Funds are now available to renovate the dive pool, and during an inspection by the Health Department in 2007, they stated renovations needed to be completed prior to opening the dive pool in 2008. Discussion.

Moved by Beegle, seconded by Motes, to approve the bid from Clearwater Pools and Service of Ann Arbor, Inc. to resurface the dive pool per their bid, at a cost of \$22,380 (Twenty-two thousand three hundred eighty dollars). Discussion. Fin. Dir./Treas. Neu has provided certification of fund availability in the Public Improvement Fund, thanks to donations from the Downtown Development Authority for that purpose. All yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM VII. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Adopt Resolution 2008-10, Resolution to Determine Necessity for 2008 Leslie Local Street Improvement Project, and instruct the Assessor to prepare roll.

Moved by Zamora, seconded by Beegle, to adopt Resolution No. 2008-10 as follows. Discussion.

Councilmember Fox stated years ago the Street Program was adopted by Council, intended to do all the streets in Leslie, mainly the main streets, because the street edges were crumbling so you couldn't maintain them. Very little of the 2008 proposed project has any pavement, and he doesn't see the necessity to paving gravel streets, which can be maintained as is. The economy is worse this year than in 2007, and he won't support this project.

Councilmember Beyer agreed the economy is not good, with no signs of improvement, and he feels Council should listen to the citizens, and it would be prudent to put this off. The timing is bad, and he can't support this project.

Councilmember Motes agreed she cannot support this Project, due to bad economy. These streets have been dirt for as long as anyone remembers, and residents are not complaining and asking for the improvement.

Discussion. Mayor Schmit said when he said of, by, and for the people he meant it, and it appears there is no one in favor of this project.

Councilmember Wood asked, if this is defeated, is it a dead project?

Manager Reed noted this could be revisited next year.

Councilmember Beegle asked about the drainage problems.

Don Heck, Wolverine Engineers, explained the contractor that has committed a bid for the project might not come in just to do drain work, and bids might have to be retaken.

Dir. Owen questioned if the entire street project isn't done, the funding might not be available to do drainage improvements. Discussion.

ROLL CALL. Ayes: Councilmembers Beegle, Wood, Zamora.

Noes: Motes, Beyer, Fox, Mayor Schmit.

MOTION DEFEATED; RESOLUTION AS ON FILE WAS NOT ADOPTED.

B. Budget Dates:

1. **Set date for Budget Workshop (if desired).**
2. **Set date for Public Hearing on the Budget.**

Mgr. Reed reviewed possible dates for this year's Budget Workshop and Public Hearing. Discussion.

Moved by Zamora, seconded by Motes, to conduct a Council Workshop regarding the City Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. Time of the Workshop was set for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at Leslie City Hall. All yes. Motion carried.

Moved by Beegle, seconded by Beyer, to set a Public Hearing for 7:15 p.m. or as soon thereafter as possible, on Tuesday, May 6, 2008. Purpose of this Hearing: Council to accept public comment regarding the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009. All yes. Motion carried.

C. Approve recommendation for reappointments to the Leslie LDFA: Dallas Henney and Barb Winslow, new terms to April 3, 2012.

Mayor Schmit recommended the reappointment of two members of the Leslie LDFA.

Moved by Fox, seconded by Beegle, to approve the reappointment of Dallas Henney and Barb Winslow to the Leslie Local Development Finance Authority with new terms to end April 3, 2012. All yes. Motion carried.

D. Consider request of John Lynch, LHS Head Soccer Coach, for use of Church St. Ballfield during month of April, 2008.

John Lynch was present at this time and addressed Council, explaining the new Leslie High School Soccer Team is fully funded by the Soccer Club for the first two years. They are requesting use of the Church St. Ballfields for practice, approximately one day per week, to prevent over use and damage to the school soccer fields during the month of April, probably from about 4:00-5:30 p.m. Discussion.

Moved by Wood, seconded by Beegle to approve the use of the Church Street Ballfields during the month of April 2008 for the purpose of Leslie High School Soccer practice. Discussion. All yes. Motion carried.

E. Adopt Resolution 2008-11, for Defined Contribution Retirement Program for City Manager.

Review by Mgr. Reed, that this plan was part of his employment negotiations. City Managers would now opt out of the Defined Benefit Retirement Program and participate in the Defined Contribution Retirement Program of MERS.

Finance Director/Treasurer Neu has been working on the details to prepare this for Council.

Moved by Beyer, seconded by Fox, to adopt Resolution No. 2008-11 as on file to establish a defined contribution retirement program for the City Manager; and to authorize the City Clerk to execute appropriate related documents.

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF MICHIGAN
MERS REVISED UNIFORM DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM RESOLUTION
CITY OF LESLIE RESOLUTION NO. 2008-11

Roll Call Vote.

AYES: Councilmembers Beegle, Beyer, Wood, Zamora, Fox, Mayor Schmit, Councilmember Motes.

NOES: NONE. ABSENT: NONE. ABSTAIN: NONE.

Motion Carried; Resolution No. 2008-11 declared adopted.

F. Consider approval of concept and placement of "Leslie Community Board".

Review by Mgr. Reed, to noted the Leslie DDA has been discussing the need for such an announcement board for about 1 ½ years. The Leslie Community is missing the board formerly located in front of the Leslie Flower shop, and with no local newspaper many of the local events pass without people being aware of the plans. Council is being asked to consider approval of the concept of a Community Board and placement on City property.

Discussion of placement at one of the planting areas at the corner of Carney and South Main. Concern over traffic visibility clearance at that corner. Discussion of who would be "in charge" of posting announcements, which would be of a community-wide nature. Review of the design.

Moved by Zamora, seconded by Motes, to approve the concept and placement of a Leslie Community Board as reviewed, detailing deaths and other important notices in the community.

Yes: Councilmembers Motes, Beegle, Wood, Zamora, Mayor Schmit.

Noes: Councilmembers Beyer, Fox.

Motion carried.

G. Approve use of Washburn Ballfields by Leslie Youth Baseball Association.

Review by Mgr. Reed that this is an annual use of the ballfields by this group, who also help work on field improvements and maintenance.

Moved by Fox, seconded by Zamora to approve the use of the Washburn Baseball fields from April 7 to July 14, 2008 as requested, by the Leslie Youth Baseball Association. All yes. Motion carried.

AGENDA ITEM VIII. COUNCIL AGENDA:

A. Committee Reports.

Councilmember Beegle reported she will attend an Ad Hoc meeting with Leslie Township next week.

Councilmember Zamora reported he attended a class on Neighborhood Improvement Authorities and one on Financial Management. Also, the annual Gus Macker 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament is scheduled for July 26 and 27, 2008. The LAEF (Leslie Area Educational Foundation) Softball Tournament will be that same weekend. June 14 is being considered for a Leslie Pool fundraiser. Clerk Weideman reported that Deputy Clerk Denae Davenport had just completed the third year of the Clerk's Institute. Also, the City received a check in the amount of \$2,717 for the Workers' Comp. Insurance 2007 dividend distribution.

B. Manager's Report.

Mgr. Reed thanked the Mayor and Council for bringing him on board, and complimented the staff for their welcome and assistance. He stated he is very happy to be here in Leslie.

Mgr. Reed reported he attended a meeting with the Library group today, with the architect. Next week there will be a meeting with the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding the City's wastewater facility discharge permit, other wastewater treatment issues, and water treatment issues.

C. Motion to Adjourn the Meeting.

Moved by Fox, seconded by Beegle, to adjourn the meeting. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned, 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vyrna Dotte Weideman, Leslie City Clerk

A Workshop Session of the Leslie City Council took place beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at Leslie City Hall, 107 E. Bellevue Street, with Mayor Pro Tem Zamora presiding.

ROLL CALL. PRESENT: Councilmembers Wood, Fox, Beegle, Motes, Mayor Pro Tem Zamora

ABSENT: Councilmember Beyer, Mayor Schmit (EXCUSED).

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Brian Reed, City Clerk Vyrna Dotte Weideman, Finance Director/Treasurer Cheryl Neu.

Mayor Pro Tem Zamora led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PURPOSE OF THIS WORKSHOP: Conduct a Budget Workshop regarding the Proposed City Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Mgr. Reed provided a discussion guide, and thorough discussion of the budget followed.

The City's two Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts, the DDA and LDFA were discussed with Fin. Dir./Treas. Neu.

Mgr. Reed reviewed long term goals of the City, as well as future issues and strategies.

Discussion of the "Health Insurance Opt Out" offered by the City, saving the City considerable money as opposed to providing health insurance to all employees.

A general overview of the proposed budget was provided by Fin. Dir./Treas. Neu, who also provided an explanation of the Account Numbers used to identify different Funds, Departments, and Activities.

Specific questions were asked by Council. No action was taken.

Moved by Motes, seconded by Beegle, to adjourn this meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned, 9:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vyrna Dotte Weideman, Leslie City Clerk

