

LESLIE COUNCIL MINUTES
6:00 PM TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 2021
LESLIE CITY HALL, 602 W. BELLEVUE STREET

Meeting to be held as a Virtual Meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, under the authority of PA 267 of 1976 Open Meetings Act as amended by 2018 PA 485 and PA 228 of 2020.

I. ROLL CALL.

Present: Babin, Beegle, Johnson, Owen, Doane & Fox

Excused: None.

Also Present: CM Montenegro, Chelsea Cox, Carrie Howe, Mark Grua, and Elizabeth Wilbur.

Additionally present: Alex Brace, Karl Knoneburg, Norman Albrecht, Barb Winslow, Mike Mitchell, Pat Mitchell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

II. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of the agenda.

Approval of the minutes of regular meeting on February 16, 2021.

B. Payment of Bills – March 2021. Affirm check disbursements totaling \$43,075.69 for March 2021.

C. Site Plan Condition for Purchase Agreement for 024 Well, LLC. Council affirms condition has been satisfied for closing.

D. Communication:

- a. Manager's Report.
- b. February 2021 Financials.
- c. February 2021 Police Department Report.
- d. February 2021 Fire Department Report.

Motion Fox, second Doane to approve the consent agenda as presented. All ayes. Motion Carried.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: Non-Agenda Items that cannot be handled During Regular Business Hours.

- a. Small Talk Children's Advocacy Center – Alex Brace

Alex Brace spoke about Small Talk Children's Advocacy. Visit www.smalltalkcac.org.

- b. Ingham County Homeless Street – Katie Stewart – not present.

Public comment from Mike Mitchell and Pat Mitchell.

IV. COUNCIL COMMENT: Opportunity to respond to public comment period or make comments regarding items not on the agenda. **None.**

V. PUBLIC HEARING: None.

VI. ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

- A. Leslie Youth Baseball Association Field Request. Approve user agreements for City owned baseball/softball fields for youth softball and baseball programs for the 2021 season.

Motion Doane, second Fox to approve the user agreement between the City of Leslie and Leslie Youth Baseball for the 2021 season through December 31, 2021.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Babin, Doane, Fox, Johnson, Owen, and Mayor Pro Tem Beegle

Noes: None.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion Carried.

- B. Resolution 2021-05 Declaring a Local State of Emergency for the Purpose of Permitting the City Council and Other Public Bodies of the City to Meet by Electronic and Telephonic Means. The ability to meet by electronic and telephonic methods ends March 31, 2021 and will require all public boards to meet in person unless a local declaration of emergency is declared.

Montenegro asked if council could pass the declaration for just one month allowing time to fully prepare the council chambers with Gracon adding a camera and sound bar. Also offering a hybrid version to allow council to meeting in person and other public bodies to meeting virtually. Beegle is ready for council to meeting in person could consider extending virtual meeting one month. Fox wants to go back to regular meetings, its hard to do a meeting not in person. Owen would like to meet in person as it is more productive. Babin agreed with Owen. Doane asked if others could attend electronically. Montenegro yes, if we pass a hybrid version to allow both in person and virtual.

Motion Doane, second Babin to adopt Resolution 2021-05 Declaring a Local State of Emergency for the Purpose of Permitting the City Council and Other Public Bodies of the City to Meet by Electronic and Telephonic Means for the extension of one month only.

Roll call vote:

Ayes: Babin, Doane, and Mayor Pro Tem Beegle

Notes: Fox, Johnson, and Owen.

Absent: None.

Abstain: None.

Motion Failed.

VII. ITEMS OF DISCUSSION:

- A. Introduction and First Reading of Ordinance Amendment No. 222 to Amend Sections of Chapter 19 Medical Marihuana. Set a public hearing on April 20, 2021 to amend Section 19 of the Leslie Code of Ordinances.

Montenegro explained that we have ordinance language for council to consider seeking council's options to fill in the blank of the draft. Grua stated that last month council want to have the discussion regarding the impact of recreational grow operations and retail licenses that have been previously restricted. Grua offered a draft of this ordinance to see what council would like, if council should choose to adopt and opt in to Recreational Marihuana. Grua noted that what you have in front of you is a draft ordinance which

has information to be completed. It is offered for discussion to be completed and offered for the first reading next month.

Grua mentioned that a companion ordinance will need to be considered for special use, zoning changes. Elizabeth Wilbur reviewed the specifics of this draft noting the main question for council will be to provide how many licenses or what limits council wants considered. Wilbur continued to say that the ordinance was drafted with the aspect for just growing but could be changed if council went in a different direction. In order to finalize Wilbur needs to know what the limits are and based on that there might be more we need to discuss.

Montenegro noted that other communities have money coming in from micro businesses. At this point the City of Leslie will receive additional money through the base tax increase and license fees. Beegle questioned Wilbur on what she needs from council, offering that it would be a figure to fill in the blank for each area. Wilbur responded yes. Montenegro noted it could be unlimited so they can stack their licenses and the market would set its own level until it is saturated like we have for medical marihuana. Beegle clarified for the first 3. Would not recommend retail or micro business at this time. Grua stated to dovetail with this ordinance would be zoning, right now the city does not have specific special use permit or zoning updated in this area. There are deed restrictions and covenants in the business park that do not authorize retail establishments. If you chose to approve retail make sure that companion analysis of where you want these facilities to be licensed in the city. Montenegro offered that she would not advocate for retail in the business park. Potentially it could be located in the downtown in B-1 or in highway service B-2. Johnson would like to see unlimited licenses for the grow operation. Fox offered we should not limit the grow licenses. Discussion regarding micro business was inaudible. Grua would caution not to adopt micro business at this time and stick with items on growing. Grua will fill in the ordinance and come back next month.

Beegle clarified that items 4, 5, 7, & 8 will be zero for now. Beegle would like to not limit growth or processing but would like careful consideration for retail and consumption. Owen would like to move forward with allowing the grow. Fox would like to satisfy the growers. Beegle would like to see the recreational grow mirror what we have for medical grow. Beegle would like work sessions to discuss retail at a later date. Knoneburg responded that having unlimited licenses is a step in the right direction. Albrecht's comments were inaudible. Beegle apologized that the chatter was the worst it has ever been. Beegle noted that we will bring this back next month with all the items filled in and we can discuss and make final conclusions. Montenegro clarified that grow and process will be unlimited. Grua clarified that items 4, 5, 6 & 7 will reflect none, and that effect will be the first reading next month with those corrections and all blanks filled in. Wilbur noted with this information that will complete the draft.

- B. and First Reading of Ordinance Amendment No. 223 to Amend Section 98.27 Uses Permitted by Special Use Permit. Set a public hearing on April 20, 2021 to amend Section 98.27a of the Leslie Code of Ordinance.

No action.

VIII. COUNCIL AGENDA:

A. Committee Reports

Johnson reported the pork dinner went well at the legion and thanked the community for their support.

Johnson offered the legion space for alternate use for council meetings should extra space be needed. Grua is reviewing the sign ordinance with Montenegro. Grua preparing for closing with 024 Well. Grua thanked Wilbur for the research and work on the ordinances.

B. Manager's Report

Montenegro is working on updating the sign ordinances and streamlining the site plan review process. Responding to a question from Beegle, Montenegro stated that the railing for the bridge should be installed within a couple of day and then we can do a MDOT closeout.

Next City Council meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

C. Motion to Adjourn.

Motion Johnson, second Doane to adjourn the meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned 7:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Denae Davenport, acting secretary.