

## **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES**

**August 2, 2016**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Abbott called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Abbott opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PRAAYER**

Mayor Abbott introduced Pastor Roels from New Hope Church who led the audience in prayer.

### **ROLL CALL**

Mayor Abbott announced that Clerk Donna Kooyenga was absent with notice, and that Deputy Clerk Vivian Payne would be filling in. Mayor Abbott asked for a roll call. Roll call revealed the following trustees present: Eidam, Kapteyn, Stole, Skrbina, Manno and DeLaurentis.

### **MINUTES**

Mayor Abbott asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the July 19, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting. There were none. Mayor Abbott asked for a roll call and the minutes were accepted as presented.

### **DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

#### **A. Draft Ordinance 16-031 Authorizing the Sale of Personal Property Owned by the Village:**

Mayor Abbott presented draft Ordinance 16-031, which for the sale/auction of particular vehicles and equipment from the airport, fire department and public works department that are no longer useful or necessary to the Village. There were no questions from any Trustees and Mayor Abbott asked that the ordinance be placed on the agenda for the next regular board meeting.

**B. Draft Ordinance 16-032 Amending Chapter 24, Law Enforcement in the Village of Lansing:**

Mayor Abbott presented draft Ordinance 16-032 which amends the wording in Chapter 24 titled *Law Enforcement in the Village of Lansing*. Mayor Abbott explained to the Trustees that Police Chief Murrin would like Commanders Grutzius and Slough both promoted to the rank of Deputy Chief, thus eliminating the rank of Commander. This ordinance would remove the Commander rank from the composition section of Village code. Mayor Abbott stated that the promotions would not come with a pay increase and asked Chief Murrin to further comment on the ordinance amendment. Chief Murrin explained that this change would be common with the structure of surrounding police departments, and it is his hope that a pay increase could be worked out in the future. With no questions from the Trustees, Mayor Abbott asked that the ordinance be placed on the agenda for the next regular board meeting.

**C. Ridge Road Corridor Update:**

Mayor Abbott turned this discussion over to Director of Economic Development, Travis Bandstra. Director Bandstra gave a Power Point presentation on the downtown Ridge Road corridor property vacancies. The presentation highlighted many vacant buildings that are currently unavailable due to issues such as unpaid taxes and how these unavailable properties make up 62% of the vacancies in our downtown district. Also highlighted were several of the available retail spaces, as well as the Economic Development Departments next steps for marketing all of the vacant properties.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Michael Hersom, 3137 - 178<sup>th</sup> Street, Lansing, IL questioned whether owners of vacant retail space have to follow the rules of our Building Department. Director Bandstra explained that they indeed must follow all code enforcement rules, and if owners are not compliant, the Village may step in to remedy a problem and subsequently lien the property to recoup expenses incurred. Mr. Hersom went on to share his concern for vacant properties falling into disrepair.

Pastor Dan Roels, 3643 Lake Street, Lansing, IL asked Director Bandstra if he thought the property vacancy rate decreased due to an improving economy or because of the awesome job Mr. Bandstra is doing. Director Bandstra stated that he must shy away from taking all of the credit and believes it is due to an improved economy as well as the improved investment the Village is making in the downtown area, particularly the Fox Pointe development.

**OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:31 p.m., Mayor Abbott asked for a motion to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Trustee Eidam so moved.

Trustee DeLaurentis seconded.

**ROLL CALL ON MOTION**

Yeas – 6- Trustees: Eidam, DeLaurentis, Kapteyn, Stole, Skrbina, Manno

Nays – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Vivian Payne  
Deputy Village Clerk  
/vp