

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES
August 16, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Abbott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Abbott opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Abbott acknowledged the tragic passing of Russ Oberman, retired police officer and Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals. The Mayor asked for a moment of silence in Russ' honor.

PRESENTATION OF PROPERTY BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Mayor Abbott called upon Economic Development Director Travis Bandstra and Barb Schmittel to present the 2016 Property Beautification awards. Director Bandstra invited homeowners that will be receiving an award to come forward. Director Bandstra explained that the award recipients were chosen from a list of nominees for having beautifully maintained homes and yards, and that they will receive a gift card and certificate. He thanked Clerk Donna Kooyenga, Barb Schmittel and staff for organizing and judging the contest. A slide presentation of each home was shown as the property owners were announced. The following homeowners received awards:

- Victor and Nancy Storino
- Jeanette and Gustavo Fuentes
- Jeannie and Larry McCall
- Jane and Edward Kozinski
- Roberta Coe
- The Bentley Family

MINUTES

Mayor Abbott asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes of the August 2, 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. Façade Grant Request – Jack’s Pub:

Mayor Abbott called upon Director Bandstra to give an overview of proposed work to be done on the façade at Jack’s Pub. Director Bandstra summarized the improvements to be made on the façade, stating that the total cost is about \$69,000 and the grant request is for \$38,525.14. Director Bandstra introduced the owner, Mr. Jeff Kiester. Mr. Kiester briefed the Board on some of the work to be done and welcomed any questions. Trustee DeLaurentis stated that he was happy to see Jack’s was keeping the old sign that was uncovered. Trustee Manno asked if the lights on the sign would blink and Mr. Kiester explained that they will blink, however the pace must be approved by the Village. Mayor Abbott asked that the façade grant approval be placed on the agenda for the next Village board meeting.

B. Retail Presentation – Manheim Solutions:

Mayor Abbott turned the discussion over to Director Bandstra. Director Bandstra explained that back in 2014, the Board and Mayor approved a contract with Manheim Solutions to assist the Economic Development and Planning Department with marketing ideas and additional expertise. He explained that most communities the size of Lansing have anywhere from 4-8 staff members in this particular department and utilizing the services of Manheim Solutions was a way to form a hybrid for our Economic Development and Planning & Zoning departments. Director Bandstra noted that with the assistance of Manheim Solutions, his department has been able to put together a list of 143 prospects that they keep in close contact with, and they attend many International Council of Shopping Center events. Director Bandstra introduced Roger Hopkins of Manheim Solutions, who gave an in-depth presentation of the work they have done. The presentation focused on current market conditions and challenges in Lansing and the Chicago metro area.

C. NPE TIF Agreement:

Mayor Abbott once again turned the discussion over to Director Bandstra, who briefly explained the history of National Pasteurized Eggs. NPE experienced very rapid growth in 2014 and were aggressively pursued by the State of Indiana to relocate at the time. During that time, the Village partnered with NPE to facilitate an expansion here in Lansing, rather than moving to Indiana. They have exceeded their growth projections and have committed to growing in Lansing. Back in 2014, the Village had agreed to share part of the new tax revenue from the TIF that was generated by their expansion. It is now time to process part of the reimbursement. With no questions

from the Board, Mayor Abbott asked that the reimbursement approval be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting.

D. Draft Ordinance 16-033:

Mayor Abbott explained that this Ordinance gives the Lansing Fire Department Paramedics the opportunity to add a third hospital to the paramedic program. The Mayor asked Deputy Chief Mike Tempelman to give a briefing. Deputy Chief Tempelman explained that the Fire Department currently transports patients to Munster Community Hospital and St. Margaret South. Numerous residents have asked to be transported to Franciscan Alliance Hospital in Munster now that they have expanded. Fire Department staff has met with the EMS coordinator at Franciscan and they now meet our criteria. Deputy Chief Tempelman stated that approval of this ordinance will now allow the FD to transport patients to all three hospitals. There were no questions and Mayor Abbott asked that Ordinance 16-033 be placed on next board meeting agenda for approval.

E. Draft Ordinance 16-034:

Mayor Abbott called upon Director Bandstra to give an overview on this ordinance, which grants a Special Use Permit to Unbel LLC for auto/truck sales and rentals at 2109 Bernice Road, Lansing. Director Bandstra explained that the potential new property owner recently appeared before the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals for a Special Use Permit. The property was previously a similar use; however, it needs updating before occupancy. Staff made recommendations for improvements as a condition of granting the Special Use Permit. Trustee Stole questioned Director Bandstra on Section One (5) of the draft ordinance, with regards to the Planning & Zoning Boards recommendation that gravel areas be paved within one year from the date of approval. Trustee Stole asked if the new property owner would be using the gravel areas as part of their operation prior to being paved. Director Bandstra explained that staff had proposed that any unpaved gravel areas not be utilized until they were paved, because it has been an effort of the Village to clean up gravel areas. Director Bandstra also explained that there have been a few instances where someone has occupied a site, but they have blocked off the gravel area and not utilized that particular space until they have had the funds to pave the area. Trustee Stole stated that it would be his recommendation to revise the draft ordinance to provide that the property owner not use any gravel areas as part of the trucking operation until those areas have been paved. The remaining Trustees agreed with Trustee Stole to have the ordinance revised. Director Bandstra summarized the recommendations for property improvement, which include paving the gravel area, installing privacy fencing, and improving the screening, similar to what Peterbilt and Progressive Truck Driving School have done in that corridor. He stated that this is a standard the Village is trying to uphold for the benefit of the homeowners and the entire community. Mayor Abbott asked that the revised ordinance be placed on the agenda for approval at the next board meeting.

F. Draft Ordinance 16-035:

Mayor Abbott once again called upon Director Bandstra to explain this Ordinance. Director Bandstra described how this ordinance will allow the New 2 You re-sale store at 18230 Torrence Avenue to install an electronic sign just below their existing signage on their pole sign, which would be 2 feet tall by 10 feet wide. The revised sign ordinance now requires a Special Use Permit for this type of sign. The Planning and Zoning Board recently gave approval for this Special Use Permit. With no questions, Mayor Abbott asked that Ordinance 16-035 be placed on the next board meeting agenda for approval.

G. Draft Ordinance 16-036:

Mayor Abbott asked Director Bandstra to brief the Board on this ordinance. Director Bandstra stated that staff has been researching the proliferation of e-cigarette usage, as well as a new use called Vape Shops and Hookah Lounges, where folks can try out and partake in smoking flavored tobacco indoors. He gave an overview of the draft ordinance along with some background information.

- April of this year, Board approved an ordinance putting a 4 month moratorium on these type of establishments so staff had time to review.
- Vaping is not considered a tobacco product at the State level.
- State law requires hookah lounges to be in a free-standing building.
- Researched what other towns are doing and also any concerns from the police department.
- None of these establishments are allowed a liquor license.
- Research indicates increased usage in flavored products which attracts younger users.
- Staff is recommending advertising limitations similar to what Village enacted for video gaming; just business name and no additional signage.
- Recommend to adopt language from the state law of 2008, as well as adding vaping and e-cigarettes to the definition of tobacco products.

Trustee Eidam asked Director Bandstra if the Village could restrict these to certain zoning areas. Director Bandstra stated that the Village could put particular zoning restrictions on these lounges, and many towns have already done so. Trustee Eidam asked Director Bandstra if he knew of a nearby community that has zoning restrictions, and Director Bandstra stated that New Lenox has restrictions. Trustee Eidam stated that she would like to see the New Lenox zoning restrictions, and that she does not want this draft ordinance on the next board agenda for approval until further inquiry is done. Mayor Abbott asked that discussion regarding this ordinance be continued to another Committee of the Whole meeting following the research of how several other communities are regulating these type of lounges.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Michael Hersom, 3137 - 178th Street, Lansing, IL – asked several questions and offered suggestions in reference to the Economic Development presentation with regard to traffic counts and converting vacant retail space. Director Bandstra explained to Mr. Hersom that the Village rarely controls the money or ownership of a vacant property, and that his department simply tries to create the environment for matching a potential developer/user with the property owner. There was discussion between Mr. Hersom and Trustee DeLaurentis regarding the nature of Mr. Hersom's questions.

Mr. Bob Malkas, no address given – commented about the unique economic development opportunities at the Lansing Airport and the Joe Orr Road extension.

Mr. Mike Krusza, 195 West 200 South, Valparaiso, Indiana – commented about security at Jack's Pub and thanked the Mayor and Board for all the great things going on in Lansing.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:25 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