

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING MINUTES

February 2, 2016

CALL TO ORDER - Mayor Abbott called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE– Mayor Abbott opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING PRAYER–

ROLL CALL – Mayor Abbott asked for a roll call. Roll call revealed the following trustees present:
Eidam, Kapteyn, Stole, Skrbina, Manno and DeLaurentis.

PRESENTATION OF

MINUTES – Mayor Abbott requested corrections or additions to the minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 18, 2016.

Mayor Abbott asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Trustee Stole so moved.

Trustee Kapteyn seconded.

Mayor Abbott asked for a roll call:

ROLL CALL

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

Nays – 0-Trustees:

Minutes Approved

DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Ordinance 16-005 through 16-008 – Annual Bond Abatements:

Village Treasurer, Arlette Frye, explained the Annual Bond Abatement ordinances are annually presented to the board in order to abate the taxes that would be levied to pay the bonds.

Ms. Frye continued explaining that the county is given a schedule indicating the amount to be levied in order to have sufficient funds to pay the bonds. It is the

village's decision to abate those taxes with funds from other sources to pay the bonds. Ms. Frye further explained there is a total of four bonds; three village bonds and one library bond. The village bonds are funded from MFT and the general fund, and the Library bonds from the Library.

Mayor Abbott indicated Ordinances 16-005 – 16-008 will be included on the February 16th Board Meeting.

B. Planning & Zoning Board of Appeals Reappointments & New Appointments:

Mayor Abbott explained to the Board that he has removed one of his Planning & Zoning Board appointments, Melanie Jongsma, from the memo received in their board packets.

Mayor Abbott announced that George McNamara and Jerry Kern have been serving on the Planning & Zoning Board, and now as their terms are expiring, they have decided to step down. Commissioners Cathy Hallow, Paul Nowicki and Steve Kasper have agreed to continue their service and be reappointed.

Mayor Abbott explained he will only be appointing, Mr. Saad Abbasy, at this time. Mayor Abbott asked for the Board's approval to appoint Mr. Saad Abbasy, and in addition, asked if the Board had any comments or questions.

Trustee DeLaurentis indicated his agreement with reappointing of the three Commissioners, however, he does not want to hire the additional person for Planning & Zoning. Trustee DeLaurentis prefers to wait for the next administration to appoint additional Commissioners.

An exchange of opinions, discussions and comments regarding mayoral P & Z candidates, departmental and commission vacancies ensued between Trustee DeLaurentis, Trustee Eidam and Mayor Abbott.

Mayor Abbott stated the Planning & Zoning Board of Appeals appointments and re-appointments will be included on the Agenda for the next Regular Board Meeting.

C. Trustee, Mayor & Administrator Salaries:

Mayor Abbott referred to a copy of the recent survey conducted by SSMMA (South Suburban Mayors & Managers Association) that was included in the Trustee packets. He explained the intent of the handout was to compare the salaries of Lansing's Mayor and Trustees to those of surrounding communities.

Trustee Eidam distributed and read her findings of the 23 communities she obtained through FOIA requests. Trustees Eidam indicated her findings were more detailed and is of the opinion that no communities are comparable to Lansing.

Trustee Stole shared his views regarding the Mayor's salary, the Administrator position and the benefit of moving forward in a democratic way.

Trustee DeLaurentis announced that he is not running for Mayor in the next Village of Lansing election.

D. Vacation of Alley at 17900 Harper Avenue

Director of Economic Development, Travis Bandstra, presented Mr. Piekarski's request that the village vacate an alley at 17900 Harper Avenue. By vacating the alley, it would allow Mr. Piekarski some options that would be beneficial to his business that is located adjacent to the alley. Mr. Bandstra explained that he has been conferring with the Village Engineer, Mr. Jeff Pintar and Building Commissioner, Mr. T.J. Grossi to discuss the details of the vacation.

Questions concerning ComEd's utility rights, entrance & egress issues, public access, lot lines, certainty that building on the property is permissible, and identification of pin numbers were addressed.

Mr. Bandstra explained he would not suggest placing the alley vacation on the Agenda until the final plat is completed and all unknowns and questions are fully answered. He plans to continue to communicate with ComEd and Mr. Peikarski, and inform the Board when all information is obtained and ready to be further discussed and presented to the Board.

E. Purchase of Public Works Equipment:

Mayor Abbott stated Jim Nickias has undertaken the Public Works project of obtaining quotes for the purchase of a backhoe/loader and a front loader. Mr. Nickias and several other Public Works employees visited three vendors and have determined the CASE equipment would best suit their needs.

Trustees agreed with Mayor Abbott's suggestion to place the purchase of the Public Works equipment on the next Regular Board meetings agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT–

Melanie Jongsma, 18649 Villa Court, Lansing, IL expressed her disappointment in her name being removed from the appointment to the Planning & Zoning board, questioned the allowance of democracy and expressed her willingness to serve.

Mike Gaffney, 17142 Grant Street, Lansing, IL suggested the opening of village reappointments and commissions to the entire village.

Mary Beth Palka, 2030 Hearth Circle, Lansing, IL spoke regarding the value of younger residents serving on boards and commissions, her support of the commissioner candidate appointment, opinion regarding the administrator position and financial decisions.

Michael Hersom, 3137 178th Street, Lansing, IL praised the addition of Public Comments to the Committee of the Whole meetings, requested cost of the Public Works equipment purchase, questioned process of appointments selection, commented on the process of vacating of streets and the relationship of administration salaries to budgeted amounts.

Saad Abbasy, 2201 182nd Street, Lansing, IL stated his desire to serve as a Planning & Zoning Commissioner and shared his experience in volunteering, assisting and leading in local organizations and groups. He shared his interest and service as a Commissioner on the Planning & Zoning Board is not a political move.

Maureen Grady Perovich, 17150 Wentworth Avenue, Lansing, IL shared her past experience while serving on the Police & Fire Commission and indicated the importance in having a full commission. She shared the commission's duty is not only limited to hiring, however, many additional tasks are undertaken.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS - There was none.

ADJOURNMENT—

At 8:44 p.m., Mayor Abbott asked for a motion to adjourn the Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Trustee Stole so moved.

Trustee Kapteyn seconded.

ROLL CALL ON MOTION—

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

Nays - 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Kooyenga
Lansing Village Clerk
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