LAKE ANGELUS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

MAY 12, 2015

Present: Mayor, Patrick McNew; Councilmembers Jon Cabot, Chuck Poploskie, Dan Jenaras, Dennis Mitchell; Treasurer, Julie Frakes; Attorney, Dan Christ; Police Chief, Jim Prosser; Building Official, Brian Oppmann; Planning Commission Chair, Bob Bailey; Clerk, Rosalie Lake

Visitors: Jim Howlett, Bill John, Jeff Baker, Heidi Hoyles, Pierre and Donna Beaudet, Jim Cortez

Mayor McNew opened the meeting at 7 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Minutes of April 14, 2015 were approved as corrected.

Comments from Residents: Pierre and Donna Beaudet described the scene on Gray Woods Lane created by an oversized truck bringing materials to a construction site. The truck was unable to make a turn and the road was blocked for a considerable time with damage to some properties at the edge of the road. The road has been blocked on other occasions, as well. Chief Prosser met with the trucker and indicated that the builder was cooperative. The Beaudets felt that a sign needed to be place at the entrance to Gray Woods Lane with language regarding size and weight that the road could accommodate. Bob Bailey suggested prohibiting multi-axel trucks. Large trucks have unloaded before the entrance to Gray Woods in the past. Gray Woods is a private road and the City cannot take action on the road. Dr. Cabot supported the residents of the Lane in whatever solutions they tried. Dr. Beaudet felt that the builder wished to cooperate and may be helpful in recommending language for the sign or placing language on his invoice.

Mayor McNew inquired of former Mayor Beaudet whether he had any thoughts on the Sinking Bridge Drain. Dr. Beaudet remembered at least three meetings with Bill Lembke regarding the drain and everyone agreed that the construction was incorrectly implemented. Mr. Lembke knew that and was concerned about it. Jim Howlett noted that the drain was supposed to be designed to flow from west to east and that, in fact, it flows from east to west. He felt it was a concern, given the development planned for the east side of Baldwin. Attorney Christ recommended that the City acquire all of the information that exists on the Drain as there may be an exacerbation of the water flow with the development project. The developer may not know about the drain, although, Auburn Hills and the developer might possibly desire the drainage go east to west. Mr. McNew noted that storm run-off will ultimately go to the Drain and will impact City property, as it already has. Mr. Howlett felt that the development needs to be stopped until the drain issue is resolved. Mr. Christ indicated that the City can direct that a lawsuit be explored and possibly filed. The history of the situation is needed from the Water Resource Commission. The RCOC says that it is a WRC issue. Mr. McNew felt that the City needed to take action as soon as possible. He favored filing a lawsuit. Brian Oppmann indicated that it may take several months to get all of the permits so that they can move forward. Developers get preliminary permits early in the process. The Auburn Hills Planning Commission may say that it has been approved by the City Council, but it
is hard to know where they stand with permits. Mr. Christ noted that the City should be prepared and obtain all information possible on the construction and problems with the drain. Dr. Cabot agreed that that information will dictate what the time frame should be. Dr. Jenaras felt we should look at the drain on both sides of Baldwin. Mr. Oppmann indicated that GPS could tell how the drain is working. Councilmember Cabot moved to direct the City’s legal council to research all information to make an informed decision. Councilmember Jenaras seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A joint meeting of the Council and Planning Commission was proposed to review procedures and a priority list of ordinances. Bob Bailey suggested including a review of the Master Plan. Everyone seemed in favor. Jeff Baker hoped it would be an open meeting that residents could attend, as well. A date will be set later.

The use of the listserv was discussed. A bulletin board option is a possibility. Bob Bailey felt the listserv was self-policing and Jeff Baker agreed that it is best not to over-administer the listserv. The community, itself, can maintain the use policies.

The speed limit on gravel roads is 55 mph and is concerning to many residents. Mr. Baker wondered if the road could be declared a natural beauty road. Mr. Howlett indicated that the City had tried and failed to accomplish this declaration in the past. Mr. Baker was willing to look into it again. Mr. McNew suggested a sign on Baldwin limiting hours of turning off Baldwin onto Gallogly. Considerably more traffic may be expected with new development along Baldwin. It is RCOC that regulates signage on County roads.

Chief Prosser gave the Department report for the month of April. The new police vehicle is waiting for its equipment, but the Department should have it by the end of May. The police boat should be on the water next week. Mr. Baker noted loud music on the Lake which, he acknowledged, was a hard problem to solve. The Chief has filed the Paradigm pipeline questionnaire. The lake level stands at 949.9’.

Building Official, Brian Oppmann, reported that Forrest Milzow’s house plans for renovation of 2380 Lake Angelus Lane will be reviewed at the next Planning Commission meeting on May 26th. The Planning Commission met prior to this Council meeting to review the portico at the Webbers on N. Lake Angelus Road. It was approved. The Greenlees are replacing the seawall. They are working on landscaping on the property. There are serious erosion problems due to planting on the hillside having been removed. They are not changing their access to the Lake, but they do want to refurbish the boathouse and create a firepit area. Jim Cortez indicated that he is having an engineering firm look at the bridge to the island.

Clerk, Rosalie Lake, reported on the May 5th Special Election. 161 residents cast ballots. Both proposals were defeated in the Lake Angelus precinct. As always, a group of generous neighbors processed the election with great care and good conversation. NoHaz collections will be held on May 16 at Oxford Middle School and on June 6 at Oakland University. Representatives for LA will be Mike Daniels in Oxford and Ms. Lake at OU.
City Property: Councilmember Poploskie moved to approve $1200 for a backboard for the City tennis courts as requested by residents who use the courts. Councilmember Cabot seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Poploskie identified fence repair needed along Baldwin. The cost should be under $500. Three trees need to be removed on City Hall property. $2000 from Major Road Funds for Berm improvement can be used for this purpose and should be spent before June 30th. An arborist will be consulted about a new tree that is disease resistant. There are a few items at the Barn that should be considered for preventive maintenance, windows, roof repair. These can be considered in next year’s budget.

Treasurer, Julie Frakes, presented the financial reports for the month of April. She reviewed the warrants noting the 2nd quarter payment to the Fire Department. The Balance Sheet is $107,000 above last year, but the weed control payment is still to come. The Profit and Loss shows a target of 83.3% and an actual of 76.7%. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the financial reports noting those warrants above $500. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Frakes reported that two CDs will mature in July. The 2016 tax year has begun. She still does not have escrow money from the Webber family.

Mrs. Frakes reviewed all individual budgets in the Recommended Amended Budget to determine whether further adjustment should be made. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the 2014/2015 Recommended Amended Budget. Councilmember Jenaras seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Frakes presented a Tax Rate History. In 2013, the City tax rate was 10.1588 mills. In 2014, it was raised to 11.475 mills to generate funding for lake weed treatment. The current maximum allowed rate with a public hearing is 12.0663 mills. The proposed rate to support the proposed budget presented at this meeting was 10.9 mills. The Proposed Budget for 2015/2016 was reviewed by Mrs. Frakes. The total revenue expectation is $815,906. There was a discussion of the addition of funds for potential legal action. The Budget will come back for final review at the June meeting.

Environmental Board: Councilmember Mitchell will be sending notices by mail to all residents next week regarding the weed treatment schedule and the requirements for water use. The treatment is scheduled to occur on June 2nd. Jennifer of Restorative Lake Sciences will be present at the treatment performed by Aqua Weed.

Councilmember Cabot moved to extend the meeting by 5 minutes. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Waterford Regional Fire Department has a new Chief. Councilmember Mitchell will set up a meeting with him.
Attorney, Dan Christ, has received sketchy documents from Auburn Hills regarding the development at Collier and Baldwin Roads. He will move quickly on the request of Council to research filing a lawsuit to delay the project until the Sinking Bridge Drain issues have been identified and resolved.

There being no further business, Councilmember Cabot moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 PM. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 9, 2015 at 7 PM.

Approved: 

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick McNew, Mayor

Rosalie Lake, Clerk