LAKE ANGELUS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Present: Mayor, Lee McNew; Councilmembers Jon Cabot, Chuck Poploskie, and Dan Jenaras; Treasurer, Julie Frakes; Attorney, Dan Christ; Police Chief, Jim Prosser; Building Official, Brian Oppmann; Clerk, Rosalie Lake
Absent: Councilmember David Haines; Road Administrator Karl Storrie
Visitors: Jim Howlett, Rick and Julie Barnes, Jim Cortez, Eileen Gage, Lou Tannehill

Mayor McNew opened the meeting at 7pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. The Minutes of the meeting of January 8, 2013 were approved as submitted. Councilmember Poploskie moved to amend the agenda to allow the Police Department report to be heard before the discussion on weed control. Councilmember Cabot seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief, Jim Prosser, gave the Department report. Sergeant Kevin McDaniel was honored with an award from Advantage Oakland presented by County Executive Patterson. The Department received a “satisfactory” LEIN Audit Report in all areas reviewed. The Chief explained the audit and the Department’s full administrative compliance.
Trees and wires were down after a recent windstorm. Residents should know that the LAPD can call DTE, but they have no influence in getting work done. If a downed tree is involved with electrical wires, the police will not touch it.

Discussion of weed proposal and funding:
Attorney Christ described the timelines for two ways to acquire funding. A Special Assessment could be accomplished in a couple of months, determining the scope and cost of the project, holding public hearings, preparing and confirming a special assessment roll. To approach the funding through a millage increase, the City would use one of the four State approved election dates, November 2013 being the next regularly scheduled election. If the millage question were to appear on the November ballot and be approved by the voters, the millage would be levied in July of 2014. Treasurer Frakes indicated that 2 mills, at the 2012 taxable value, would produce approximately $130,000. She felt that the City’s reserve funds could cover weed treatment for the summer of 2013. Councilmember Cabot discussed pros and cons of the two methods. With a special assessment, costs would be spread more evenly. However, there are various ways that the Assessor might determine assessments, disgruntling some residents and possibly provoking challenges. A millage increase is straightforward, but not more evenly distributed.
The Charter allows the City to approve a special assessment for improvements. Weed control is a maintenance issue. Mayor McNew noted that the City has not raised taxes in a very long time. Rosalie Lake worried about the loss of reserve funds if the millage does not pass and the weed project cannot continue. Others felt that most residents would support the millage for this purpose. Rick Barnes had not noticed the weeds being a problem until the last couple of years and wondered how we know what will occur in future years. Mr. Christ indicated that the City does not have to levy the millage unless it needs to. Dr. Cabot acknowledged that weed growth is occurring in lakes everywhere and all information is that it is accelerating. Harvesting the biomass of weeds removes it from the lake. There is a general feeling against herbiciding.
Dr. Jenaras pointed out that the weeds were not cut down six feet last year. The City may not have gotten its money’s worth last year and costs have gone up and up. The bidding process should be undertaken again. Jim Howlett felt that millage is the right choice to raise the funds. Propose to increase the millage to the allowable limit, then leave it to the taxpayers to decide. Councilmember Cabot moved to pursue raising the millage ceiling to the allowable limit, adding 2 mills by Headlee override, and to prepare ballot language for November 2013 to accomplish this. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Christ noted that looking toward the November election removes the urgency, deadlines and costs of an earlier election date. He will prepare ballot language.

Clerk’s Report: Assessor Burton’s report was received. The letter from Gretchen Hurlbert to residents regarding security of the website was well received. Collection dates for the 2013 NoHaz program are May 4, June 15, September 7, and September 28th. Gretchen Hurlbert, the City’s representative on the NoHaz Advisory Board with Oakland County, will place information for residents in the ‘Angelus’ and on the listserv. RCOC wishes to hold a strategic planning meeting with officials of Lake Angelus and neighboring communities. The Planning Commission will meet on February 19th. A schedule of regular monthly meetings will be determined as an increase in activity requires more frequent consideration.

Fire Committee: The Clerk reported that the 2nd Amendment to the Fire Contract was mailed to the County Clerk and Secretary of State on December 28, 2012 by the Waterford Township Clerk. Councilmember Haines advised the Council that the next meeting of the Committee will need to be held in April. Jim Cortez is important to the meeting and will not be able to attend until that time. Mr. Christ will advise the Waterford attorney.

Building and Permits: Building Official, Brian Oppmann, will present three building projects at the Planning Commission meeting on February 19th. An addition and remodeling at 2298 Private Drive will briefly be reviewed, but will need to be brought to the Zoning Board of Appeals for variance consideration before being reviewed for approval by the PC. Dr. Cabot had spoken to the architect and explained that there are set criteria for variance approvals and advised him to prepare accordingly for the ZBA meeting. An addition above a garage at 2459 N. Lake Angelus Road will seek approval. A post-construction retaining wall at 543 Gray Woods Lane requests approval. Mr. Oppmann is working with the Chases on a landscape plan. Approval may not be required for what they are planning near the shoreline. Both Mr. Oppmann and Mr. Christ indicated that they have received a number of calls regarding the Mrsan property. Mrs. Frakes noted that bonds need to be released for the Welsh and Wegrzyn projects.

City Property: Jim Cortez is the GIS representative for Lake Angelus. He felt that Brian Oppmann might be better able to serve in this capacity for the City and Mr. Oppmann is willing to become the BAS (Digital Boundary and Annexation Survey) representative for the City. There would be a savings of $400. Mr. Cortez does not use the printer provided for this work as he can obtain from the County all that the printer might be needed for, and the ink to maintain it is expensive. He suggested offering it in the Angelus to anyone who can use it. Councilmember
Cabot moved to transfer the GIS/BAS representation for the City to Brian Oppmann. Councilmember Jenaras seconded. Motion carried unanimously. At this time the City has no issues with the boundary Survey.

Treasurer, Julie Frakes, presented her report reviewing the January warrants over $500.

#18317 to Code Enforcement for $1170  #18318 to Code Enforcement for $510
#18319 to Code Enforcement for $850  #18320 to Waterford Fire for $52,500
#18327 to Voyager Fleet for $804.06  #18328 to OC Clemis for $554.50
#18330 to Hafeli, Statan for $2785.60  #18350 to OC Sheriff for $1803
#18352 to Sheridan Books for $1084

The balance sheet for January 2013 was reviewed. The budget target was 58.3% and the actual was 69.9%. Income is down $43,000 from last year. A CD is currently maturing at Flagstar Bank. Mrs. Frakes recommended renewing at .55% for 1 year. Councilmember Cabot moved to renew at this rate. Councilmember Jenaras seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Two Summer tax payments are still outstanding. Winter tax payments are due on February 14th without penalty.

Mrs. Frakes requested $138 for new Quickbooks software. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the expenditure. Councilmember Jenaras seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Governor Snyder is considering discontinuing road funds to communities that technically have no roads. Mrs. Frakes will contact Rep. Gail Haines office about this.

The Mayor and Treasurer Frakes received letters from a plaintiff’s attorney regarding a consent judgment with the Pontiac School District requiring residents in the District to assume responsibility for debts of the District. Attorney Christ spoke with the Oakland County Equalization Department that is still trying to divide the amount between communities. Although there is not a final judgment in the matter, Oakland County will notify the City of equalization findings.

Environmental Board: A meeting was held with Hubble, Roth and Clark regarding a bid for a sewer and water system feasibility study. Environmental Board Chair, Linda Daniels, was to have met with Orchard Lake personnel regarding weed harvesting.

There being no further business, Councilmember Cabot moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30pm. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 12 at 7pm.

Approved:             Respectfully submitted,

Lee McNew, Mayor

Rosalie Lake, Clerk