LAKE ANGELUS CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 11, 2014

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

Visitors: The Honorable Lee McNew; Jim Howlett, Chris Cortez, Mitch and Starr Foster, Linda Daniels, Bill Schimpke

Mayor McNew called the meeting to order at 7 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2014 were approved as submitted.

Councilmember, Jon Cabot, made a gracious presentation to retiring Mayor, Lee McNew, acknowledging her service to the City for sixteen years as a Councilmember, six of those years as Mayor. Particular note was made of her focus on the preservation of the history of the City in the publishing of the history books and the restoration of City Hall. Sincere applause ensued and photos were taken for the ‘Angelus’.

Mayor Patrick McNew indicated that he had received several comments from residents by mail or email. Jean Kantrowitz had written to the Road Commission regarding snow removal that blocked the entrance to her driveway. She hoped that an additional person could be employed to clear the snow left in the wake of plowing to allow access to residents and emergency vehicles. Gretchen Hurlbert had forwarded a notice to residents to give aid to the fire department in locating snowbound fire hydrants.

A resident wrote about a bright light on a home that was disturbing. The City has a lighting ordinance that can be the authority for action if a neighbor to neighbor call does not suffice. A silence was held for the passing of Gabor Foltenyi, the father of Nicolette Jenaras.

Police Chief, Jim Prosser, gave the Department report. Skywarn is a service of the U.S. Weather Service to warn of severe weather approaching. The Reserve Officers will undergo training in the use of this service on March 23rd. The Department had recently held an appreciation dinner for the Reserve Officers. The Chief is arranging CPR training for officers on February 19 and March 19 (tentative dates) which will be held at City Hall. All Police Chiefs in the County attended an Oakland County evacuation plan meeting recently. The Chief had not received confirmation as yet on the grant reimbursement payment for the officers’ Kevlar vests.

Building and Permits: Building Official, Brian Oppmann, reported that all current escrow payments have been received. Tom Gitter, 816 Lake Angelus Shores, will submit plans for the Planning Commission meeting in February. Plans have been received for the Webber residence (formerly Shea) at 2465 N. Lake Angelus Road for a pool. The Knysz Jr. residence on N. Lake Angelus Road is still under evaluation and will be a multi-year project. Mr. Oppmann has spoken with Jim Cortez regarding the remodeling of the residence at 2050 Lake Angelus Shores (formerly Eldridge). The Oakland County Water Resources Board has withdrawn a map which included questionable data.
Clerk’s Report: The Clerk reported that the Board of Review will hold its meetings on March 12th and March 15th. The schedule will be published so that appointments may be made. Ray Siwiec’s term on the Board of Review expired in 2013 and he is willing to continue. The Mayor requested that the Council approve his appointment. Councilmember Cabot moved to appoint Ray Siwiec to the Board of Review. Councilmember Jenaras seconded. Motion carried unanimously. After the appointment of Linda Burton as the City Assessor, as permitted by Charter revision, Jackie Dauw has stepped down from the Board of Review. She has held the Assessors position in name for 22 years. The Council has not received Assessor, Linda Burton’s report in several months. Mayor McNew asked the Council to approve two new appointments to the Environmental Board, Ursula Froehlich and Natalie Forte. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the appointments. Councilmember Jenaras seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The annual appointment of the Road Commissioner will be taken up at the next meeting. Clerk Lake had provided a copy of the Election Services Agreement between the City and Oakland County for councilmembers and Attorney Christ to review prior to the meeting. Ms. Lake encouraged approval as election services have been very well provided under the past agreement. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the Agreement with Oakland County for election services. Councilmember Jenaras seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Planning Commission Chair, Bob Bailey, introduced three zoning ordinances that the Commission has been working on for some time. Public hearings have been held and the Commission recommended them for approval by the Council. Ordinance 1242.04(e)(2), the addition of (K), refers to site plan review. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Mitchell seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Ordinance 1248.05, revisions to (c) and (f) regarding grading. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Mitchell seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Ordinance 1258.08, signage removal requirement. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the ordinance. Councilmember Jenaras seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The ordinances will be published this week. Ordinances #121 through #132 will be sent to American Legal for publishing on the website and in paper copy.

Treasurer, Julie Frakes, presented the financial reports for January. The warrants reflected three payrolls. Among larger expenditures was a payment to the Waterford Fire Department. The budget target for January was 58.3% and the Actual was 63.2%. Revisions to the budget will be made in May. The Balance Sheet is $25,000 ahead of last year. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the financial reports, noting those warrants over $500. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Frakes recommended getting three bids on the road project from the Police Station to N. Lake Angelus Road being explored by Road Commissioner, Karl Storrie.
Oakland County is upgrading its assessment and tax services which will become web based. Training will be required to use the new services. There is a deficit of a little over $1000 in the Building Department. The budget process will begin with worksheets next month.

Environmental Board: Chair, Lee Embrey III, reported that the Board had met to discuss whether to harvest or herbicide the weeds in the Lake this coming season. He asked councilmembers to familiarize themselves with Eurasian Milfoil with information from the internet. The Board discussed herbiciding as a number of members felt it was the only way to solve the Milfoil problem. Although the Board will hold another meeting in February, the Board asked the Council to approve the fee of $1500 to apply by February 15th for the required permit to treat over 125 acres. Councilmember Cabot noted that last year there was great support for harvesting, and this year herbiciding is recommended. Mr. Embrey responded that the research shows that herbiciding is the only answer for Milfoil. Dr. Cabot added that whatever is done or not done, there is a ripple effect. It is known what will happen if nothing is done; harvesting will spread the plant; and future issues, such as resistance and replacement, are unknown with herbiciding. Mr. Embrey indicated that Milfoil is killing fish spawning grounds. The last time herbiciding was done, it was done at the wrong time of year.

The pros and cons of harvesting and herbiciding were discussed. Harvesting removes biomass from the Lake. Bob Bailey remarked that it does not introduce poisons into the Lake. However, better clean-up is needed, the dock at the boat launch would need to be moved, and the process is more labor intensive. Bill Schimpke showed photos of large amounts of debris at his beach. He felt that the Lake is completely different now and harvesting once or twice a year will not be even enough. In favor of herbiciding, Mr. Embrey noted that there is no mess and no machines on the Lake year after year. The problem would be reduced each year by herbicide, although it will take several years to catch up with the growth. The chemical recommended has been approved by many organizations. The restriction on irrigation is 7 to 14 days. The chemical would be put on in late May. The company would give a performance guarantee. Dennis Mitchell indicated that herbiciding would really be a three year program. The cost may be less than harvesting. Acreage should reduce each year. The company treats many lakes in this area. Dr. Schimpke had not heard of harms associated with herbiciding, but was dismayed at the mass of bad smelling harvested cuttings that have to be dealt with daily to enjoy the lakefront. Mr. Bailey was worried about long-term effects. Some lakes have had to reintroduce plants after ten years. Mr. Embrey said that the company had been herbiciding for 23 years. It is a problem in every lake in the country. Linda Daniels worried about eliminating a species that then encourages other species, such as Starry Stonewart, to move in. She felt the long-term health of the Lake needs to be protected with a sewer system.

Dr. Cabot proposed to send the discussion back to the Environmental Board for a meeting open to all residents and moved to approve $1500 to apply to the DEQ by the deadline for a permit for herbiciding. Mr. Mitchell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Linda Daniels discussed the goose egg destruction program used by the City in prior years. Goose Busters requires a resolution by the Council and will provide a contract. Councilmember Cabot moved to reauthorize the program by resolution as has been done in the past. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Daniels shared an email from Don Clapham and Gary Baum regarding the Shores Road sewer project. Dr. Cabot noted that everyone who would be participating in the project must
understand what the responsibilities and expenses would be. Mayor McNew read a statement from Randy Ford of Hubble Roth and Clark regarding potential costs. He, also, inquired about the issue of financing. Attorney Christ felt it was not too early to discuss financing with a bond counselor. Dr. Cabot felt that the City needs to help the project along if the residents involved want to have it done. When Mr. Baum and Mr. Clapham come to the meeting in March, they should bring particular information that would be included in a survey.

Councilmember Cabot moved to extend the meeting by five minutes. Councilmember Mitchell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor McNew and Councilmember Mitchell met with the Waterford Township (Regional) Fire Chief. They discussed the City’s desire to receive an annual report from the Department. The Chief will attend a Council meeting soon. Mr. Mitchell also met with former Councilmember David Haines regarding the Fourth of July fireworks. Dr. Haines has turned the management of the program over to Mr. Mitchell.

There being no further business, Councilmember Cabot moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 PM. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on March 11, 2014 at 7 PM.

Approved: Respectfully submitted,

Patrick McNew, Mayor Rosalie Lake, Clerk