Present: Mayor, Lee McNew; Councilmembers Chuck Poploskie, Dan Jenaras, Jon Cabot, and David Haines; Attorney, Dan Christ; Treasurer, Julie Frakes; Police Chief, Jim Prosser; Building Official, Brian Oppmann; Clerk, Rosalie Lake
Absent: Road Commissioner, Karl Storrie
Visitors: Jim Howlett, Officer Don McLellan, Hugh Miller

Mayor McNew opened the meeting at 7:02 with the Pledge of Allegiance.
The Minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2012 were approved as submitted.
Councilmember Cabot moved to place the Police Department report before the discussion on weed control on the agenda. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.
Mayor McNew presented a request for support for the Waterford Fire Department’s application for a State grant. Councilmember Haines moved to support the Department’s application with a letter stating such from Mayor McNew. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Clerk will prepare the letter for the Mayor’s signature.

Police Chief, Jim Prosser, reviewed the Department report for the month of December. The Chief was asked about Reserve participation. The number of reserves has increased as the Chief plans to have two officers serving in the police boat at any time. Most Reserve Officers want to work about once a month in this capacity, so more are needed to cover the number of shifts. The water pressure/well issues will be dealt with the spring.
The Police Department is being audited again. This is supposed to happen every three years. Every correction required at the last audit has been made. The audit is scheduled for February 7. All records will be reviewed. There may be increased officer hours required to accomplish this.
Officer McLellan reported on the Emergency Plan related to persons with special needs. Reserve officers would help to serve those residents needing special consideration during an emergency. A training on windshield assessment is planned in March for the Reserves. Residents may be able to participate.
Chief Prosser and Officer McLellan thanked the Council for the Holiday gifts to the Officers.

Discussion of Funding for Weed Control: In reference to a millage increase, Treasurer Frakes showed the impact of a 2 mill increase of the City rate on the overall tax rate. For most residents it would amount to a 6-7% increase.
Attorney Christ described the provisions of the Special Assessment ordinance. All properties need to be benefitted by a special assessment. He indicated that a host of challenges could possibly arise. The Assessor determines a special assessment roll as she perceives it. A public hearing would be held. The assessment roll might need to be tweaked, if necessary, and may be subject to challenge. The Circuit Court may become involved if it was thought that assessments were not equitable. Mr. Christ acknowledged that some uncertainty exists in the special assessment process. An increase in the millage goes directly to the voters. If it is approved, it is spread across properties according to the taxable value. Mr. Christ did not think that there was one right answer, as there were pros and cons in each approach.
Dr. Haines expressed concern about equity in the method of funding. Jim Howlett felt the City would open a can of worms in trying to be fair to everyone in raising the needed funds by special assessment. He felt that doing it by taxable value was straight forward and that everyone would understand it. Dr. Jenaras noted that money raised by special assessment would go directly for the named project. Millage income could go for anything. Mrs. McNew acknowledged the urgency of the situation. Mr. Christ indicated that there is money in reserve to get through 2013. He discussed the process of getting a millage request on the ballot and the timetable for doing so. Mrs. Frakes noted that if the millage request is on the November 2013 ballot and it is successful, money would be available in August of 2014. If a special election were to be held in May 2013, the funds still would not be available in the summer of 2013. Mr. Christ noted that a special assessment could be initiated at any time by Council or citizens. Mrs. Frakes noted that money invested at the County, approximately $220,000, and the CD maturing next month for $200,000 could bridge the gap until tax funds would be available.

Dr. Cabot proposed initiating steps to increase the millage. Mr. Christ will bring language back to the Council to increase by 2 mills. Mrs. Frakes noted that the millage will raise less in future years looking toward an increase in taxable value, some of which will go to the County. Dr. Haines asked Mrs. Frakes and Mr. Christ to prepare a timeline for the availability of the funds. Mr. Christ indicated that the City could manage with reserve funds until funds from the millage are available.

Hugh Miller noted that the City needs to think about what to do about the Lake to curtail weeds as well what to do about funding to curtail weeds. Although the Environmental Board is working on this, there is no way to know for sure that what is done will work. Mr. Christ responded that money does not have to be spent and the millage does not have to be levied if the weed problem disappears.

Dr. Cabot wished to get the ball rolling for the millage. Dr. Jenaras felt that the special assessment might be a better way to go. If there is no possibility of achieving the millage in time for the December 2013 tax bill, then there is no urgency.

Dr. Haines asked whether the City is forever bound to the assignment of school districts. Mr. Christ replied that school boundaries can be moved, but districts would put up a huge fight.

Planning Commission, Environmental Board and Board of Review appointments:
Two terms on the Planning Commission expired on December 31st, those of Gary Parlove and Carl Messer. Mr. Messer has resigned his position. Councilmember Haines moved to reappoint Mr. Parlove and to appoint Bill John to the PC. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Continuing members of the PC are Bob Bailey (Chair), Chuck Poploskie (Council liaison), Dale DeLorge, Heidi Hoyles and Jim Cortez.

Three terms on the Environmental Board expired, those of Doug Chartrand, Jim Hibbard and Lee Embrey, Jr. Mr. Chartrand retired from the Board. Councilmember Haines moved to reappoint Mr. Hibbard and Mr. Embrey, leaving the third seat open for now. Councilmember Jenaras seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Continuing members of the Board are Linda Daniels (Chair), Jon Cabot (Council liaison), Bob Bailey, Bruce Kresge, Lee Embrey III, Anne Cusmano, Dennis Mitchell, David Powell, and John Schimpke.

One term on the Board of Review expired, that of Pat Schimpke. Councilmember Haines moved to reappoint Mrs. Schimpke. Councilmember Jenaras seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Continuing members on the Board are Ray Siwiec (Chair), Lee Embrey III and Deputy Assessor, Jackie Dauw.
Clerk’s Report;
There was no report from Assessor, Linda Burton.
Ms. Lake informed the Council that the letter from copyright holder, Martha Hodge, granting the City permission to reprint the Blue Book was outdated and would need to be renewed before printing. She had requested a new letter from Miss Hodge and, as soon as its provisions were known, the number of copies to be printed could be determined. Councilmember Cabot moved to amend last month’s motion regarding the printing to indicate that the Council approves $2200 for as many copies as can be printed for that amount. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Resident Comments: Dr. Cabot introduced Joe and Cheryl Hilger who have purchased the former Hammond home on Lake Angelus Shores. Mr. Hilger described weed issues in lakes that he had observed elsewhere.

Building and Permits: Building Official, Brian Oppmann, indicated that he expected plans from two residents to be submitted within the next weeks, at which time a Planning Commission meeting will need to be scheduled. He knew that one of these will require a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals. There are a number of other issues on the PC agenda in relation to ordinance considerations: boathouses, lot splits, lighting, front yard setbacks. A check has been received for the Chase escrow account.

City Property: Councilmember Poploskie was seeking bids for the repair of the Barn roof. Jerry Compagnoni may be interested in clearing downed trees for firewood.

Treasurer, Julie Frakes, presented the financial reports reviewing the warrants and the balance sheet. She discussed the sources of income. Income is down $23,000 from last year. A CD is maturing next month and a decision will need to be made about where to invest these funds. Mrs. Frakes reviewed all of the funds and provided recommended adjustments where they needed to be considered. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the Treasurers report noting warrants over $500. Councilmember Jenaras seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#18263 to Voyager Fleet for $821.44  #18264 to Linda Burton for $1061
#18266 to Code Enforcement for $2500  #18267 to Hafeli, Staran for $1949.22
#18274 to Lee McNew for $1550  #18292 to OC Sheriff for $1803
#18294 to Code Enforcement for $1170  #18296 to Rosalie Lake for $622.29
Mrs. Frakes indicated that W-2 reports have been completed. Three summer tax bills remain unpaid. 112 residents have paid Winter tax bills. Three invoices will be paid now that the Chase escrow account has been replenished. Mrs. McNew requested $100.69 for a memorial acknowledgement for Dan Christ and his family. Councilmember Cabot so moved. Seconded by Councilmember Jenaras. Motion carried unanimously.

Roads: Mayor McNew read a report from Road Commissioner, Karl Storrie, which related to the Lake Angelus Lane draining issue. The RCOC has completed shooting levels and recommends cutting back the pavement a few feet on Lake Angelus Lane and back filling with gravel. The RCOC assumes that the cost will be borne by the City or the Lane residents. Mr. Storrie indicated that he would try to get partial funding by RCOC if the decision was to proceed with the project. Councilmember Haines was hesitant to ask residents of the Lane to write a
check for a solution that may not work. He felt that it was a half-way solution. Councilmember Poploskie noted that drainage is not working at all and that if RCOC plans to mound dirt, that is not a solution. Mr. Storrie was instructed not to respond further to RCOC.

There being no further business, Councilmember Cabot moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:33pm. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on February 12, 2012 at 7 pm.

Approved: Respectfully submitted,

Lee McNew, Mayor Rosalie Lake, Clerk