MINUTES OF THE LAKE ANGELUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 13, 2012

Present: Mayor, Lee McNew; Councilmembers Jon Cabot and David Haines; Chief of Police, Jim Prosser; Attorney, John Staran; Treasurer, Julie Frakes; Environmental Board Chair Linda Daniels; Building Official, Brian Oppmann; Clerk, Rosalie Lake
Absent: Councilmembers Chuck Poploskie and Dan Jenaras; Road Administrator, Karl Storrie
Visitors: Chad Findley, Jeffrey Huhta, and Steven Sutton of Nowak and Fraus Engineers, Don Clapham, Officer Don McLellan, Dick Lund

Mayor McNew opened the meeting at 7 pm. The Pledge was recited.

The Minutes of the meeting of October 9, 2012 were approved as corrected.

Don Clapham, Chair of the subcommittee of the Environmental Board to consider a city-wide sewer connection, indicated that the Environmental Board had voted to recommend that the City Council hire the engineering firm of Nowak and Fraus to conduct a feasibility study for the sewer project. Jeffrey Huhta introduced his firm, municipal engineers for ten communities and which has a contract with the Oakland County Water Resources Division. Mr. Huhta noted that communities around Lake Angelus are developed with sewer and water connections. Infrastructure is available. There may be communities willing to provide service to Lake Angelus. The firm would examine all of the many different options available, including grouping services around the Lake where neighboring service may exist. The same would be true for providing water service. The feasibility study might be paid for through a grant if the City moves forward with the project. Mr. Huhta indicated that his firm is a full-service company that can provide design services, preparation of contracts for construction and represent Lake Angelus in all aspects of the project. The cost to do the feasibility study for sewers is $16,000 and would be double that to include water, as well. It was felt that the studies should be done at the same time to avoid duplicate work later. The last feasibility study was done 20+ years ago and the technology of construction has changed dramatically due to directional drilling. Mr. Huhta described the grinding system. He indicated that his firm can provide brochures to help to educate homeowners and can hold public hearings. Mr. Clapham inquired about overall time frames, to which Mr. Huhta responded that the study would take about four months; the engineering design, a year to a year and a half; and one year for construction, or approximately three to five years overall. There are many outside influences such as permitting, funding etc. Mr. Huhta identified his firm as advocates for the City. His firm would need people from within the City with whom they would work.

Mayor McNew reported that Jim Howlett had reviewed the City files that had been stored by Beier Howlett. Mr. Howlett indicated that all of the files were obsolete and could be destroyed. Assessor, Linda Burton’s report was reviewed.

Complements for the new history book, The Green Book, were expressed by all. Chris Cortez asked the Council to consider reprinting the Blue Book as there are no available copies and there have been many requests for them. It was thought that 500 books could be printed for about $1600. Mrs. McNew will speak with Mrs. Cortez about reprinting.
Councilmember Haines inquired about a charity event to be held at Forrest Milzow’s home which would be a ticketed event and would include an open bar. Dr. Haines felt it was a private party and not an issue for the City. Attorney Staran agreed. Chief Prosser indicated that it had already been approved through his office.

Clerk Lake reported that the Election had gone extremely well with a voter turnout in the 90%tile. 259 of 279 registered voters participated. The community retained its Republican leaning with 216 votes for Romney and 38 for Obama, with that pattern generally reflected in all partisan races. Ms. Lake thanked the Election Inspectors who worked meticulously on every aspect of the Election. The transmission of election results via the cell phone network, which was conducted for the first time, was very successful.

The No-Haz program for 2012 has concluded with total expenditure for the City of $773 for the four collection events. With a predicted increase in the number of cars participating, costs are calculated to be $895 for 2013. The Council will need to approve the Interlocal Agreement with Oakland County for 2013 at its December or January meeting if it wishes to continue in the program next year.

Councilmember Haines circulated a draft of the contract with the Waterford Fire Department which incorporated changes previously discussed. He asked that Attorney Christ look particularly at the language in the escalator clause to see whether the City can depend on it over the next decade. Dick Lund indicated that the wording comes from audited statements. For 2014, the escalator will be different in expenses than in the years between 2011 and 2013. Pontiac expenses are included in 2012, but they are not in 2011. Budgeted numbers cannot be used; audited statements need to be used, Mr. Lund said. Dr. Haines noted that the time-line is tight to be able to vote on the contract at the December meeting. Janz and Knight should look at it, as well as Mr. Christ.

Police Chief, Jim Prosser, gave the Department Report. A friend of Kevin McDaniels has a shredding company and would charge $200 for two hours of shredding that the LAPD and other residents could use. It was determined that there was not enough material for two hours use. The garbage left ostensibly by the Shea’s after the wedding needs to be cleaned up. The Chief indicated that the LAPD was going to need a commercial type fax machine fairly soon which will cost about $400.

The water pressure is low at the Police Station. Repairs need to be made. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve up to $1000 to service the well at the Police Station. Councilmember Haines seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Haines moved to approve $250 for the dinner party for the Reserve Officers. Councilmember Cabot seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

A Holiday gift for the regular Officers was discussed. The Chief will provide a list of the Officers. Councilmember Cabot moved to provide up to $1500 for Holiday gift cards from the Bass Pro Shop. Councilmember Haines seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Building and Permits: Building Official, Brian Oppmann, indicated that there was a 90-day review process with the DEQ relating to the recently completed audit. Footings are going in at the Chase property. Many inspections have been needed. Inspectors have been there once or twice a week. The work is going according to the site plan.
The Symonds, who have purchased the former Wilhelm home, may be planning some work. The Anselmi and Bess projects are still in process.

Treasurer, Julie Frakes, presented the financial reports. She reviewed warrants over $500 and the status of the Funds. Profit and Loss should be at 33.3%, but the actual is 48.7% due to the weed harvesting. Licensing and permits are well ahead of expectations. Inspector fees are half used. Mrs. Frakes asked for updated licensing for current inspectors. A CD is maturing on December 11th. The rate at Clarkston State Bank is .25%. Mrs. Frakes will bring current rates to the next meeting and will reinvest the next day. The rate at the Local Government Pool is 1.78%, higher than current CD rates, but the Pool is not insured by FDIC. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the financial report noting those warrents over $500. Councilmember Haines seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#18117 to Linda Burton for $1061   #18118 to Robert Bailey for $850
#18123 to Billington Serv for $985   #18124 to RCOC for $2263.80
#18143 to Hafeli, Staran for $1153.62   #18145 to Janz & Knight for $7015
#18146 to Waterford Fire Dept for $54,975   #18151 to OC Clemis for $554.50
#18153 Voyager Fleet for $1162.25   #18154 to St. of MI Unemploy for $736.52
#18156 OC Sheriff for $1803   #18158 to Brooklyn Bookworks for $937
#18174 to Code Enforcement for $510   #18181 to Code Enforcement for $3998
#510568 to Sheridan Books for $2272.43

A $50 rebate can be expected on the next Workers Comp invoice. Chief Prosser’s Holiday Bonus was discussed. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve $250 for the Bonus. Councilmember Haines seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Oakland County is upgrading the tax and assessment systems. Winter tax bills will be sent on December 1st. Winter tax statements are able to be combined with Summer tax statements if the Winter tax is less than $100. Mrs. Frakes does not recommend doing this as two taxing arrangements would be created within the City causing confusion. Four parcels remain with unpaid Summer taxes.

Environmental Board: Chair, Linda Daniels, reported that nine committee members were present at the last meeting. Eight members voted for weed harvesting only for next year. One vote was for herbiciding only. There was a general fear of unknown environmental consequences of herbiciding. The big issue is how to pay for harvesting which will cost $130,000 per year for two cuttings. Councilmember Cabot would like the City to move ahead with the feasibility study for a sewer system, but felt that the weed harvesting needs to be handled first, getting funds into the budget to support it by raising the millage or creating a special assessment. Mrs. Frakes indicated that the City is at the extent of millage availability and a special millage would have to be approved. Dr. Cabot noted that there is money in the budget for one cutting in this fiscal year and none for a second cutting in the next year. Dr. Haines felt that times have been hard and the assumption cannot be relied upon that residents will support an additional millage. The budget may need to be restructured. Dr. Cabot did not think there was a way to find funds in the budget. Mrs. Frakes commented that it is not known what the environmental situation will be next year. We may not need two cuttings. Ms. Lake agreed feeling that perhaps only one cutting should be done if that is what the budget allows. Dr. Haines suggested cutting selectively in high traffic areas. Dick Lund commented that Watkins Lake owns its own cutting equipment and residents operate it. He also felt that HRC should be asked to bid on the sewer feasibility study as it is the
City’s engineering firm. Dr. Cabot felt a first cutting should be approved and research should be done on holding a special election in increase the millage. Dr. Haines wished to respect constituents who will not wish to afford this. The Council’s responsibility is to examine every possibility. Residents need to understand the budget issues. Invite residents to the December meeting to discuss raising taxes to pay for weed harvesting. Dr. Cabot reiterated that a feasibility study needs to be put on a back burner until funds can be put in place to cover harvesting.

Roads: Karl Storrie has not heard back from Oakland County regarding the intersection of Lake Angelus Lane and N. Lake Angelus Road.

There being no further business, Councilmember Cabot moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 pm. Councilmember Haines seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on December 11, 2012 at 7 pm.

Approved: Respectfully submitted,

Lee McNew, Mayor Rosalie Lake, Clerk