LAKE ANGELUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

NOVEMBER 9, 2010

Present: Mayor, Lee McNew; Councilmembers Jon Cabot, Karl Storrie, Chuck Poploskie and David Haines; Attorney, Dan Christ; Treasurer, Julie Frakes; Environmental Board Chair, Linda Daniels; Planning Commission Chair, Bob Bailey; Clerk Rosalie Lake

Visitors: Heidi Hoyles

Mayor McNew brought the meeting to order at 7 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Mayor adjourned the meeting of the City Council and convened the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. (The minutes of this meeting are recorded separately.)

At the conclusion of the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting at 7:45, the Mayor reconvened the regularly scheduled City Council meeting. The Minutes of the Council meeting of October 12, 2010 were approved as corrected. The Minutes of the Joint Workshop Meeting of the City Council and Planning Commission were approved as submitted.


The Clerk called for nominations for the position of Mayor ProTem. Councilmember Cabot nominated Karl Storrie. Councilmember Haines seconded. Mr. Storrie accepted the nomination. The nomination carried unanimously.

The Clerk reported that the November 2nd General Election was conducted particularly well by an excellent staff of Election Inspectors. The Lake Angelus results will be published in the “Angelus”. Ms. Lake had spoken to Ken Nash about access to his property via an easement for dam repair and he was willing to speak with someone from the city about it. Councilmember Poploskie will contact him. The temporary signage ordinance, particularly referencing political signs, will expire on December 31st. Previously, there has been no mention of political signage in the ordinance. This will be discussed at a future meeting. The Ordinance revisions adopted since the last update of the ordinances will be sent to American Legal for publication on the website. Ordinances can be kept current on an as-approved basis, costs being calculated by the page(s) needed to make the revisions. Hard copies will be provided to keep ordinance books up to date for the Council and Planning Commission. American Legal can, also, archive past copies of City Minutes. The costs for this are related to scanning the older copies. Either the scanning can be done by persons in the City or American Legal can do it at their cost per page. Once archived, the Minutes can be made searchable at costs over and above archiving. Ms. Lake will continue to explore the options and costs.

Regarding the notice to be published in the “Angelus” notifying property owners of their responsibility to maintain clearance for emergency vehicles on their property, Attorney Christ will work on a version of Ordinances 414.03 and 414.08 to be published for this purpose.
Mayor McNew requested approximately $1350 to provide all regular officers and reserve officers a gift certificate for $50 for the Bass Pro Shop. Councilmember Cabot moved to provide up to $1500 to be used at the Mayor’s and Chief’s discretion for this purpose. Councilmember Poploskie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Haines indicated that the fire committee has been assembled. The present contract will expire in 2012. The first meeting will be held in December. Treasurer Frakes reminded the Council that there can be only so much money moved from the contingency fund in one year. Money needs to be moved over a period of years. Dick Lund expressed concerns that although the Chief would have the ability to empower patrol officers to observe violations of signage or clearing ordinances, there is still a need to have a process for related action beyond observation.

Attorney Christ described the provisions of MEMAC (Michigan Emergency Management Assistance Compact) and indicated that it had been adopted by the City at a previous meeting.

Police Chief, Jim Prosser, gave the Department monthly report. He noted that officers are already identifying signage that is missing or hidden in foliage. He reported on recent training that he and Sgt. Nelson attended regarding motorcycle gangs operating in the area including what to look for regarding their operations. The Chief also attended a legal update presented by Oakland County prosecutors. This information was included in training for the Reserve Officers. Councilmember Cabot complemented the officers for an outstanding job done by them on Halloween and expressed appreciation for their attendance at the Barn party whether or not they were on duty.

Planning Commission: Building Official, Brian Oppmann, indicated that the Planning Commission is considering the issue of gate posts in the sideyard setback with the thought of making a change in the ordinance. He knew that the Wegrzyn site plan would not be ready for the November Planning Commission meeting and a meeting in December may be needed to consider those plans. The Kosiks, in their letter to the ZBA, indicated that they felt that the width and slope of the permitted 7’ cut at the Incarnatis had been exceeded. Mr. Oppmann said that an as-built assessment will be required before certifying for occupancy. Retaining walls will be needed and the owners will have to come to the Planning Commission to approve them. Gate posts were not indicated on the site plan.

Code Enforcement has offered a contract for its services for $1000 for the coming year. At a meeting with Mayor McNew, Councilmember Poploskie and Mr. Oppmann, reports from Code Enforcement were discussed. They will now reflect the fiscal year, tracking by projects.

City Property: Mayor McNew and Councilmember Cabot will work to develop a policy regarding the use of City facilities. The planting done by Walter Jaeger near the dry hydrant looks very nice. Councilmember Poploskie asked for $100 to get the drinking fountain water line to the tennis courts blown out. Councilmember Cabot so moved. Councilmember Haines seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Poploskie made a proposal to get bids for cutting the dead tree material on the 20’ Strip. Dr. Cabot moved to approve up to $2000 for this purpose. Mr. Storrie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rosado has cut the trees that fell onto his fence and moved the fence. The resident who has installed sprinklers and retaining
walls on the 20' Strip is aware that the property belongs to the City. Bob Bailey felt that if he acknowledges that it is City property, he should be allowed to keep his improvements. He has taken down fallen trees and has cared for the property. Attorney Christ will write the resident with a proposal for a license. Mr. Bailey will take care of getting rid of the steamroller and the cement blocks.

Treasurer, Julie Frakes, gave her report. She reviewed the warrants, and discussed the balance sheet which is down $10,000 from last year, and the Profit and Loss sheet which is at 40.5% with a target of 33.3%. Councilmember Haines moved to approve the financial reports noting warrants over $500. Councilmember Cabot seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#16719 to OC Clemis for $554.50  #16722 to Voyager Fleet for $634.40
#16723 to R&R Earthmovers for $3220  #16725 to Waterford Fire for $49,863.94
#16726 to Billington Serv. for $695  #16739 to Hafeli Staran for $2434.74
#16742 to OC Sheriff for $1711.33  #16748 to Environment by Design for $1000
#16752 to Code Enforcement for $1330  #16715 to Linda Burton for $1061

Seven parcels remain with unpaid summer taxes. Winter tax statements will be mailed on or about December 1st. Discussion was held about a holiday bonus for Chief Prosser. Last year a bonus was given of $125. Councilmember Cabot felt that this was an opportunity to show our appreciation for his and the Department’s fine work. Councilmember Poploskie moved to present a bonus of $250 to the Chief. Councilmember Haines seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Frakes said she was presently holding the invoice for graveling of North Lake Angelus Road.

Mrs. Frakes reported on a Budget Symposium given by Oakland County on November 8th called “The Perfect Storm”. She reported it to be gloomy, indeed. She summarized by saying, that although it may appear that the economy is improving, there are still tougher times ahead. There are several contributing factors that will impact State, County and City revenue. First, is the drop in real estate value: The County calculates a drop of 46% in the real estate market sales prices since December 2006 (the affect on Lake Angelus is slightly less than 32%). The percent change in assessed and taxable values has been on a decline for 2 years, but will not reach its lowest point until next year, and not see positive increases again until 2012 or 2013. The County predicts it will take at least ten years for taxable values to return to the levels of 2007 without millage rate increases. The County is seeing more home foreclosures per month now than the 2000 annual number, and that does not include tax foreclosures or “walk-aways”. Lake Angelus is fortunate in that it has not experienced the foreclosures, the delinquent tax charge-backs, or tribunal tax appeals that other cities are facing. The U.S. Department of Labor has calculated the Inflation Rate Multiplier for 2011 to be 1.7%. This means that property taxes will increase, while taxable values may still be decreasing if they are less than the state equalized value. This may be the case for 65% of the residents of Lake Angelus because there are so many long-time residents. The balancing of the State budget will impact funds available to cities, as the State passes on more than half of its revenue to cities. Advice from the County to the cities is that the problems are not going to go away soon, that governmental units need to start making tough decisions now. NOT making decisions is actually making decisions. The County advises planning two to three years out, instead of one; to look into privatization, consolidation, and shared services; to freeze payrolls and to ask vendors for price freezes or give-backs. On a positive note, the County stated a safe reserve is 15% equity relative to revenue. The Lake Angelus reserve is 75%, not including the contingency fund. Lake Angelus is in a much better
financial position than most cities, has been very conservative, and is prepared to weather the storm.

Councilmember Storrie moved to extend the meeting until 9:15. Councilmember Cabot seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Cabot reported that the new tennis courts have small defects. The fault is in the asphalt from the manufacturer. The surface will be redone in the spring. The nets and posts have been removed.

Environmental Board Chair, Linda Daniels, spoke about the possibility of getting a renewed survey of aquatic plants. The survey in 2008 cost $2500. A new permit is required as of April 2011 for herbiciding applications of more than 20 acres. A permit should be acquired in case the City decides to herbicide. Councilmember Haines thought that it will be time to herbicide again, so it is best to get the permit.

Everyone thought the idea of a boat parade and Community party for the celebration of the 100th Birthday of the Kresge’s electric launch in July 2011 was a great idea.

There being no further business, Councilmember Cabot moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Councilmember Haines seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on December 14 at 7 pm.

Approved: Respectfully submitted,

Mayor, Lee McNew Rosalie Lake, Clerk