MINUTES OF THE LAKE ANGELUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 12, 2010

Present: Mayor, Lee McNew; Councilmembers Jon Cabot, Karl Storrie, David Haines; Treasurer, Julie Frakes; Police Chief, Jim Prosser; Attorney, Dan Christ Building Official, Brian Oppmann; Clerk, Rosalie Lake
Absent: Councilmember, Bill Lembke
Visitors: Jim Howlett, Officer Don McLellan, Andy Greenlee

Mayor McNew called the meeting to order at 7 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The Minutes of the meeting of December 8, 2009 were approved as corrected.

The Clerk provided a request for annual dues from the Clinton River Watershed Council. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the dues of $450. Councilmember Storrie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Clinton River Watershed Council together with the DEQ and others sponsors a number of workshops/seminars from February through April on a number of environmental topics of potential interest to residents. Most of these presentations have been attended by Environmental Board Chairpersons Leon Pedell and/or Linda Daniels who recommend them. They will be posted in the “Angelus”. Martha Hodge, the owner of the copyright to the Blue History Book, has sent a letter giving the City permission to reprint the book. The American Legal Company will be contacted to revise the “Building Ordinances” locator on the website to separate the City Ordinances from the City Charter and to add the most recently passed ordinance amendments. Clerk Lake discussed the proposals for the 2010 NoHaz program noting that the cost of the program to some communities may have become prohibitive. A $10 fee per car, paid by the individual, will be a part of the program. Communities may choose to absorb the fee if they wish to do so. With that additional revenue, other costs will remain generally the same. The Interlocal Agreement with the County will be available by the next meeting for consideration by the Council. The City’s election ballot containers must be taken to a central location in the County to be recertified on February 12th. Ms. Lake will take care of this. There will be no Planning Commission meeting held in January. The next meeting on the new quarterly schedule will be held on February 23rd.

The terms of the members of the Environmental Board and new appointments to the Board were presented by Councilmember Cabot. Councilmember Haines moved to accept the Board’s roster and terms of appointment. Councilmember Storrie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Police Chief, Jim Prosser, gave the Department report. The new police vehicle is fully equipped and in service. The old vehicle will need to be listed for sale as soon as it is made ready. Recent training has been held on how to use portable breath testing equipment. The Department is working on a three year plan and hopes to have it ready by March. The Chief spoke about the upgrade of the radio system. All systems will be the same and all police departments will be able to communicate with one another. The new radio system requires an 8 hour training course that is mandatory for all officers. Officers will need to be paid for this time. Treasurer Frakes indicated that there is an open bank account that could be used for training segregating Justice Training Funds. Sgt. Ginther has said that these funds must be used within three years or more
funds will not come from the State of Michigan. Officer McLellan explained how monies are applied for and acquired through the State Law Enforcement Distribution Justice Training Funds (Public Act 320) and can only be spent on MCOLES certified training. Sgt. Ginther has asked about an ordinance related to cost recovery of funds related to drunk driving arrests. Attorney Christ will provide the Council with a sample ordinance so that Council can consider whether it wishes to formulate such an ordinance.

Planning Commission: Andy Greenlee appeared and apologized for the issue surrounding the steps to the beach and the retaining walls. He said he wished to make corrections. He claimed that the steps were there when he bought the house. The retaining walls are in violation. When he first moved in, his landscaping company told him that the walls needed to be where they are placed. Mr. Greenlee was told that he must make application and submit a plan to the Planning Commission. He also was told that he needs to contact the Court and acquire time to submit plans to Code Enforcement no later than two weeks before February 23rd, the next meeting of the Planning Commission.

The question that remains is when the steps to the lake were built. Mr. Greenlee’s statement is that the steps were there when he bought the house and if no one can prove otherwise, the Planning Commission will have to accept that statement. As far as the retaining walls are concerned, the burden of proof that there is hardship is up to Mr. Greenlee.

Letters have been sent to 3 addresses on the 20’ Strip regarding encroachment into the Strip. Brian Oppmann indicated that Code Enforcement has looked into revising the fee schedule. Fees for inspections are very low. Multiple mechanical inspections are not keeping pace with the kind of building that is being done and the numbers of times inspectors must visit. Mr. Oppmann will bring a revised fee schedule to the next meeting, the goal being cost recovery and paying inspectors. There is a need to match permit fees with retainer costs to keep out of a deficit situation. Fees will need to be looked at in another year.

City Property: The roof work is done on the Barn, but the cold has stopped work for now on the doors and sagging structure.

Mayor McNew presented a draft of a survey regarding tennis court replacement. After including suggestions, it will be sent to all residents who then will be given the opportunity to advise the Council on this.

Dick Lund has successfully transferred the obligation for the Boundary Annexation Survey to Oakland County. He has offered to help wherever he can.

Treasurer, Julie Frakes, gave her report. She reviewed the warrants. The General Fund is at 50% and all of the departments are in line at the half year point. There is still a loss shown in the Major Road Fund because 50% is being transferred to the Local Road Fund. Councilmember Cabot moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report noting those warrants over $500. Councilmember Storrie seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#16160 to Shaheen Chevrolet for $28,413.40  #16161 to Linda Burton for $1030
#16165 to MMRMA for $6925  #16178 to Oakland County for $505.50
#16181 to Voyager Fleet for $526.29  #16186 to Hafeli, Staran for $1528.98
#16187 to Soft Line Wash for $600  #16189 to Hafeli, Staran for $1076.10
Mrs. Frakes reported that the unemployment insurance rate is almost double for next year. It will take a couple of years for it to reduce. A tax foreclosure hearing will be held for one property. A second property owner paid taxes avoiding a hearing. All but eight summer taxes have been paid and 2/3rds of winter taxes have been paid.

It is believed that the City has an existing Credit Card Policy. The Treasurer or Clerk will find and present it at the next meeting.

Mayor McNew wondered whether Councilmember Storrie should follow up on the drain under Baldwin Road. Councilmember Cabot felt it was a wasted effort.

Councilmember Haines will write a letter to residents who are in violation of the ordinance requiring clearing for emergency vehicles.

There being no further business, Councilmember Cabot moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, surely a record. Councilmember Storrie seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday February 9, 2010 at 7 pm.

Approved:       Respectfully submitted,

Lee McNew, Mayor             Rosalie Lake, Clerk