

**MINUTES
FRASER CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING - (VIRTUAL)
MARCH 11, 2021**

Regular Virtual meeting of the Fraser City Council was conducted on March 11, 2021 at the City Municipal Building, located at 33000 Garfield Rd., Fraser, in the County of Macomb, Michigan.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Carnagie called the Special Virtual Meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESENT:

COUNCIL MEMBER AMY BARANSKI	FRASER, MI
COUNCIL MEMBER KATHY BLANKE	City Hall, FRASER, MI
MAYOR MICHAEL CARNAGIE	City Hall, FRASER, MI
COUNCIL MEMBER SUZANNE KALKA	FRASER, MI
COUNCIL MEMBER MICHAEL LESICH	FRASER, MI
COUNCIL MEMBER PATRICE SCHORNAK	City Hall, FRASER, MI
COUNCIL MEMBER DAVID WINOWIECKI	FRASER, MI

ABSENT:

NONE

ALSO PRESENT:

MARC THOMPSON, INTERIM CITY MANAGER
MICHAEL PETTYES, INTERIM PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR
CHELSEA ZELMANSKI, ACTING CITY CLERK
DONALD DENAULT, CITY ATTORNEY
DAVID BISBY, LIEUTENANT
ERIC MYERS, SERGEANT
ED HORN, AV SPECIALIST
MARK RAGSDALE

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MEMBER BARANSKI moved, second by **MEMBER WINOWIECKI**; to approve the agenda as presented.

MEMBER ROLL CALL VOTE:

BARANSKI	YES
BLANKE	YES
CARNAGIE	YES
KALKA	YES
LESICH	YES
SCHORNAK	YES
WINOWIECKI	YES

Motion passed 7-0

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V. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS

MAYOR CARNAGIE: no participants visible in virtual waiting rooms

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

MEMBER WINOWIECKI moved, second by **MEMBER KALKA**; to approve the consent agenda.

MEMBER ROLL CALL VOTE:

BARANSKI	YES
BLANKE	YES
CARNAGIE	YES
KALKA	YES
LESICH	YES
SCHORNAK	YES
WINOWIECKI	YES

Motion passed 7-0

VII. REQUESTS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

a. Appointment of

1. Department of Public Works Superintendent, Mark Ragsdale

Interim City Manager Mr. Thompson

- Advised, as determined in the previous meeting, both position candidates Mark Ragsdale and Vincent Neyland have moved forward in the hiring process.

Amy Cell

- Updated candidate status.
- Research of a variety of market data has been conducted in terms of compensation and different considerations when making a recommendation on next steps.
- Preparation underway and recommendation of Conditional Offer Letters for both candidates rather than Employment Contracts to administrative positions.
- Letters are a departure from past.

MEMBER LESICH

- Welcomed and addressed Mr. Ragsdale to inquire if he is currently a plaintive in a recently filed lawsuit against the City of Ecorse.
- Expressed his concern of adding more lawsuit discussions to agenda activities.
- Inquired how Mr. Ragsdale would handle the details of a lawsuit from another city and it would be a distraction.

Mark Ragsdale

- Confirmed he is a plaintive in the lawsuit.
- Advised the lawsuit would not take any of his time that he would be devoting to the citizens of Fraser.
- Stated any time needed regarding the lawsuit would be vacation time.

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- Mr. Ragsdale thanked the council members for their time for interviews and the time of Amy Cell and Mark Thompson. He has enjoyed meeting the staff; seeing the organization and serving the citizens of Fraser.

Donald DeNault

- Asked for adjustment to the motion verbiage to include the attorney review and as outlined by Amy Cell. Stipulated the position title is Superintendent Department of Public Works.

MEMBER BLANKE

- Confirmed the title will be Superintendent; not Director.

Donald DeNault

- Advised while Director is a common title; the charter requires Superintendent

MEMBER BARANSKI moved, second by **MEMBER WINOWIECKI**; to authorize the Interim City Manager to extend a conditional offer of employment with the terms as summarized by Amy Cell to Mr. Mark Ragsdale after final approval of the offer letter by the city attorney.

MEMBER ROLL CALL VOTE:

BARANSKI	YES
BLANKE	YES
CARNAGIE	YES
KALKA	YES
LESICH	NO
SCHORNAK	YES
WINOWIECKI	YES

Motion passed 6-1

2. Assistant City Manager/ Finance Director, Vincent Neyland

Vincent Neyland

- Thanked council members also and expressed he is also looking forward to working with the staff and City of Fraser.

Donald DeNault

- Advised the title Assistant City Manager/ Finance Director may need to be changed. He will be reviewing the defined city ordinance and further work with administration to determine the final title.

MEMBER BARANSKI moved, second by **MEMBER KALKA**; to authorize the Interim City Manager to extend a conditional offer of employment with the terms as summarized by Amy Cell to Mr. Vincent Neyland.

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MEMBER ROLL CALL VOTE:

BARANSKI	YES
BLANKE	YES
CARNAGIE	YES
KALKA	YES
LESICH	YES
SCHORNAK	YES
WINOWIECKI	YES

Motion passed 7-0

MEMBER KULKA

- Welcomed both Mr. Ragsdale and Mr. Neyland.
- Expressed excitement to see the move in a positive direction and positivity being shown.
- Advised the council is here for them for any reason.

b. Extension of

1. State of Emergency through April 8, 2021

MAYOR CARNAGIE moved, second by **MEMBER WINOWIECKI**; to extend the City of Fraser's State of Emergency through April 8, 2021 due to COVID-19.

MEMBER KULKA

- Clarified for residents that council is continuing to do this so that the City of Fraser is a part of the process should fund become available due to COVID-19.
- She wants to make sure the city isn't being overlooked for the opportunities for funds and assistance, this is continuing for no other reason.

MAYOR CARNAGIE

- Confirmed Member Kalka's comment and advised that the State of Michigan is receiving \$10 Billion in funds and if any is dispersed to the cities this will allow City of Fraser to possibly participate in receiving funds, should that be the case.

MEMBER WINOWIECKI

- Added for further clarification to the residents that this action has been on going all along; and the extensions are not something just being done now.

MEMBER ROLL CALL VOTE:

BARANSKI	YES
BLANKE	YES
CARNAGIE	YES
KALKA	YES
LESICH	NO
SCHORNAK	YES
WINOWIECKI	YES

Motion passed 6-1

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2. Interim City Manager's Contract

MAYOR CARNAGIE

- Advised he has been speaking with Mr. Mark Thompson regarding this item and turned it over to Mr. Thompson and Mr. DeNault for further input.

Interim City Manager Mr. Thompson

- Agreed that conversations have been begun and turned it over to Mr. DeNault to provide details from the city perspective.

MEMBER BARANSKI moved, second by **MEMBER WINOWIECKI**; to extend the Interim City Manager's Contract for an additional 4 months with the terms as outlined.

MEMBER ROLL CALL VOTE:

BARANSKI	YES
BLANKE	YES
CARNAGIE	NO
KALKA	NO
LESICH	NO
SCHORNAK	YES
WINOWIECKI	YES

Motion passed 4-3

c. Authorization of

1. Capital Improvement Projects – Engineering Only

- a. Sanitary Sewers
- b. Street Preservation

MEMBER LESICH moved, second by **MEMBER BARANSKI**; to authorize Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick to proceed with Engineering Services for Capital Improvement Projects – Sanitary Sewers and Street Preservation.

MEMBER ROLL CALL VOTE:

BARANSKI	YES
BLANKE	YES
CARNAGIE	YES
KALKA	YES
LESICH	YES
SCHORNAK	YES
WINOWIECKI	YES

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Motion passed 7-0

2. South East Regional Emergency Services Authority (SERESA)

Interim City Manager Mr. Thompson

Advised the matter for discussion is City of Fraser being a Contract Customer or Member of the organization (SERESA). Recommendation to council is be a member of the organization if the organization agrees to allow City of Fraser inclusion.

Council discussion included the importance of membership in the organization and the difference in pricing being a customer versus member municipality. Discussion resulted in reminder to all that the service remains the same being a customer or a member. And membership approval is not a guarantee, the current municipality city council members still need to approve inclusion of City of Fraser. Council was reminded the decision at this time is only to approve the submission of an application to SERESA. Further discussion regarding costs will continue at a future date.

MEMBER BARANSKI moved, second by **MEMBER BLANKE**; for City of Fraser to apply to join SERESA as a participating municipality.

MEMBER ROLL CALL VOTE:

BARANSKI	YES
BLANKE	YES
CARNAGIE	YES
KALKA	YES
LESICH	YES
SCHORNAK	YES
WINOWIECKI	YES

Motion passed 7-0

3. Municipal Employees' Retirement System of Michigan (MERS) Addendum Agreement

MEMBER LESICH moved, second by **MAYOR CARNIGIE** to approve the MERS defined benefits plan adoption agreement addendum as presented

MEMBER ROLL CALL VOTE:

BARANSKI	YES
BLANKE	YES
CARNAGIE	YES
KALKA	YES
LESICH	YES
SCHORNAK	YES

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WINOWIECKI YES

Motion passed 7-0

- d. Discussion of
1. Information Technology Services

Amy Cell

Thanked the team of Mayor Pro Tem Winowiecki, Council Member Lesich, Lieutenant David Bisby and Sargent Eric Meyers for their very detailed work reviewing the applications of 14 firms and interviewing 6 of the firms. Lieutenant David Bisby and Sargent Eric Meyers have hosted 3 organizations with onsite visits. Proposals and revisions currently being received and reviewed. Further results are anticipated to be provided to council in approximately 3 weeks; perhaps the next council meeting.

**VIII. PENDING ITEMS OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS/ REPORT OF THE CITY
ADMINISTRATION**

Interim City Manager Mr. Thompson

Advised vacancy in Building Department Code Enforcement. And requested approval of city council to proceed to fill position as soon as possible as complaints are resident driven.

MEMBER BLANKE moved, second by **MEMBER SCHORNAK** to direct City Manager and Amy Cell to hire a Code Enforcement Officer.

MEMBER ROLL CALL VOTE:

BARANSKI	YES
BLANKE	YES
CARNAGIE	YES
KALKA	YES
LESICH	YES
SCHORNAK	YES
WINOWIECKI	YES

Motion passed 7-0

Interim City Manager Mr. Thompson

Advising possible need for an extra city council meeting in each of the months of April and May. As budgets will be reviewed.

MAYOR CARNIGIE

- Advised and recommended at least one work session devoted to budget topic.

Amy Cell

Requested to proceed in hiring a full time Finance and Recreation Clerk. And requesting approval of city council to proceed in search.

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MEMBER SCHORNAK moved, second **MEMBER KALKA** to hire a full time Finance and Recreation Clerk.

MEMBER ROLL CALL VOTE:

BARANSKI	YES
BLANKE	YES
CARNAGIE	YES
KALKA	YES
LESICH	YES
SCHORNAK	YES
WINOWIECKI	YES

Motion passed 7-0

Amy Cell

Advised 4 candidates for Clerk of Council position have been interviewed by Interim City Manager Marc Thompson with 3 moving on to background checks. Upon receipt of successful background checks candidate information will be provided to the council next week.

Amy Cell

Provided update on City Manager position with plan to post position for 4 weeks and a week to pre-screen and fully vet candidates. Presenting candidates to council approximately April 22 with approximately a week to review and make selections April 29 for further interviews. Anticipate interviews approximately May 6 with a decision approximately May 13. Position will be posted on Michigan Municipal League, Strategic Government Resources, ICMA, LinkedIn, InDeed, and list of municipal talents. An Executive Summary will be provided to council.

IX. REPORT OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL/ NEW BUSINESS

BARANSKI: Spoke of conversations with Mr. DeNault regarding needed updates and modifications to the Bi-Laws.

Additionally, City of Fraser will be receiving COVID relief funds and requested that discussion regarding the balance of the park updates be on the agenda next month. Advised she would like to see all parks on the same timeframe. Neglected for 10 years and would like to see updates with a goal of June to have improvements done for this summer.

Donald DeNault: Mr. DeNault will begin that process and circulate the Bi-Laws documents. Members welcome to review and provide suggestions and thoughts. Mr. DeNault will begin to compile details for further council review.

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- WINOWIECKI:** Welcomed Mr. Ragsdale and Mr. Neyland believing they will both be great additions to the city. Thank you for efforts of Amy Cell and Marc Thompson for their excellent work in keeping the city moving forward. Additional thanks to the council for all their patience. Looking forward to working with Parks and Recreation Department.
- KALKA:** Proposed following prior year process of pre-recorded budget presentations for review in advance. Does not feel one lengthy budget presentation is effective for council members.
- Additionally, relating to the fund balance and with COVID Relief she would like to see the following items:
- Additional \$800,000. (Eight-Hundred Thousand) to MERS.
 - Would like to not implement PA33 or at least as little as possible, is very important.
 - Supports park completion.
- Wished all a Happy Easter.
- BLANKE:** Began with question to confirm if April meeting is in-person.
- CARNAGIE:** Advised that Governor Whitmer may be changing restrictions that may allow in person meeting. Yet to be determined.
- BLANKE:** Thanked Sargent Meyers, Lieutenant Bisby and Patrice Schornak for the great jobs they have done keeping the meetings going. Wished everyone a very happy and blessed Easter.
- SCHORNAK:** Thanked Chelsea Zelmanski for stepping into a new role. Happy for Chelsea's new position but sorry to see her leaving City of Fraser. Thanked DPW for its good work with recent tree trimming. Suggestion that DPW to remove trash remaining from snow melt in areas of bus stops with possible addition of trash receptacles that could be emptied once a week. Thank everyone who has assisted in facilitating the zoom meetings. Wished everyone a Happy Easter
- LESICH:** Provided overview of county wide macro meeting of municipal leaders. Has copy of presentation, which he can share, given by Mr. Bill Anderson from Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments regarding update to the American Rescue Plan - a Three-Hundred and Fifty Billion Dollar nationwide funding for state and local governments. He requested a copy of the audit from Mr. Thompson. Mr. Thompson advised the document is scheduled to be sent to council members tomorrow.
- Requested to see the Activities Center AV set up completed. Equipment was purchased last year and he would like it considered for possible in person, social distance council meetings

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Glad to see the parks move forward, the neglect is about 30 years.
Would like to request Citizen Participation done before closed session so they don't have to wait to speak.

CARNAGIE: Thanked all who participated in the Sutton remembrance and the clock memorial March 4th
Sincere thanks to Council Woman Kulka for her generous donation and getting the project moving.
Extrication tools coming month end. Large order delayed due to COVID.
Once in hand Sargent Poole will begin scheduling training.
Thanked Chelsea Zelmanski for her assistance to the Mayor and wish her well in her future work with Roseville.
Wished everyone a great Easter.

X. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

NONE

XI. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Strategy discussion with Legal Counsel regarding negotiations related to a Collective Bargaining Agreement
- b. **MAYOR CARNIGIE** moved, second by **MEMBER KULKA** to move to Strategy discussion with Legal Counsel regarding negotiations related to a Collective Bargaining Agreement

MEMBER ROLL CALL VOTE:

BARANSKI	YES
BLANKE	YES
CARNAGIE	YES
KALKA	YES
LESICH	YES
SCHORNAK	YES
WINOWIECKI	YES

Motion passed 7-0

Enter Closed Session @ 8:50 PM

Exit Closed Session @ 10:10 PM

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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MEMBER WINOWIECKI moved, second by **MEMBER LESICH**; to adjourn the meeting at 10:07PM.

The motion carried unanimously

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Leven, Acting City Clerk

Michael Carnegie, Mayor