

**MINUTES
FRASER CITY COUNCIL – REGULAR MEETING - (VIRTUAL)
APRIL 8, 2021**

Regular Virtual meeting of the Fraser City Council was conducted on April 8, 2021 at the City Municipal Building, located at 33000 Garfield Rd., Fraser, in the County of Macomb, Michigan.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mayor Carnegie called the Regular Virtual Meeting to order at 6:38 p.m. He advised of temporary technical issues.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Amy Baranski, Council Member (remotely from Florida)
Kathy Blanke, Council Member (remotely from City Hall)
Michael Carnegie, Mayor (remotely from City Hall)
Michael Lesich, Council Member (remotely from Fraser, MI)
Patrice Schornack, Council Member (remotely from Fraser, MI)
David Winowiecki, Council Member (remotely from Fraser, MI)

ABSENT:

Suzanne Kalka

ALSO, PRESENT:

Marc Thompson, Interim City Manager
Donald DeNault, City Attorney
David Bisby, Lieutenant
Ed Horn, AV Specialist
Vincent Neyland, Finance Director
Amy Cell, Human Resources Director
Mary Matuz, Office Clerk
David Bogdan, Parks and Recreation Commission

MOTION by Carnegie, second by Schornack, to excuse Member Kalka from the meeting.

Roll Call: Ayes – Carnegie, Schornack Baranski, Blanke, Lesich, Winowiecki
Nays – None

Motion carried.

IV. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Winowiecki, second by Blanke, to approve the agenda, as presented.

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Roll Call: Ayes – Winowiecki, Blanke, Baranski, Carnagie, Lesich, Schornak,
Nays – none

Motion carried.

V. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS

No members of the public participated.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

MAYOR CARNAGIE

A. Approval of Minutes

- March 4, 2021 – Special Meeting
- March 11, 2021 – Regular Meeting

B. Approval of Disbursement List

- March 2021 - \$849,342.94

MOTION by Winowiecki, seconded by Blanke, to approve the consent agenda, as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes – Winowiecki, Blanke, Carnagie, Lesich, Schornak, Baranski
Nays – none

Motion carried

VII. REQUESTS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

1. Appointment of Acting Clerk

Interim City Manager Thompson advised that Acting Clerk Zelmanski left her position. He believes an Acting Clerk needs to be identified. Due to short staffing, he volunteered for the appointment.

MOTION by Blanke, second by Winowiecki, to authorize Interim City Manager Marc Thompson to serve as City of Fraser Acting Interim City Clerk.

Roll Call: Ayes – Blanke, Winowiecki, Baranski, Carnagie, Lesich, Schornak
Nays – none

Motion carried.

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2. Proclamation of Arbor Day – April 30, 2021

Mayor Carnegie read the proclamation on Arbor Day.

3. Michigan Department of Transportation – Performance Resolution

Interim City Manager Thompson commented that this is a performance resolution that creates standards for work in the right-of-way such as utility work or excavation. It requires both the city and contractor to maintain liability insurance.

MOTION by Winowiecki, second by Baranski, to approve the Michigan Department of Transportation Performance Resolution, as outlined.

Roll Call: Ayes –Winowiecki, Baranski, Blanke, Carnegie, Lesich, Schornak
Nays – none

Motion carried.

4. Information Technology Vendors

Interim City Manager Thompson advised that all are anxious to keep this moving. Ms. Cell led the effort. He stated that it is important to note that Councilmembers Winowiecki and Lesich, Public Safety officers Sargent Eric Meyers and Lieutenant Dave Bisby, and Mr. Neyland played key roles.

Ms. Cell advised that the committee was amazing. Discussion between City Council and City staff ensued.

MOTION by Lesich, second by Winowiecki, to direct the City Manager, City Attorney and Finance Director to move forward with negotiations with IT Right to obtain them for information technology services.

Roll Call: Ayes – Lesich, Winowiecki, Baranski, Blanke, Carnegie, Schornak
Nays – None

Motion Carried.

5. Pay GRS Invoices (GRS – Retirement Consulting)

Interim City Manager Thompson advised that last fall the city received two actuarial reports relating to post-employment benefits programs. Later in the year, the City received two invoices in the amounts of \$12,000 and \$19,000. He is unable to verify prior invoice approvals. Mr. Thompson seeks council authorization to proceed to make payment.

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Mayor Carnegie stated that Mr. Zadowski performed the original work and that he does not recall it coming to council.

Interim City Manager Thompson stated the purpose of the actuarial report is that there is a relationship between the actuarial reports received and the corrective action plans provided to MERS. Mr. Thompson is reluctant to pay bills without prior approval. If approval had been found, the bills would have been paid.

Ms. Baranski inquired on procurement protocol and department head spending limits to enter into a contract. Mr. Thompson responded that the limit is \$7,500 with a few exceptions.

Mr. Thompson stated a new PO system was implemented within the last two months and that the City was trying to catch up during this transitional period.

Mr. Lesich commented that GRS is the audit firm doing the actuarial valuations since at least 2012, and that it was approved in the budget. He stated that theoretically the City should be putting money aside today for those future retiree health care costs. Mr. Lesich confirmed the two invoices total \$31,000.

MOTION by Lesich, second by Carnegie, to authorized payment to GRS for \$31,000 for our OPEB actuarial valuation.

Roll Call: Ayes – Lesich, Carnegie, Lesich, Schornak, Winowiecki, Baranski
Nays – None

Motion carried.

6. COVID-19 Funds Discussion

a. Restrictions

Interim City Manager Thompson advised discussions of American Rescue Act are beginning and its implication for local governments across the country and our interest in Fraser. He participated with Mayor Carnegie in a call with Congressman Andy Levin. Funds from the Act must be used for specific purposes.

Ms. Schornak stated that since the funds are hypothetical she recommends the Council delay discussions.

b. Park Improvements

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Ms. Baranski recommended a more proactive approach to park improvements. She advised that she met with the Mayor, Mayor Pro Tem and City Manager. Ms. Baranski would like to see bids for the parks with consent from Council to proceed today.

Mayor Carnegie commented that purchases could see long delivery delays and back orders.

Ms. Schornak supports moving forward with the parks.

Mr. Winowiecki echoed Ms. Baranski and confirmed that this is for the area from the parking lot past the pool to the entrance of the park. He stated the entrance from the park is safe.

Mr. Carnegie acknowledged this would be an aggressive effort. He supports getting it moving but understands time constraints.

MOTION by Baranski, second by Blanke, to solicit bids for Harrington and Meadows Park with total cost (estimate) of \$160,000 and Boris Park for \$50,000. These bids should be obtained in the next six weeks.

Roll Call: Ayes – Baranski, Blanke, Carnegie, Lesich, Schornak, Winowiecki.
Nays – None

Motion carried.

c. Infrastructure Improvements

Discussion occurred among members of Council.

MOTION by Baranski, second by Carnegie, to create a sub-committee to address the roads and repairs of the roads with anticipated funding. The following sub-committee members are appointed: Mr. Winowiecki, Ms. Blanke, and Mr. Carnegie.

Roll Call: Ayes – Baranski, Carnegie, Lesich, Schornak, Winowiecki, Blanke
Nays – None

Motion carried.

7. Park Signs

Discussion occurred relating to the color and locations of park signs.

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MOTION by Baranski, second by Carnagie, to direct the City Manager and team to obtain bids for signs; given preferences of council; and to return to Council once received.

Roll Call: Ayes – Baranski, Carnagie, Lesich, Schornak, Winowiecki, Blanke,
Nays – None

Motion carried.

8. State of Emergency Extension through May 6, 2021

MOTION by Winowiecki, second by Baranski, to extend the state of emergency extension through May 6, 2021.

Mr. Don DeNault suggested to amend and to extend the date until May 13, 2021, the date of the next city council meeting.

MOTION by Winowiecki, second by Baranski, to extend the state of emergency extension through May 13, 2021.

Roll Call: Ayes – Winowiecki, Baranski, Blanke, Carnagie, Lesich, Schornak
Nays – None

Motion carried.

9. Clerk of Council Interviews

Members of City Council asked questions and heard the responses to the following City Clerk candidates: Mason Brudzyński, Brian Fairbrother, and Lisa Hathaway.

Mayor Carnagie recessed the meeting for a five-minute break.

At 9:53 p.m., Mayor Carnagie called the meeting back to order.

Ms. Cell advised Council of the three possible options to proceed on a candidate for City Clerk.

MOTION by Winowiecki, second by Baranski, to move forward with Mason Brudzyński contract negotiations with Amy Cell, Don DeNault and Marc Thompson.

Roll Call: Ayes – Winowiecki, Baranski, Blanke, Schornak,
Nays – Carnagie, Lesich

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Motion carried.

X. CLOSED SESSION

a. Strategy session connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement

MOTION by Carnegie, second by Baranski, to go into Closed Session at 10 p.m. for a strategy session connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement.

Roll Call: Ayes – Carnegie, Baranski, Blanke, Lesich, Schornak, Winowiecki
Nays – None

Motion carried.

Mayor Carnegie called the meeting back to order at 10:30 p.m.

VII. PENDING ITEMS OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS / REPORT OF THE CITY ADMINISTRATION

Interim City Manager Thompson stated that he looks forward to Mr. Ragsdale beginning employment at the Public Works Department.

Mr. Winowiecki inquired about portions of Kelly Rd. to which Mr. Thompson responded.

Mr. Lesich inquired about updates on the City Manager search. Mr. Thompson stated he has not been involved with the City Manager search, but he understands that the City received multiple resumes.

VIII. REPORT OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL / NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Schornak inquired on Fruehauf Rd. in regards to the flooding Mayor Carnegie pointed out. Mr. Thompson stated that the flooding is a simple fix by installing fabric on the catch basins. Ms. Schornak asked about the status of work on 14 Mile Rd. regarding the valves and all the leaks. Mr. Thompson responded that it is a problem and that a solution has not been found yet. He is still searching for answers.

Ms. Schornak asked about updates from AEW.

Ms. Schornak stated that the budget public notice does not include the word virtual.

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Mr. Lesich said he is glad the City decided on a Clerk and that the City will get to a solution on 14 Mile Rd. Mr. Lesich acknowledged Mr. Neyland for a job well done so far.

Ms. Baranski echoed Mr. Winowiecki's sentiment about Mr. Neyland. She looks forward to Mr. Ragsdale starting.

Ms. Blanke is happy and honored to be a part of the discussion. She believes the City is receiving a face lift. Ms. Blanke thanked Mr. Thompson and Mr. DeNault.

Mr. Carnegie discussed Fraser's paid on-call firefighters. He recognized a few of the senior people including

- Brandon Kelly – 7 years
- Bill Adella – 15 years
- Tom Collins – 22 years
- Jim Ligorotis – 23 years
- Doug Rocco – 32 years

XI. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

The following members of the public spoke under Citizen Participation:

- David Bogdan
- Dana Sutherland
- Jim Sutherland

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Lesich, second by Winowiecki, to adjourn the Regular City Council Virtual Meeting of April 8, 2021 at 11:12 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes- Lesich, Winowiecki, Baranski, Blanke, Carnegie, Schornak
Nays – None

Motion Carried.

Elaine Leven, City Clerk

Michael Carnegie, Mayor