



CITY MANAGER

Elaine Leven

CITY CLERK

Cynthia Greenia

City of Fraser

CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY

MAYOR

Michael Carnagie

MAYOR PRO-TEM

Patrice M. Schornak

COUNCIL

Amy Baranski

Kathy Blanke

Suzanne Kalka

Patrick O'Dell

Dana Sutherland

**FRASER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
33000 GARFIELD, FRASER, MI 48026
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022 – 6:30 P.M.**

A regular meeting of the City of Fraser City Council was held on Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, City Hall, 33000 Garfield, Fraser, MI 48026.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Carnagie called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Carnagie led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Present: Council Member Baranski
Council Member Blanke
Mayor Carnagie
Council Member O'Dell
Mayor Pro-Tem Schornak
Council Member Sutherland

Absent:

Others: City Manager Leven, City Attorney DeNault, Assistant City Manager Mistretta, Director of Public Safety Kretzschmar, Deputy Clerk Matuz, Deanna Reiner, Karen Arendall, City Clerk Greenia

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Blanke supported by Kalka to approve the agenda for the December 8, 2022 Fraser City Council Meeting as presented/amended.

AYES: Baranski, Blanke, Carnagie, Kalka, O'Dell, Schornak, Sutherland

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

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5. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Karen Arendall, 15461 Sherwood Lane, Fraser, MI 48026 spoke. She stated she was hoping each City Council member would vote to support the Library Bond Issue that was before them tonight.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were on the consent agenda for the December 8, 2022 meeting of the Fraser City Council:

- a. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes November 10, 2022
- b. City Council Special Meeting Minutes November 17, 2022
- c. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes September 7, 2022
- d. Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes October 4, 2022
- e. Zoning Board Meeting Minutes October 6, 2022
- f. Historical Commission Newsletter - December
- g. SMART Funding
- h. Credit Card Acceptance Policy
- i. Tree City USA Resolution
- j. CDBG Set Public Hearing
- k. City Council Meeting Dates
- l. Check Disbursements
- m. Revenue and Expenditure Report

Motion by Carnagie supported by Blanke to remove Item l from the Consent Agenda.

AYES: Baranski, Blanke, Carnagie, Kalka, O'Dell, Schornak, Sutherland

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

Motion by Baranski supported by Kalka to approve the Consent Agenda for the December 8, 2022 Fraser City Council Meeting as amended.

AYES: Baranski, Blanke, Carnagie, Kalka, O'Dell, Schornak, Sutherland

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Parks and Recreation Plan Public Hearing

Mayor Carnagie opened the Public Hearing on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan at 6:33 p.m.

Michael Lesich, 15201 Fairview addressed City Council regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the concerns he had with it as it was being presented. He read into the record a letter he had written on November 30, 2022 about the plan. He had concerns with the broadness of the plan as well as some typographical errors and some information that was not correct.

Mayor Carnagie closed the public hearing at 6:46 p.m.

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b. Parks and Recreation Master Plan Resolution to Adopt

Andrew Littman, Senior Planner for McKenna was present at the meeting. He stated he was taking over for Mr. Paul Urbiel as our Zoning Coordinator. He reviewed the history of how the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan came to be before City Council this evening. There was quite a bit of public input. All of that was considered when preparing the Master Plan. He noted the Goals and Objectives were purposefully broad to retain flexibility when applying for grants. It did contain all necessary requirements for a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to be approved by the MDNR.

City Council Members discussed their concerns with the plan as drafted. It was noted that they felt the factual information as well as other errors need to be corrected before they would be comfortable approving it. Further discussion was had as to the ramifications of putting approval off until the January of 2023 meeting. Mr. Littman stated that they could wait until January and still have time to submit it to the MDNR for approval in time to meet their deadline.

Further discussion was had on City Council's feeling of the broadness and style of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and if they agreed this was the best way to present the plan. City Council agreed that it was a good idea to keep the plan broad.

Motion by Baranski supported by Schornak to adjourn action on adoption of the City of Fraser Parks and Recreation Master Plan and to direct Andrew Littman of McKenna Associations to make corrections to items that were incorrect or did not have the most current information available.

Discussion on Motion:

Michael Lesich, 15201 Fairview spoke to City Council and appreciated that City Council was willing to wait a month for the corrections to be made before approving the plan.

Laura Lesich, 15201 Fairview indicated she was concerned with the presentation of the draft Parks and Recreation Master Plan and was hoping to see the changes made before adoption of the plan was had.

AYES: Baranski, Blanke, Carnagie, Kalka, O'Dell, Schornak, Sutherland

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

c. Department of Public Safety Staffing Request

Director of Public Safety Director Kretzschmar approached City Council to request the promotion of two (2) Public Safety Sergeants. She reviewed for City Council the problems that running the Public Safety Department without enough Sergeants was getting to be difficult. It effected not only the Department of Public Safety but other departments as well.

Discussion was had about the succession plan. City Council reviewed how the budget constraints keeps the Department at 29 being a full Department. In order to be mindful of the budget City Council has to think outside of the box to come up with solutions to make things workable for everyone. There are a lot of duties that a supervisory officer needs to

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do each shift. If the Department is short of the supervisory personnel not everything is going to get done like it should. This causes stress on the supervisory personnel that are currently working. Discussion of twelve to twenty-four hour shifts was had. City Council would like to see actual data regarding running the department on twelve to twenty-four hour shifts. They had been asking for that data for quite some time.

Council Member Kalka, Mayor Pro-Tem Schornak and Council Member O'Dell would be willing to approve one (1) promotion at this time.

Motion by O'Dell supported by Kalka to approve the promotion of one officer to Sergeant provided that they meet the criteria to become Sergeant.

Discussion was had on promoting one Sergeant and then to hire another PSO to backfill that position.

At this time Sergeant Eric Meyers approached City Council to state that he would be retiring December 31, 2022. He asked that City Council please approve promotion of more than one officer to a Sergeant.

AYES: Baranski, Blanke, Carnagie, Kalka, O'Dell, Schornak, Sutherland

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

Motion by Baranski supported by Kalka to authorize Director Kretschmar to hire a PSO to keep the Department number at 29.

AYES: Baranski, Blanke, Carnagie, Kalka, O'Dell, Schornak, Sutherland

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

d. Spark Grant Application Resolutions of Support

City Manager Leven reviewed the background of the SPARK Grant opportunity. She reviewed that she had prepared three (3) grant applications – one for Steffens Park, one for Somerset Park and one for Blanke Park. The time schedule for turn around on these was short. They need to be submitted to the MDNR no later than December 19, 2022.

There are a lot of communities applying for these funds. No match is required but she did put in a 10% match on the application for Steffen's park as that application was for \$1,000,000.

She was asking City Council for approval of the Resolutions to apply for the grants as well as the priority of each application. Council addressed a few questions regarding the applications.

Motion by Blanke supported by Baranski to approve in order of application priority Resolution #2022-010 for a SPARK Grant Application for Steffen's Park, Resolution #2022-011 for a SPARK Grant Application at Somerset Park and Resolution #2022-012 for a SPARK Grant Application at Blanke Park.

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Michael Lesich, 15201 Fairview spoke regarding the applications.

AYES: Baranski, Blanke, Carnagie, Kalka, Schornak

NAYS: O'Dell, Sutherland

Motion Carried

Council Member Baranski asked that we look at Reindel Park to find money to make the necessary repairs.

e. Employee Handbook Update

City Manager Leven reviewed that they had been working with Labor Attorney Fantuzzi to get language in the Employee Handbook addressing the amount of sick time that is currently allowed. They were planning on putting language similar to that language that was recently approved in the Clerical Union contract. She was suggesting that one (1) sick day a month be granted to each employee instead of the amount that was now in the Handbook.

Motion by O'Dell supported by Kalka to approve the recommended changes to the Employee Handbook as submitted, delete any associated references, and re-index as applicable.

DPW Superintendent Ragsdale commented he was concerned with his current situation and what the new policy meant to him. Mayor Carnagie suggested he call City Manager Leven in the morning to review the new policy with her. City Manager Leven reviewed the basic effect the policy would have and added that the policy would go into effect tomorrow, December 19, 2022.

AYES: Baranski, Blanke, Carnagie, Kalka, O'Dell, Schornak, Sutherland

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

At 810 p.m. City Council took a break.

City Council reconvened at 8:34 p.m.

8. RETURNING BUSINESS:

a. Library Bond Project Update

Mayor Carnagie reviewed that this item had been on the agenda previously and that City Council had a lot of questions that had yet to be answered by the Library.

Council began discussion with Library Director Lorena McDowell and Library Attorney Scott Hogan.

City Council had questions regarding issues such as why the language of the resolution was changed by the library board when it was adopted – how does this actually work when the City sells bonds for a project they are not in charge of. The bond attorney explained this process to City Council. Further questions were had. The bond attorney noted that all details

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of this transaction be worked out on both sides – the City of Fraser and the Library Board – prior to issuance of any bonds.

Discussion was had on the language on the ballot and what was actually being proposed by the library board with the millage that was passed. There seemed to be a concern that the ballot language did not clearly state what the Library Board was planning to do with the money.

City Council wanted more specific plans and costs associated with this plan then what they had presented. They wanted more detailed costs. What was going to happen to the old building? How were the bills going to get paid?

Motion by O'Dell supported by Sutherland to approve the resolution authorizing the issuance of the 2023 Capital Improvement Bonds as submitted to City Council per the Fraser Public Library not to exceed \$7,000,000; payment of those bonds will follow the submitted resolution as approved by the Library Board of Trustees in 11/22/22 that allows the City to withhold and pay the principal and interest portion of the bond payments yearly until paid in full.

Discussion was had on the current building and what was going to happen to it. Bobby Bendzinski, City's Municipal Finance Advisor, spoke to Council. He stated that they recommended, as the City's municipal advisor, that the City had construction bids in their hands before they sell bonds. In other words don't move forward with approving the sale of bonds without concrete construction bids in hand.

Discussion ensued regarding the agreement between the Library and the City and the fact that the Library did not currently pay rent on the building they are currently in. There could be a new agreement negotiated possibly.

At this time, 9:55 p.m., Council Member Baranski called the question

AYES: O'Dell, Sutherland

NAYS: Baranski, Blanke, Carnagie, Kalka, Schornak

Motion Fails

City Council Member Baranski suggested that City Council direct City Attorney DeNault to do the research to make certain that the millage can't be revoked, for the Library to get all of the specific information to City Council, to have a study done regarding the current library building and what needs to be done to bring it up to being a sellable building, to get some type of agreement between the City and the Library as to the status of the current building – will the Library be paying rent or will the City sell it – we need to find the answer to that question.

Deanna Reiner, 15569 Luxemburg appeared before the Council. She stated her concern about the verbiage of the language for the millage approval. She felt it would be good to inform the residents.

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b. REPORT OF CITY ADMINISTRATION

City Manager Leven reviewed the following information:

Thanked the entire team that worked on Christmas in Fraser, particularly Sarah Mistretta for all the extra time she put in.

Thanks to Tanya, Jennifer and Mary for helping out as well at the event. Mayor Carnagie commented on the Chamber and how wonderful it looked and thanked Mary Matuz for that.

She discussed the ZOOM platform and the problems that were incurred and asked City Council if we could stop using ZOOM at the meeting.

Motion by Baranski supported by Schornak to discontinue use of the ZOOM platform immediately and ask the City Administration to find some way our internal employees can connect with City Council during the meeting without using ZOOM.

AYES: Baranski, Blanke, Carnagie, Kalka, O'Dell, Schornak, Sutherland

NAYS:

Motion Carried

Deanna Reiner asked if we could use the phone for this type of communication.

c. REPORT OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Sutherland wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Council Member Baranski wanted to thank Sergeant Eric Meyers for being a very dedicated employee. He is a role model for all of us and for all of our employees.

Council Member Blanke agreed with Council Member Baranski. Sergeant Eric Meyer is very important to our community and is a very genuine individual. He would be someone who everyone would be proud to call their son. She also wished everyone a very Merry Christmas and thanked everyone for a good year.

Council Member Blanke left at 10:12 p.m.

Council Member Kalka commented on how nice the Chamber looked and thanked Mary for that. She then thanked the employees for the great changes she has seen in the City. She wished everyone a very great holiday season. She thanked all of City Council for their efforts in making the City a better place and wished them a happy holiday season. She announced that this Saturday from 10-3 there is a holiday market at Sulk Elementary. She wished all the residents a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Council Member O'Dell wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He said it was wonderful to see everyone show up for Christmas in Fraser and said it was a wonderful event and he knows it will be even better next year. He thanked everyone that worked on the Library proposal – he appreciates them all. He stated that he appreciated City Council and City Staff.

Mayor Pro-Tem Schornak shared that the Historical Commission is having a Christmas Sale. All items were half off – it would be on December 11, 2022. She thanked all City staff

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and City Council for a good year and their efforts in making the City a better place. She wished everyone a very happy holiday season. She reminded everyone to remember those who are less fortunate and to do something for them – even if it's something small.

Mayor Carnagie wanted to congratulate Eric Meyers for his years of service to the City of Fraser. He was a great employee and he hopes that Sergeant Meyers enjoys his retirement. He shared that he had met with Candice Miller regarding the 15 Mile Road projects coming up in 2023. Next week was the Public Safety Shopping with a Hero. Last week at Christmas in Fraser they ran out of hot dogs. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy and healthy New Year. He thanked the employees for all they did, especially Mary Matuz.

d. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Laura Lesich, 15201 Fairview spoke. Concerned with Recreation Commission meeting not being recorded. Also she was concerned that the Recreation Commission Agenda did not reflect any discussion regarding the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Kyle Burley, 15950 Luxemburg, Library Board member, spoke regarding the Library Bond.

e. CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Carnagie supported by Kalka to enter into closed session for the purpose of consulting with the City Attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in regards to Macomb County Circuit Case # 2020-003248-CD.

ROLL CALL VOTE

AYES: Baranski, Carnagie, Kalka, O'Dell, Schornak, Sutherland

NAYS: Motion Carried

City Council entered into closed session at 10:28 p.m.

City Council reconvened at 11:50 p.m.

f. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Baranski supported by Sutherland to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 p.m.

AYES: Baranski, Carnagie, Kalka, O'Dell, Schornak, Sutherland

NAYS: Motion Carried

Respectfully
Submitted:

Cindi Greenia, Clerk
City of Fraser

Michael Carnagie, Mayor
City of Fraser