



CITY MANAGER

Elaine Leven

CITY CLERK

Cynthia Greenia

City of Fraser

CENTENNIAL COMMUNITY

MAYOR

Michael Lesich

MAYOR PRO-TEM

Dana Sutherland

COUNCIL

Amy Baranski

Patrick O'Dell

Kenny Perry

Patrice Schornak

Sherry Stein

**FRASER CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
33000 GARFIELD, FRASER, MI 48026
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024 6:30 P.M.
AS APPROVED APRIL 11, 2024**

A regular meeting of the Fraser City Council was held on Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in City Council Chambers, 33000 Garfield, Fraser, MI 48026.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lesich called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Lesich led the Pledge of Allegiance

3. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following members were present:

PRESENT: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

ABSENT: Sutherland

Motion by Lesich supported by Baranski to excuse member Sutherland from the meeting.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA;

Motion by O'Dell supported by Schornak to approve the agenda of the March 14, 2024 Fraser City Council meeting as proposed.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

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5. CITIZEN'S PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment at this time.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were on the Consent Agenda for the March 14, 2024 meeting of the Fraser City Council:

- a. City Council Meeting Minutes February 8, 2024
- b. Historical Commission Meeting Minutes December 4, 2023
- c. Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes January 16, 2024
- d. Planning Commission Meeting Minutes January 3, 2024
- e. Historical Commission March Newsletter
- f. CLEMIS IT Services Interlocal Agreement
- g. 2024 Poverty Exemption Policy
- h. Set Budget Public Hearing Date
- i. Concrete Improvement Program Report
- j. Check Disbursements
- k. Revenue and Expenditure Report

Motion by O'Dell supported by Stein to approve the Consent Agenda for the March 14, 2024 meeting of the Fraser City Council as proposed.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein
NAYS: None

Motion Carried

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Planning Commission Appointment – Trevor Tuller

Motion by Schornak supported by Baranski to appoint Trevor Tuller to the City of Fraser Planning Commission with a term ending 12/31/2025.

Mr. Tuller approached City Council. He stated he was very excited to help the City of Fraser move forward and that was his reason for submitting his application to be part of the Planning Commission.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein
NAYS: None

Motion Carried

b. Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment – Emma Stasek

Motion by Baranski supported by Schornak to appoint Emma Stasek to the City of Fraser Zoning Board of Appeals with a term ending 12/31/2026.

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Emma Stasek approached City Council. She stated that she was looking forward to making a positive impact in her community and that was why she submitted her application to be on the Zoning Board of Appeals. She felt very invested in this City.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

c. Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment – Patrick Green

Motion by Stein supported by Schornak to appoint Patrick Green to the City of Fraser Zoning Board of Appeals with a term ending 12/31/2026.

Patrick Green approached City Council. He shared he had come from a family who had served their community and he was proud and excited to do the same thing.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

d. Letter of Support – Detroit Veteran's Memorial

Mayor Lesich reviewed this item for City Council. He indicated that he was contacted by Mike Sand regarding City Council showing support for the construction of a Veteran's Memorial in the City of Detroit. This memorial would be for veterans of any war, not specific to one. There is no memorial in Michigan that is currently dedicated to all who served. This group was simply looking for a letter of support.

Motion by Leisch supported by Schornak to authorize Mayor Michael Lesich to sign a letter of support on behalf of the City of Fraser City Council in support of the Veteran's Memorial of Detroit, Inc. (VMoD).

City Council Member Schornak stated that she felt it was time for something like this to be constructed – to encompass not only those veteran's that fought in other lands but also those that served their county stateside. She was definitely in support of this memorial.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

e. MDOT Resolution for Storm Sewer Engineering Agreement

City Manager Leven went over this with City Council. She noted that the City has a contract with Michigan Department of Transportation. They are looking for City Council's approval for an agreement that would share the cost of operation and maintenance of the City's sanitary sewer system resulting from MDOT's storm water discharge into our system.

Mike Vigneron, City Engineer, then approached City Council. He and City Manager Leven explained that the City gets billed from the Macomb Interceptor Drainage District and we have been paying for all of the sewer discharge to go through the City's sanitary sewer

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system when part of it was actually from MDOT's storm water discharge that goes through our system at 14 Mile and Groesbeck.

AEW had been working on this for quite some time. There would be an approximately \$20,000 annual fee, with a claw back clause back to 2017. It will help offset the City's costs. MDOT does have similar agreements with many other communities. He further reviewed the history of this issue.

Motion by Lesich supported by O'Dell to approve a resolution to Contract 23-5213 for storm sewer overflow with the Michigan Department of Transportation and authorize the City Manager to sign the contract on behalf of the City of Fraser.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

f. Masonic Pump Station Engineering Agreement

City Engineer Mike Vigneron indicated that since the City of Fraser was committing ARPA funding to the Masonic Stormwater Pump Station, and as it is Federal Funding all the paperwork needed to be in order. The City needed to commit all the funding by the end of 2024. They were asking that City Council approve the agreement between The City of Fraser and AEW for the Masonic Stormwater Pump Station.

Motion by O'Dell supported by Stein to approve the engineering services for the Masonic Stormwater Pump Station upgrades with AEW in accordance with the standing agreement between AEW and the City of Fraser.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

g. ALS Response Request

Director of Public Safety Kretzschmar and Captain Gillies were at the meeting to present this request to City Council.

Director Kretzschmar explained that when she was first hired by the City she was informed we have a millage to support ALS. She feels that the City uses a lot of mutual aid to help cover the ALS calls and that the residents need to see more from the City for their tax dollars. She shared that the DPS worked very hard to come up with an idea as to how this could best be accomplished.

She reviewed the current operations of the ALS service in Fraser, they ran one ambulance 24 hours a day seven (7) days a week. This request was for a second ambulance to be run from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. seven days a week – those were historically the busiest hours for calls.

Review was had of the number of calls the City has had and how they had increased over the years as well as the number or mutual aid calls other cities had attended because we do not have sufficient staffing and equipment to handle all of them. The financial impact of this was discussed.

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Captain Gillies then reviewed with City Council a very conservative set of figures indicating how adding two (2) full time Fire Fighter/EMT's to service this second ambulance, as well as the equipment needed to do so would affect the City's budget.

City Council discussed how the residents were sometimes charged for the services of ALS as well as the amount of taxes that were being collected. Council Member Schornak indicated that she understood we would not be raising the taxes if this item were approved.

Mayor Lesich then commented on the presentation and the financial impact those numbers would have on the City. He noted they were very believable and he appreciated that.

Motion by O'Dell supported by Baranski to approve the addition of a second ALS Ambulance along with the hiring of two (2) full time Fire Fighters/EMTs.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

h. Deficit Elimination Plan

City Manager Leven indicated that coming out of the audit there were two funds that showed a deficit. One was the self-insurance fund that showed a deficit of \$284,383 as of July 1, 2023. The other fund was the motor pool fund which showed a deficit of \$237,553 as of July 1, 2023.

Finance Director was present in case there were any questions.

Council Member Schornak asked why the motor pool was showing a deficit. City Manager Leven indicated that the motor pool funds showed a deficit because there were numerous departments that should be contributing to the motor pool and the transfers were not made during FY 22/23.

Motion by Lesich supported by Baranski to approve the adoption of City of Fraser Resolution # 2024-003 The City of Fraser Deficit Elimination Plan for 2022/2023 FY for the Self Insurance Fund and the Motor Pool Fund. The total transfer from General Fund to the self-insurance fund will be \$504,043 and the total transfer from General Fund to the motor pool fund will be \$454,535.

Mayor Lesich then commented that part of the deficit came because the other funds were not charged the proper amount for self-insurance, and we drained the motor pool internal fund because we did not charge the other funds the proper amount.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

i. 2023/2024 Budget Amendments

City Manager Leven indicated that this item was a companion piece to the deficit elimination plan that was showing the moving the funds to the self-insurance fund and the

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motor pool fund and bringing those funds to an amount where there should be adequate funding to have a positive balance in those funds at the end of the fiscal year.

Discussion was had on when this would be taken care of. Finance Director stated that the final bill for Fiscal Year 2023/ 2024 would not come until after the end of the Fiscal Year.

Motion by Lesich supported by Schornak to approve the fiscal year 2023/2024 budget amendments as requested on the attached spreadsheet.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

j. Dump Truck Repairs

City Manager Leven shared with City Council that Dump truck #17 was in need of somewhat major repairs. The amount of the repairs totaled \$14,580.01. The estimate on this came from Jefferson Auto. This is a vehicle that we currently have through Enterprise. They have reviewed and approved this estimate for these repairs.

Motion by Baranski supported by Perry to approve Jefferson Auto to make repairs to DPW Dump truck #17 in the amount of \$14,580.01.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

k. Spray Patching Program

DPW Superintendent Ragsdale explained his request to City Council. He indicated that currently 20% of his full-time staff was over at the Industrial District patching potholes. Last year's application of spray-patching has held up relatively well excepting those areas where at the drives where the trucks turn is wearing.

He added that he was asking for up to \$75,000 in FY 23/24 as well as up to \$150,000 in FY 24/25 at this time because the company stated they would hold the prices for us at this time.

Council Member Schornak stated she would like to see the City allocate a certain amount for the Industrial District roads every year. She felt that if they were constructed correctly it would meet their needs better. We cannot just keep patching this.

She also asked questions regarding Masonic and Kelly as well as why the County roads, why don't they just replace the bad parts of the road. Discussion was had.

Council Member Baranski indicated that they did have a plan on this and City Council voted it down. Discussion was had as to where the funds were going – was it just in the Industrial Subdivision or throughout the entire City. City Manager Leven stated the funds being requested tonight were for spray patch in the entire City.

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Motion by Baranski supported by Lesich to approve Highway Maintenance to continue spray patching throughout the city at a rate of \$390.00 per ton not to exceed \$75,000.00 this fiscal year (FY 23/24) and not to exceed \$150,000.00 next fiscal year (FY 24/25).

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

I. Utility Rate Study Recommendation

City Manager Leven stated that the sub-committee of Mayor Lesich, Council Member Perry, DPW Superintendent Ragsdale, City Engineer Mike Vigneron and herself reviewed the RFP's that came in for Utility Rate Study/. There were three (3) proposals, they chose to interview two (2) firms and agreed that Municipal Analytics was the best fit for this job. She was looking for a motion to approve awarding them the job as well as authorizing the City Manager to sign and enter into an agreement with them as long as it meets the approval of the City Attorney.

Mayor Lesich indicated this was funded through the Drinking Water Asset Management Grant that the City received a couple of years ago.

Motion by Schornak supported by Stein to accept the recommendation of the sub-committee and approve the proposal from Municipal Analytics to complete a Revenue Requirements Study in the amount of \$22,600 plus expenses as approved by the City Manager and authorize the City Manager to enter into an Agreement with Municipal Analytics that meets the approval of the City Attorney.

City Engineer Vigneron reviewed the timeline of this project. The study should be done and ready to present to City Council within four (4) to five (5) months out.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

m. City Clerk Job Posting

City Manager Leven reviewed that City Clerk Greenia was going to be stepping back from her role as City Clerk and that would leave a vacancy in that position. She was looking for a motion to approve the job description as well as the salary range.

Motion by Schornak supported by Baranski to approve posting City Clerk Job Posting Description at the recommended wage range.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

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8. RETURNING BUSINESS

a. Resolution Opposing State Water Affordability Legislation

City Council discussed their feelings on this resolution. After discussion it was felt that City Council would agree to do nothing regarding this at this time.

9. REPORT OF CITY ADMINISTRATION

City Manager Leven reviewed the following updates:

She received some praise for Mr. Bob Logan from a customer, kudos to him.

She has been interviewing for the HR Administrator Position – there are some good options

She attended the Macomb Partners meeting this week as well as Mayor Pro-Tem Sutherland

She met with Macomb County Department of Roads regarding our outstanding permits for our City Signs

Met with Vc3 regarding some issues here at the City with our IT services

She has been spending a lot of her available extra time on the Budget, she has already met with some department heads. All Department heads budgets were due tomorrow.

10. REPORT OF MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Stein shared the F.A.M.E. awards were out – it was a great opportunity to nominate someone who does great things in the city.

Council Member Perry had nothing at this time.

Council Member Schornak shared that the Baumgartner House was having an open house on April 8, 2024 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. They will soon be taking donations for their rummage sale. They wondered if they could have a Junior Member at Large on the Commission. Attorney DeNault noted there was nothing to prevent that, but we would need to describe the parameters of it.

They will be having something with a Special Program. The barn will be in our city for thirty (30) years this year. The Goodfellows are having their Annual Meat Auction on April 6.

Fraser High School is having a fund raiser in honor of Mr. Pascaretti on April 26, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Any donations will go for a scholarship in his name. Happy Easter - don't forget the Marshmallow Drop is on March 23, 2024.

Council Member Baranski wished everyone a Happy St. Patrick's Day.

Council Member O'Dell had nothing at this time.

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Mayor Lesich thanked everyone for coming out tonight. He spent the day reading to Kindergarten to sixth (6th) grade. He attended the MML Conference on Tuesday and Wednesday. He talked to a variety of people around the state about many issues. Today he had an interview at SEMCOG for a Taubman Fellowship Scholarship. It is a scholarship to the Kennedy School of Government Senior Executive Leadership Program at Harvard. He was awarded one of the 75 Scholarship throughout the entire country. He was excited to go. Happy St. Patrick's Day.

11. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Luxio Onxy, 16891 General appeared before City Council to express her frustration and anger at Israel and her opinion on the wars she feels the US has initiated.

George Higgins, 18331 Breezeway, appeared before City Council. He thanked City Council for their approach on the Statewide Water Affordability Bills.

Deanna Reinhard, 15569 Luxemburg, asked if there were any updates on the Library. She heard they were leaning toward not coming back to their original building. She stated she would like to see if the residents could repeal the second millage that was approved. She feels the library has not been up front with what they are doing.

Laura Lesich, 15201 Fairview, mentioned that Meadows Park and the Baumgartner Museum have recently been given "Little Libraries". An Eagle Scout, Troop 1402, Andrew, added this as part of his Eagle Scout Project. She asked everyone to please get out and feel these "Little Libraries" with books.

She attended the Recreation Commission and reviewed the Marshmallow drop, adding the Easter Bunny would be there as well as farm animals.

The VFW will be having their Spaghetti Dinner on March 27, she encouraged everyone to attend.

12. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by O'Dell supported by Lesich to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

AYES: Baranski, Lesich, O'Dell, Perry, Schornak, Stein

NAYS: None

Motion Carried

Respectfully submitted:

Cindi Greenia, Clerk
City of Fraser

Michael Lesich, Mayor
City of Fraser