

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

April 6, 2015

The Municipal Council of the City of Alpena met in regular session in the City Hall on the above date and was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by the Mayor.

Present: Mayor Waligora, Councilmembers Sexton, Nielsen, Nowak, and Johnson.

Absent: None.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

MINUTES

The minutes of the regular session of March 16, 2015, were approved as printed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Councilmember Sexton, seconded by Councilmember Nielsen, that the following Consent Agenda items be approved:

1. Bills Allowed – in the amount of \$462,340.34 be allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk authorized to sign warrants in payment of same.
2. Receive and file the 2014 City Treasurer's Tax Roll Collection Report.

Carried by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARING

WATER WELL RESTRICTION ORDINANCE

Mayor Waligora announced a Public Hearing on Water Well Restriction Ordinance No. 2015-429.

Adam Poll, Planning and Development Director, presented a report on the proposed water well restriction zone located near the intersection of Ripley Street and Washington Avenue.

The public comment period was opened.

Duffy Gorski who lives at 746 S. State Avenue, and owns a business at 118 S. Ripley, asked what the contaminants are on his property and what are the hazards of those contaminants?

Rich Brege, Senior Project Manager of Environmental and Asbestos Services, Inc. addressed Mr. Gorski's questions. He stated that the main contaminant is gasoline and it is located under the former gas station sites and the right of way. There is little contamination under the residences in the zone but they have been included as a buffer zone in case there is any future migration of contamination.

Greg Sundin, City Manager, gave a history of a site water well restriction.

Kathleen Melville-Hall, 342 S. Third Avenue, asked if the wells would be for irrigation or drinking water. Greg Sundin stated that the ordinance would restrict the use of either and Adam Poll, Planning and Development Director, stated that there are no known irrigation wells at the site.

Mark Hunter, 642 Eighth Street, stated he is a former member of several environmental committees. He is concerned that the property will remain polluted for the long term and not cleaned up. It could reduce the property values of homes. What are the alternatives if Council doesn't approve the request for water well restrictions? Does it remain an open file; does DEQ require clean up; is this primarily a way to avoid the cost of clean up by private owners?

Rich Brege, Senior Project Manager of Environmental and Asbestos Services, Inc. addressed Mark Hunter's concerns. He stated that if Council turns down the ordinance, there are no feasible alternatives because of the number of buildings involved and the multiple, potential sources of contamination.

Greg Sundin, City Manager, also gave some information on laws affecting clean up.

The Clerk indicated that there were no written comments.

The public comment period was closed. Council discussion followed. The Mayor declared the Public Hearing closed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2015-429

Ordinance No. 2015-429, being an Ordinance to Amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Alpena by Adding Sections 98-40 Through 98-53 to Chapter 98, Article II of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Alpena to Regulate and Restrict the Use of Groundwater in Certain Areas of the City of Alpena Due to the Presence of Groundwater Contamination, was given its first presentment (reading) by the City Attorney.

ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS FOR TAX ABATEMENTS

Moved by Councilmember Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, that the annual reports of capital investment and employment for the six firms currently receiving tax abatements, be received and filed.

Carried by unanimous vote.

STORM DRAINS FLOWING INTO THE THUNDER BAY RIVER AND THUNDER BAY

Moved by Councilmember Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Sexton, that City staff investigate a one-year study, proposed by Duffy Gorski serving as a professional consultant, on what debris is coming out of the storm drains and bring back to Council.

Carried by unanimous vote.

NORTHEAST MICHIGAN RECYCLING EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

Moved by Councilmember Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Nielsen, that a letter of support for the Northeast Michigan Recycling Education Collaborative grant proposal, be approved.

Carried by unanimous vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Councilmember Sexton, seconded by Councilmember Johnson, that the Municipal Council adjourn to a closed session at 8:35 p.m., to discuss union contract negotiations.

Carried by unanimous vote.

RECESS

The Municipal Council recessed at 8:35 p.m.

RECONVENE – CLOSED SESSION

The Municipal Council reconvened in closed session at 8:45 p.m.

RECONVENE – OPEN SESSION

On motion of Councilmember Sexton, seconded by Councilmember Nowak, the Municipal Council reconvened in open session at 9:15 p.m.

On motion of Councilmember Nowak, seconded by Councilmember Sexton, the Municipal Council adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

MATTHEW J. WALIGORA
MAYOR

ATTEST:

Karen Hebert
City Clerk