

Minutes of the electronically conducted regular meeting of the City Commission held Monday, January 11, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Acting City Clerk Saladine called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acting City Clerk Saladine administered the Oath of Office to Olivia Cyman and William Joseph for the term January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023.

Commissioners Present: Mary Alsager, Olivia Cyman, Lori Gillis, William Joseph, Amy Perschbacher, George Ronan and Petro Tolas
All commissioners present indicated they were in Mt. Pleasant in Isabella County, MI.

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Ridley, Acting City Clerk Saladine and City Attorney Homier

City Manager Ridley made comments about previous City Commissioners that recently passed and asked for a moment of silence.

Acting City Clerk Saladine administered Oath of Office to recently elected commissioners.

Acting City Clerk Saladine conducted the election of Mayor.

City Clerk Saladine opened nominations for Mayor.

Commissioner Alsager nominated Commissioner Joseph for Mayor.

Commissioner Tolas nominated Commissioner Gillis for Mayor.

Nominations for Mayor were closed.

The Commission voted on the nominees for Mayor.

Commissioner Joseph received votes from Commissioners Alsager, Cyman, Joseph, Perschbacher & Ronan.

Commissioner Gillis received votes from Commissioners Gillis & Tolas.

Commissioner Joseph was elected Mayor for 2021 by a majority of the votes of the full Commission.

Mayor Joseph opened nominations for Vice Mayor.

Commissioner Alsager nominated Commissioner Perschbacher for Vice Mayor.

Commissioner Gillis nominated Commissioner Tolas for Vice Mayor.

Nominations for Vice Mayor were closed.

The Commission voted on the nominees for Vice Mayor.

Commissioner Perschbacher received votes from Commissioners Alsager, Cyman, Joseph, Perschbacher & Ronan.

Commissioner Tolas received votes from Commissioners Gillis & Tolas.

Commissioner Perschbacher was elected Vice Mayor for 2021 by a majority of the votes of the full Commission.

Set Time and Day of Regular Meetings

Moved by Vice Mayor Perschbacher and supported by Commissioner Tolas to adopt the resolution setting time and day of regular meetings as follows:

WHEREAS, the City Charter requires the City Commission to set the day, time and place of its regular meetings,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission shall meet during 2021 on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 7:00 p.m. (except for December in which the second meeting of the month will be held on the third Monday of the month) in the City Commission Room, City Hall, 320 W. Broadway beginning January 25, 2021. Resolution unanimously adopted.

AYES: Commissioners Alsager, Cyman, Gillis, Joseph, Perschbacher, Ronan & Tolas

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion unanimously adopted.

Proclamations and Presentations

Due to technical issues, introduction of Street Maintenance Specialist Kyle Keehbauch is delayed until the next meeting.

Receipt of Petitions and Communications

Received the following petitions and communications:

1. City Manager report on pending items;
 - a. Monthly report on police related citizen complaints received.
2. Principal Shopping District Board (PSD) Meeting Minutes. (November)
3. Listing of payrolls and warrants from December 15, 2020 through January 11, 2021.
4. Correspondence from Ponder Coffee regarding business assistance.

Moved by Commissioner Tolas and supported by Commissioner Gillis to approve the following items on the Consent Calendar:

1. Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Commission held December 14, 2020.
2. Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) performance resolution for governmental agencies for the purpose of representing the City in transactions.
3. Appointments of City Officials to applicable City boards and commissions for 2021:

Building Authority

Finance Director Mary Ann Kornexl

Center for Applied Research Technology/

Local Development Finance Authority

City Manager Nancy Ridley

Finance Director Mary Ann Kornexl, as alternate

9-1-1/Central Dispatch Governing Board

Fire Chief Rick Beltinck

Police Captain Andy Latham, as alternate

Isabella County Material Recovery

Facility Governing Board

Street Superintendent Matt Weaver

MML Legislative Coordinator

City Manager Nancy Ridley

Mid-Michigan Area Cable and

Telecommunications Consortium Board

Public Relations Coordinator Darcy Orlik

City Clerk Jeremy Howard, as alternate

Middle Michigan Development Corporation

Economic Development Director Bill Mrdeza

City Manager Nancy Ridley, as alternate

AYES: Commissioners Alsager, Cyman, Gillis, Joseph, Perschbacher, Ronan & Tolas

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion unanimously adopted.

Moved by Vice Mayor Perschbacher and supported by Commissioner Alsager to authorize the Mayor and Clerk to sign the Airport Joint Operations Agreement as presented and to retain the current Airport Advisory Board members until their terms expire.

AYES: Commissioners Alsager, Cyman, Joseph, Perschbacher & Ronan

NAYS: Commissioners Gillis & Tolas

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

Moved by Commissioner Tolas and supported by Vice Mayor Perschbacher to approve the resolution to waive the 3% penalty on unpaid taxes between February 17 and March 1 as presented.

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death and it is caused by a new strain of virus that has not previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person; and

WHEREAS, State of Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer declared a state of emergency to harness resources across the state to slow the spread of the virus and various executive orders, public health orders and state legislation have been enacted as a response to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has determined it is in the best interests of the health, safety and welfare of the City to provide for the continued basic operations of the City and to take actions authorized under the Emergency Management Act, Act 390 of 1976 (the "Act") and in compliance with executive orders and public health orders issued in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has had a negative economic impact on the citizens and businesses of the City and may continue to do so for weeks or months to come; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has determined that, where possible, it is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare being of its residents to provide economic relief; and

WHEREAS, the Principal Shopping District Board recommended at its December 10, 2020 meeting to waive the interest and/or penalties on outstanding Principal Shopping District Special Assessments; and

WHEREAS, MCL 211.44(4) authorizes the governing body of a local property tax collecting unit to waive all or part of the late penalty charge.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Commission of the City of Mount Pleasant as follows:

1. Beginning February 17, 2021 through March 1, 2021, the City of Mount Pleasant, pursuant to the authority under MCL 211.44(4) and without further request, waives the 3% penalty only that accrues on all unpaid City taxes.

AYES: Commissioners Alsager, Cyman, Gillis, Joseph, Perschbacher, Ronan & Tolas

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion unanimously adopted.

Moved by Commissioner Alsager and supported by Vice Mayor Perschbacher to conduct a closed session pursuant to subsection 8(e) of the Open Meetings Act to consult with counsel regarding pending litigation Cedjo Services, LLC and N-East Services, LLC (Case No. 20-16504-AA), Pure Releaf N Union LLC (Case No. 20-16511-CZ), and Cary Investments, LLC (Case No. 20-16662-CZ).

AYES: Commissioners Alsager, Cyman, Gillis, Joseph, Perschbacher, Ronan & Tolas

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion unanimously adopted.

Announcements on City-Related Issues and New Business

Mayor Joseph reminded public that there are opportunities to help those in our community that are struggling and encouraged people to volunteer. He also commented on electoral events from January 6 whereby protestors interrupted the electoral process in Washington D.C. Mayor Joseph condemned the actions of those that stormed the Capitol. He also indicated support for the actions of the State of Michigan Health Department's fight against COVID-19.

Vice Mayor Perschbacher indicated support for Mayor Joseph's comments on both the electoral events and COVID-19. She also read a quote from the Chaplain of the Senate related to the electoral events that transpired on January 6, 2021.

Commissioner Tolas received a communication from a group indicating they had public comment for the City Commission.

Commissioner Alsager expressed appreciation and support for Mayor Joseph's comments and encouraged the community to find peace and understanding.

Commissioner Gillis expressed support for the direct election of the mayor by voters instead of being elected by commissioners. She also reminded the public that there are several vacancies on City boards and commissions.

Commissioner Ronan indicated the Charter Committee is looking at potential changes to how the mayor is elected and term changes.

Commissioner Tolas showed support for Commissioner Gillis' comments about partisanship.

City Manager Ridley read a list of vacancies for City boards and commissions. She also discussed vaccine availability in our community. Our local Health Department is following guidelines about which categories of individuals get vaccine priority.

Public Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

City Manager Ridley read comment from Liz Busch requesting sidewalk on Oak Street near Broadway.

The Commission recessed at 8:20 p.m. and went into a closed session at 8:27 p.m. A separate set of minutes was taken for the closed session.

Mayor Joseph adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.