

Minutes of the electronically conducted regular meeting of the City Commission held Monday, January 25, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Joseph called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Commissioners Absent: None

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

All present attended virtually via Zoom video conference.

Proclamations and Presentations

Video presentation to introduce newly hired employee to the Commission and public.

Mayor Joseph read a proclamation recognizing February as "Peacemaking Recognition Month".

Additions/Deletions to Agenda

Moved by Commissioner Tolas and supported by Commissioner Gillis to add a new Item #21: "Discussion on recent social media posts from Vice Mayor Perschbacher" to the agenda.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion unanimously adopted.

Public Input on Agenda Items

Kathy Ling, 914 S. Crapo; Maureen Eke, 912 Hopkins; and Darian Bird, 1510 E. Gaylord commented on recent social media post by Vice Mayor Perschbacher.

*Due to the meeting being conducted electronically, some public comments were emailed to the City and then read aloud by City Manager Ridley.

Email communication from William Donovan, 1434 Orchard Ln, regarding Vice Mayor Perschbacher's social media post.

Receipt of Petitions and Communications

Received the following petitions and communications:

1. City Manager report on pending items.
 - a. Vehicle/Bicyclist and Vehicle/Pedestrian Accident Data for 2020.
2. Fourth Quarter Investment Report.
3. Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meeting minutes. (July, 2020)
4. Planning Commission meeting minutes. (December, 2020)
5. Receipt of Planning Commission's 2020 Annual Report.
6. Resignation of Glen Irwin from the Airport Advisory Board.
7. Electronic correspondence received from Amber Mattic; Kristin Moll; Mike Lafave; Adam Salomon; Nancy McGuirk (3); Jordan Hall; Emma Fuller; Bruce Kilmer; Cynthia Kilmer and Neil Orris regarding social media post by Vice Mayor Perschbacher.

Item #18 "Consider appointment of City representative and MMDC representative to the Airport Joint Operations Board" was removed from the Consent Calendar.

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

1. Minutes of the electronically conducted regular meeting of the City Commission held January 11, 2021.
2. Minutes of the closed session of the City Commission held January 11, 2021.
3. Authorize the purchase of a Ford Explorer Utility Vehicle from Krapohl Ford in the amount of \$35,431 for the Fire Department.
4. Award contract for work on Section 1 of Exterior Insulation Finish System (EIFS) at the Department of Public Safety building to Cusack Masonry Restoration, LLC of Hubbardston, Michigan in the amount of \$112,000.
5. Approve a budget amendment to allocate \$8,000 to the City Hall Building account for the renovation of Conference Room E.
6. Authorize the confirmation of the Michigan Employees' Retirement System (MERS) agreement addendum for retirement plans as presented.
7. Set a special meeting for Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. for a joint meeting between the City Commission and the Planning Commission.
8. Warrants dated January 12, 19, and 20, 2021 all totaling \$1,837,438.45.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion unanimously adopted.

Moved by Commissioner Tolas and supported by Commissioner Alsager to confirm the sale of up to 3 acres in Industrial Park North to Mitchell Wagoner for \$14,500 per acre as recommended by the EDC.

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion unanimously adopted.

Mayor Joseph made the following appointments of City Commissioners to City standing and special committees:

Appointments Committee

Mary Alsager

Lori Gillis

Amy Perschbacher

Central Michigan Center for Recovery,
Education, and Wellness (CMCREW)

Mary Alsager

Charter Committee

Lori Gillis

Amy Perschbacher

George Ronan

Council of Governments

William Joseph

Intergovernmental Liaison

William Joseph

Amy Perschbacher

International Relations/Sister City Council

Olivia Cyman

William Joseph (alternate)

Mt. Pleasant Area Diversity Council

Olivia Cyman

Property Committee

Mary Alsager

William Joseph

Petro Tolas

Moved by Commissioner Ronan and supported by Commissioner Alsager to make the following appointments of City Commissioners to applicable City Boards and Commissions:

Audit Committee

George Ronan
Petro Tolas
William Joseph (alternate)

City/CMU Student Liaison Committee

Olivia Cyman
Petro Tolas

Economic Development Corporation/
Brownfield Redevelopment Authority

Lori Gillis
Mary Alsager (alternate)

Principal Shopping District Board

George Ronan

Tax Increment Finance Authority

George Ronan

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion unanimously adopted.

Moved by Commissioner Alsager and supported by Commissioner Ronan to approve the appointment of City Manager Nancy Ridley (term to expire December 31, 2021) and Middle Michigan Development CEO Jim McBryde (term to expire December 31, 2023) to serve as the representatives on the Airport Joint Operations Board for the City and MMDC respectively. In addition, approve the appointment of DPW Director Jason Moore to serve as the alternate for the City Manager.

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

NAYS: Commissioners Gillis and Tolas

ABSENT: None

Motion carried.

City Attorney Homier updated the Commission on the status of research he was asked to perform related to recent social media post by Vice Mayor Perschbacher.

Discussion ensued.

Announcements on City-Related Issues and New Business

Commissioner Tolas commented that he has received many phone calls and emails related to Vice Mayor Perschbacher's social media post. He indicated support for law enforcement and military.

Commissioner Ronan indicated his support for free speech.

Mayor Joseph reminded the community that there are many community members in need and asked those able to consider helping those less fortunate. He also reminded the community about the new snow emergency policy. He asked City Manager Ridley to give a recap of the new policy. He also reminded people to support our local businesses during the pandemic, but to do so safely.

City Manager Ridley gave the following information regarding snow emergencies:

The Mt. Pleasant City Commission recently passed an ordinance allowing additional on-street parking and declaration of snow emergencies. If a **snow emergency** is declared by City staff, on-street parking will NOT be permitted.

During a snow emergency, failure to remove vehicles from the street will result in a ticket. Towing may be utilized if ticketing has proven ineffective and/or the vehicles parked on the street cause a delay in snow removal.

Notice of when a snow emergency is declared, and later lifted, will be provided through the city's social media channels, blog <https://mpcityblog.com/>, community information phone line (989-779-5320), local media notification, and an email alert.

To receive an email notification, sign up to receive the city's monthly eConnections newsletter by visiting <http://www.mt-pleasant.org/news/e-news.asp>.

Commissioner Alsager expressed her appreciation for the work our soup kitchen is performing in our community.

Mayor Joseph adjourned the meeting without objection at 8:52 p.m.

William L. Joseph, Mayor

Chris Saladine, Acting City Clerk