

**Meeting Minutes  
City Commission Meeting  
Three Rivers, Michigan  
April 20, 2010**

**1. Call to Order**

Mayor Balog called the regular meeting of the Three Rivers City Commission to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers of City Hall.

**2. Roll Call**

The following members were present at roll call:

Elbert Foster	George Ramsey
Daryl Griffith	Wendy Shank
Carolyn McNary	Earl Stark
	Allen Balog, Mayor

**3. Invocation**

Pastor Randy Geans from Faith Tabernacle gave the invocation.

**4. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Balog led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**5. Approval of Agenda**

It was moved by Commissioner Griffith and seconded by Commissioner Foster to approve the agenda as presented.

The motion passed 7-0.

**6. Presentations and Recognitions**

a. Victims' Rights Week Proclamation

Mayor Balog presented Linda Baker from St. Joseph County with a proclamation for Victims' Rights Week.

b. Lion's Club Citizen of the Year – Jo Moyer

Mayor Balog presented a proclamation setting April 27, 2010 as Jo Moyer day in the City.

c. Insurance Services Office Public Protection Classification Report

Chief Tomlinson gave a history of the City's ISO classification record and presented the City as a class 5.

**7. Approval of Minutes**

a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting held April 6, 2010

It was moved by Commissioner Foster and seconded by Commissioner Griffith to approve the minutes as presented.

The motion passed 7-0.

**8. Public Hearings**

a. Drinking Water System Improvements

Mayor Balog opened the floor to public comment at 6:17 p.m.

William Binder of 418 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue asked about federal stimulus money instead of raising water bills.

Rita Lowe of 623 South Erie asked about not complying with the chlorination order and expressed concerns about chlorine.

Cozette Miller of 607 Millard Street asked about waiting because of the economy. She also thought that a boil would be required at times even if there was chlorine.

Mayor Balog closed the floor to public comment at 6:25 p.m.

Paul Romano of Jones & Henry Engineers described the plan as looking at all aspects of the City's water system, not just chlorine. A resolution would be required to submit the plan to be considered for competitive funding. No action would put the plan on hold for 12 months. He mentioned that the key goal was to address the MDNRE order.

Tom Glass of 622 Maple asked about the time to get the rust out of the system.

Mr. Romano responded that it would be more than 18 months, but less than 5 years.

Mr. Glass asked about the new main down Maple and extra cost to the residents.

Mr. Romano responded that existing water customers would be replaced in kind.

Mr. Bender was concerned of the effects chlorine had on PVC pipes.

Mr. Romano responded that a minimal level of chlorine would be the goal.

Tom Reaume of 100 South Main was also asked about the pipes.

Mr. Romano stated that he was unaware of problems at that low of concentration.

Mayor Balog asked if the treatment of iron was an option.

Mr. Romano responded that it was, but it was recommended if treating with chlorine.

Commissioner McNary asked if the State order increased the chances of funding.

Mr. Romano stated that the State would not answer that question, but he was hoping for the best terms and principle forgiveness with the plan.

Commissioner Griffith asked about the license requirements.

Mr. Romano stated that Alternate III required a license because of the complexity of the system.

Commissioner Griffith asked if the iron level would taper if not treated.

Mr. Romano stated that it was unlikely because the iron is from the water also.

Commissioner Griffith asked about maintenance costs.

Mr. Romano felt systems were much more reliable and would last up to 20 years if properly maintained.

Commissioner Griffith asked if Alternate I was an option.

Mr. Romano responded that it was the minimum. He also noted that there would most likely be fines if nothing is done.

Commissioner Griffith expressed disappointment that there were no State representatives at the hearing.

At 6:57 p.m., Mayor Balog reopened the floor to public comment.

Chuck Miller of 607 Millard asked if the plan was a need or wish list.

Mayor Balog responded that it was a little of both. He also stated that he was against increasing water bills at this time.

City Manager Bippus mentioned that it was a 20 year plan and included options.

Joshua Howley of 711 Elm Street felt the proposed increase was too high. He asked about looking at other options if possible.

Chris Talbot of 508 Flower asked about relief from sewer bills after the Constantine sewer project. He asked what happened to the money after the improvements were paid, and why the water system had not been maintained.

Andrea Guy of 408 Walnut asked how much it would be if the City did not comply. She was concerned about potential new residents not moving to the City because of costs.

Rita Lowe of 623 South Erie asked about alternatives to chlorine.

Mr. Romano stated that different options, such as ultraviolet, reverse osmosis, and ozone, were researched and found to be very expensive.

Tom Glass of 622 Maple asked about more public hearings.

City Manager Bippus mentioned that this was the first step in the process and that there would be more chances for public input.

Blaine Edgell of 309 North Main asked why the violations happened in the first place and wanted to be sure the Commission knew the answer well. He asked about the maintenance cost.

Hearing no other comments, Mayor Balog closed the floor to public comment at 7:15 p.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Foster and seconded by Commissioner Stark to adopt the resolution submit the drinking water system plan as presented.

Discussion included:

- Submitting all three options;
- Could still pursue minimal;
- Funding could be denied, looking at other funding

The motion passed 7-0. Resolution 19-10 was adopted.

**9. General Comments**

William Binder of 418 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue mentioned that he could not hear people on Channel 13 meetings. He asked about the status of the fishing deck on Jefferson.

Richard Price of 323 South Erie Street expressed concern about the traffic lights and sidewalks.

Joshua Howley of 711 Maple asked about sidewalk on Maple Street and the possibility of a dog park.

Engineering Technician Merritt Brown responded that the repairs are completed on one side until the street is redone. Then the other side is repaired.

Mayor Balog expressed interest in the dog park.

**10. Business**

**a. Communications**

**1. Fire Department Initial Aid Agreement**

It was moved by Commissioner McNary and seconded by Commissioner Foster to approve the agreement with Fabius Park Fire Department.

Discussion included that the fire department already responded with an ambulance.

The motion passed 7-0.

**2. LIAA Service Grant**

The Commission thanked Westside RDF for being an outstanding corporate citizen to the area. By consent, the Commission authorized the City Manager to sign the letter of agreement.

**3. ARRA Grant for Spring Street**

Blaine Edgell of 309 North Main Street asked if the repair was necessary.

It was moved by Commissioner Foster and seconded by Commissioner Griffith to adopt the resolution authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the MDOT contracts.

Discussion included taking care of the streets that the City owned.

The motion passed 7-0. Resolution 20-10 was adopted.

4. MDNRE Chlorination Order

It was moved by Commissioner Foster and seconded by Commissioner Shank to adjourn to closed session to discuss a legal opinion from counsel.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0.

The Commission adjourned to closed session at 7:35 p.m.

The Commission reconvened to open session at 8:43 p.m.

Mayor Balog noted that the Commission had met in closed session to discuss a legal opinion from counsel and that no decisions were made.

**b. Consent Agenda**

It was moved by Commissioner Foster and seconded by Commissioner Stark to approve the consent agenda as presented.

The motion passed 7-0.

1. Invoices Payable

The Commission authorized payment of the invoices.

2. Police Department March 2010 Report

The Commission placed the report on file.

3. Fire Department February 2010 Report

The Commission placed the report on file.

4. Fire Department March 2010 Report

The Commission placed the report on file.

5. Revenue / Expenditure Report through March 2010

The Commission placed the report on file.

6. Check Register Report for March 2010

The Commission placed the report on file.

7. Downtown Development Authority 2009 Annual Report

The Commission placed the report on file.

8. CWP March 2010 Activity

The Commission placed the report on file.

9. Downtown Development Authority Minutes of April 15, 2010

The Commission placed the minutes on file.

**11. Appointments**

a. Appointments to Advisory Boards and Commissions

It was moved by Commissioner Foster and seconded by Commissioner Griffith to appoint Scott Wilson to the Parks Board with a term expiring March 1, 2012.

The motion passed 7-0.

**12. City Commission and City Manager's Communications**

Commissioner Griffith asked about the minutes and agendas not on the website and commented that it was difficult to find the page. He also asked about the video.

City Clerk Howes commented that Channel 13 improvements would begin the next day.

Commissioner Griffith asked about Immaculate Conception not being called when there was an arrest near the playground area.

Chief Bringman responded that everything happened and was over before there was a chance to contact the school.

Commissioner Shank asked about cleaning the graffiti around town.

Commissioner Foster asked about curfew signs for the parks.

City Manager Bippus responded that the rules were by ordinance dawn to dusk. He mentioned that they may be changed in some parks.

Commissioner Ramsey asked for a list of city vehicles with make, model, and mileage.

Mayor Balog noted that the next meeting would be Monday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the Election was Tuesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Balog commended Mark Glessner for his work at the airport and noted good feedback.

City Manager Bippus noted the siren testing on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

City Attorney O'Malley reported that Allen Edwin had sold another Meadowbrook lot.

**13. Adjournment**

It was moved by Commissioner Foster and seconded by Commissioner Griffith to adjourn the meeting.

The motion passed 7-0.

Mayor Balog adjourned the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Howes  
City Clerk