

**Meeting Minutes
City Commission Meeting
Three Rivers, Michigan
July 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:

Daryl Griffith	Wendy Shank
George Ramsey	Earl Stark
	Allen Balog, Mayor

Commissioners Foster and McNary were absent.

3. Invocation

Pastor Tim Raakman of Christian Reformed Church of Three Rivers gave the invocation.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Balog led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

5. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Balog asked that a presentation of the Sturgis Canine Unit be added to the agenda.

It was moved by Commissioner Griffith and seconded by Commissioner Ramsey to approve the agenda as amended.

The motion passed 5-0.

6. Presentations and Recognitions

a. Presentation of Sturgis Canine Unit

Chief Tom Bringman and Officer Mathew Stark introduced Officer Moore and Canine Dosti from the Sturgis Police Department.

7. Approval of Minutes

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

It was moved by Commissioner Stark and seconded by Commissioner Shank to approve the minutes as presented.

The motion passed 5-0.

8. Public Hearings

a. Five Year Parks and Recreation Plan

Mayor Balog opened the floor to public comment at 6:07 p.m.

Edith Irwin of 126 North Main commented on the noise from vehicles on North Main and dogs leaving a mess in the yard at her apartment building.

Mayor Balog closed the floor to public comment at 6:10 p.m.

It was moved by Commissioner Griffith and seconded by Commissioner Ramsey to adopt the resolution to adopt the Parks and Recreation Plan.

The motion passed 5-0. Resolution 27-10 was adopted.

9. General Comments

Richard Price of 623 Erie Street commented on sidewalk at South Main and East Michigan, Spring Street sidewalk, and the historical aspect of the downtown buildings.

Rita Lowe of 623 Erie Street asked about lowering the amount of chlorine in the water or using reverse osmosis and reported that Cameron Brown had not answer her questions about why some millages were voted in and some were set by the Commission. She also did not believe that the City should raise rates.

Mayor Balog noted that the chlorination was an order from the State and that the current method was temporary until a permanent method could be funded.

City Manager Bippus explained that the drinking water and clean water plant options were only capital plans of what the City could work on over the next twenty years. He stressed that the plans were not approved for funding or to begin work. Part of the plan requirements was to look at the monthly cost increase to the user to fund the projects. The issue of chlorination had come up at the same time.

10. Business

a. Communications

1. Envirologic Bid for Partial Essex Wire Cleanup

It was moved by Commissioner Ramsey and seconded by Commissioner Shank to award the bid to Pitsch Company for partial cleanup of the former Essex Wire site.

Discussion included:

- Roughly 5% less cleanup without solid waste fund money;
- Not sure of cubic yards because guessing at weight;
- Felt spring cleanup would be a bigger impact;
- \$16,000 would stretch farther on the project now because trucks would already be there;
- Spring cleanup would require an additional \$4,000;
- After grant money was spent, there would still be underground storage, contaminated soil, and other concerns at Essex;
- If the \$16,000 was used, it would be over and above the match;
- Liked the idea of a pickup every other year.

The motion passed 5-0.

Further discussion was that there was spring cleanup last year and that mobilization costs were already covered with the grant project, so the \$16,000 would make a greater impact now. Mr. Stegink from Envirologic noted that the plan was to begin the first week of August and complete the project by Labor Day.

It was moved by Commissioner Stark and seconded by Commissioner Ramsey to use the \$16,000 from the solid waste fund toward the Essex Wire cleanup.

The motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Griffith dissenting.

2. Replacement of Server

It was moved by Commissioner Griffith and seconded by Commissioner Ramsey to authorize the purchase of the ProLiant servers, storage unit, switch, and LAN care hours and authorize the appropriations from General Fund's fund balance.

Discussion included:

- Money was in fund balance;
- Insurance claim could be filed and may cover a portion;
- Storm had occurred in June, but problems with powering down began less than a week ago;
- Would like to purchase with or without the insurance approval.

The motion passed 5-0.

b. Consent Agenda

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

The motion passed 5-0.

1. Invoices Payable

The Commission authorized payment of the invoices.

2. Library Board Minutes of June 22, 2010

The Commission placed the minutes on file.

3. Industrial Development Authority Minutes of May 13, 2010

The Commission placed the minutes on file.

4. Cemetery Board Minutes of June 7, 2010

The Commission placed the minutes on file.

5. Police Department June 2010 Report

The Commission placed the report on file.

6. Board of Review Minutes of July 2010

The Commission placed the minutes on file.

7. Downtown Development Authority Minutes of June 17, 2010

The Commission placed the minutes on file.

8. Check Register Report for June 2010

The Commission placed the report on file.

9. Industrial Development Authority Minutes of June 10, 2010

The Commission placed the minutes on file.

10. Election Commission Minutes of July 12, 2010

The Commission placed the minutes on file.

11. Appointments

a. Appointments to Advisory Boards and Commissions

No appointments were made.

12. City Commission and City Manager's Communications

Commissioner Griffith reminded the Commissioners that he would not be at the next meeting and may be late at the second meeting in August.

Commissioner Griffith commended Elena Hines on her accuracy in reporting. He noted that City Manager Bippus had not accepted another job offer as implied by other news reports. He felt the article in the Kalamazoo Gazette had been sensationalized and brought up issues with past employees with no bearing on the issue. He noted that a news source indicated that the Mayor thought it would be good for the City if City Manager Bippus left, but he strongly disagreed. He felt City Manager Bippus had been great for the City and continued to do great things.

Commissioner Stark hoped City Manager Bippus would pass along a compliment that the storm cleanup crews had done an excellent job.

Commissioner Ramsey noted complaints from Portage Avenue residents and asked about rumble strips.

City Manager Bippus noted that rumble strips were noisy for residents. He agreed to look into other methods.

Mayor Balog felt the Three Rivers Inn was not in compliance with City ordinances. He asked if the water bill had been paid.

Chief Tomlinson noted that the electrical, mechanical, and building inspectors had been through the building. He noted the fire suppression system was within its inspection date, the owners were replacing the fire alarm system, and fire door issues had been addressed immediately. He noted that he was addressing life safety issues first, and the Three Rivers Inn had cooperated the entire way. He also reported that the water bill was current.

Mayor Balog reminded the Commissioners that the next meeting would be Monday, August 2, 2010.

City Attorney O'Malley recommended that demolition of 420 Eighth Street continue unless evidence was produced that the building could be rehabilitated and was listed with a local realtor. He recommended leaving the decision to hold off with the City Manager if progress was made.

It was moved by Commissioner Griffith and seconded by Commissioner Ramsey to adjourn to closed session to discuss a matter of pending litigation.

Upon a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0. The Commission adjourned to closed session at 7:00 p.m.

The Commission reconvened to open session at 7:22 p.m. Mayor Balog noted that the Commission had met in closed session to discuss a matter of pending litigation, and no decisions were made.

It was moved by Commissioner Stark and seconded by Commissioner Shank to accept the recommendation of Assessor Dale Hutson to enter into a stipulated settlement with Southern Michigan Bank and Trust for tax years 2009 and 2010 for the case filed with the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

The motion passed 5-0.

13. Adjournment

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

The motion passed 5-0.

Mayor Balog adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Howes
City Clerk