THE ELECTRONIC REGULAR MEETING OF THE THIRTY-EIGHTH COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BERKLEY, MICHIGAN WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 PM ON MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2020 BY MAYOR TERBRACK

PRESENT:  
Steve Baker       Jack Blanchard
Dennis Hennen    Bridget Dean
Natalie Price    Ross Gavin
Daniel Terbrack

APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Mayor Pro Tem Dean moved to approve the Agenda
Seconded by Councilmember Gavin
Ayes: Blanchard, Dean, Gavin, Hennen, Price, Baker, and Terbrack
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

INVOCATION: Pastor Adam Groh

PUBLIC COMMENT – ITEMS ON THE AGENDA
No one wished to speak.

Consent Agenda
Councilmember Blanchard moved to approve the following Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilmember Hennen:

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Matter of approving the minutes of the 38th City Council meeting on Tuesday, April 6, 2020.

WARRANT: Matter of approving Warrant No. 1349.
Ayes: Dean, Gavin, Hennen, Price, Baker, Blanchard, and Terbrack
Nays: None
Motion Approved.

Regular Agenda

MOTION NO. M-17-20: Matter of approving a motion to allow the City Manager to execute an agreement with Carlisle/Wortman Associates, Inc. to perform the Five-Year Recreation Master Plan at a cost not to exceed $17,050. Funds for this expenditure will come from account 614-105-818-000.
Mayor Pro Tem Dean moved to approve Motion No. M-17-20
Seconded by Councilmember Gavin
Ayes: Gavin, Hennen, Price, Baker, Blanchard, Dean, and Terbrack
Nays: None
Motion Approved.
MOTION NO. M-18-20: Matter of approving the Cost Participation Agreement between the Board of Oakland County Road Commissioners and the City of Berkley for the 12 Mile Road Rehabilitation Project between Greenfield and Coolidge. The estimated total project cost is $2,792,894 with Berkley responsible for $180,212 from account 202-464-975-100. Councilmember Blanchard moved to approve Motion No. M-18-20 Seconded by Councilmember Gavin Ayes: Hennen, Price, Baker, Blanchard, Dean, Gavin, and Terbrack Nays: None Motion Approved.

MOTION NO. M-19-20: Matter of awarding the contract for the 2020-2021 City-Wide Road Improvement Program to the lowest qualified bidder, Italia Construction, Inc. of Washington, Michigan, in an amount of $1,594,607.10. In addition, allocate $138,041.16 for construction engineering services to Hubbell, Roth & Clark and $159,460.71 for construction contingencies. Councilmember Hennen moved to approve Motion No. M-19-20 Seconded by Councilmember Blanchard Ayes: Price, Baker, Blanchard, Dean, Gavin, Hennen, and Terbrack Nays: None Motion Approved.

MOTION NO. M-20-20: Matter of declaring intention to vacate portion of public alley and scheduling a public hearing relative to portion of alley located west of Woodward Ave. and north of Eaton Road. Councilmember Gavin moved to approve Motion No. M-20-20 Seconded by Councilmember Price Ayes: Baker, Blanchard, Dean, Gavin, Hennen, Price, and Terbrack Nays: None Motion Approved.

MOTION NO. M-21-20: Matter of approving a modification to the Master Plan Steering Committee roster to add Sue McAlpine and Joseph Bartus. Mayor Pro Tem Dean moved to approve Motion No. M-21-20 Seconded by Councilmember Gavin Ayes: Blanchard, Dean, Gavin, Hennen, Price, Baker, and Terbrack Nays: None Motion Approved.


PUBLIC COMMENT – ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No one wished to speak.

COMMUNICATIONS:
COUNCILMEMBER GAVIN: stated the Master Plan Steering Committee will be virtually meeting 7 p.m. April 21st. He stated the Planning Commission will be virtually meeting 7 p.m. April 28th. He said the links to join both Zoom meetings are available on the City’s website. Councilmember Gavin stated he, along with a couple of other councilmembers, attended Michigan Municipal League training on advanced budgeting. He stated he learned quite a bit of good information that will be forthcoming at a later date. Councilmember Gavin urged everyone to stay safe, listen to the experts and take care of themselves.

COUNCILMEMBER HENNEN: stated there is no meeting scheduled for the Tree Board. He said the proposed tree inventory the Tree Board members were working on has been halted for the year. He stated the primary reason is safety, but also budget uncertainty. Councilmember Hennen said the Zoning Board of Appeals will meet 7 p.m. May 11th online. He stated there will be at least one case up for review and possibly more. Councilmember Hennen thanked all of Berkley, including residents and businesses, for stepping up, doing the right thing and selflessly helping others during their times of need.

MAYOR PRO TEM DEAN: stated during her last communication she talked about the community recognizing first responders and their families. She stated since that time, she read an op-ed in the “Free Press” by Oakland County Treasurer Andy Meisner regarding adding supportive substance to well-wishes. She discussed a Healthcare Provider Support Hotline, 1-888-910-1636, which is a free, mental-health service that is just for first responders and is anonymous. She stated the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services also opened a “warmline” for Michigan residents who have mental health conditions. The number is 888-PEER-753. Mayor Pro Tem Dean said it’s beautiful to see the community come together and provided an update on the City Wellness Checks program. She explained city staff members, along with herself and Councilmember Gavin, have been making wellness checks. The phone numbers if you would like to be added to the calling list are 248-930-0544 or 248-672-0295. She said this too shall pass and we are Berkley strong.

COUNCILMEMBER BAKER: stated the Technology Advisory Committee and the Historical Committee have not yet met. He stated the Downtown Development Authority met online and was able to conduct its business including approving its budget. Councilmember Baker stated he too would like to extended gratitude to the Department of Public Works and City Hall staff who are working hard to keep everything going; Public Safety, EMT, first responders for working so hard to keep us safe; and healthcare workers and those on the frontline who put themselves in harm’s way to help all of us in our times of need. Councilmember Baker recited a quote by Laurell Hamilton, “Confidence is a fine trait, overconfidence is not.” He discussed the weather is warming up and those at home are surely eager to get out, but he has noticed very few people are wearing face masks. He stated to be clear it is not mandatory to wear a face mask, but our state medical officials strongly suggest wearing them. He said to be confident, but not over confident and it’s important to set a positive example if you are in a leadership position. Councilmember Baker said the job of staying home and wearing masks is part of our response to squash the curve. He reminded everyone you are not stuck at home, you are safe at home.

COUNCILMEMBER PRICE: stated the boards she sits on have not yet met. She thanked Berkley Public Library Director Matt Church for keeping her updated with the resources available through the library. She stated free Wi-Fi is available in the library parking lot. She said residents can drive and park in the lot and utilize this free offering from the library. She also stated the library has been offering virtual story times, craft ideas and its Share Your Talent initiative via Facebook. She stated the library is working on a digital book club with books offered through its digital collection. She stated offerings are available to anyone with a Berkley library card. She stated anyone needing a card or having issues with their card can call the library and leave a message or send an email to mchurch@berkleymich.net. She thanked Mr. Church and the staff. Councilmember Price recited a quote by Dr. Atul Gawande, “You may not control life circumstances, but getting to be the author of your life means getting to control what you do with them.” She stated this is a commentary on end of life. Councilmember Price stated that during this time, what people are not considering is end of life decisions that need to be made if you have been exposed to the Coronavirus. She said in addition to staying home, people need to have intervention conversations. She said it is important...
that your loved ones know what you would like to happen if you are hospitalized as a result of COVID-19. She continued to discuss the importance of this subject matter. She stated we may not be able to control how sick we become due to the Coronavirus, but we can control the state we are in at that time and the legacy we leave behind.

**COUNCILMEMBER BLANCHARD**: stated the Berkley Area Chamber of Commerce announced that the Art Bash is canceled. He stated the Chamber is making offers to those involved to participate in the street art festival in July. Councilmember Blanchard thanked the Public Safety Department. He stated how organized the department is and the initiatives in place like minimizing exposure and temperature checking when staff comes into the building. He stated they are doing a wonderful job. Councilmember Blanchard thanked the residents for supporting local restaurants. He stated as of today, Berkley has 58 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and five related deaths. Councilmember Blanchard stated his thoughts and prayers go out to the families. He urges everyone to be safe. Councilmember Blanchard stated he, along with city administrators, is working on the grant program to make sure the City receives any available funds as reimbursement to COVID-19-related expenses.

**CITY MANAGER BAUMGARTEN**: said he is appreciative to hear Council recognizes the hard work of staff. He stated we have a talented group of public servants. He stated staff members have done their best to provide every needed service considering the circumstances. City Manager Baumgarten said the community is stepping up in a big way and it's wonderful to see people supporting their neighbors, healthcare workers and frontline workers in so many fantastic ways. He stated local businesses are struggling, but many have created ways to change gears and support Berkley residents. He hopes residents will support the businesses as well in any way that they can.

**CITY ATTORNEY STARAN**: stated he continues to assist the City in any way he can in the seemingly daily new and unique issues that come up with legal questions and nuances related to the current health crisis. He stated he hopes we only have a couple more weeks left of having to field these kinds of questions, but he said realistically it's probably going to be a long time before we get back to what we used to think was normal. City Attorney Staran stated he is happy to see everything is under control and hopes everyone stays well.

**MAYOR TERBRACK**: echoed the thoughts that were previously stated including thanking the residents and City Staff for all of their efforts to not only stop the spread, but also to support those in need. He echoed the sentiment that the business community continues to be very creative with ideas to make sure they can still serve the residents and that residents are doing their best to patronize our businesses in return. Mayor Terbrack stated while we are starting to see some positive impacts from social distancing, it doesn’t mean that we are done. He stated we need to all do our part in continuing to be as safe as we possibly can. Mayor Terbrack gave a shout out to all of our public safety officers, but not just for their work as first responders. He stated they continue to take care of their own station. He stated officers, staff and contractors have done an incredible job renovating our dispatch department ahead of schedule and under budget. He stated it truly took a village, but he knows Lt. Kobernick lead the charge and was a large part of the reason for the project’s success. He stated the project began before the virus hit, but there was little that could be deemed more essential than our dispatch department. Mayor Terbrack stated that with the current reality meeting digitally is our primary means to communicate with residents. He stated this issue has come up a few times during the meeting and he realized it has been awhile since he addressed decorum. He stated in order to complete the master plan process, unfortunately Facebook is being used to communicate with residents because it probably is the most efficient way to meet people where they are right now. He stated he has no problem with that, but where he does have a problem is when folks decide it is time to personally attack the person that disagrees with them. He stated he wants to be clear if that happens, your comments will be removed and you will be muted moving forward. He said it doesn’t matter who you are. He said we don’t have time for this while we are dealing with a global pandemic. He said that group is being moderated and please be civil. He stated we need to have as many opinions as possible as we go through the master plan process.
ADJOURNMENT
Mayor Pro Tem Dean moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:04 p.m.
Seconded by Councilmember Price
Ayes: Hennen, Price, Baker, Blanchard, Dean, Gavin, and Terbrack
Nays: None
Motion Approved.