

**FRANKENMUTH CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES  
Thursday, January 20, 2022  
7:00 A.M.**

PRESENT: Ackerman, LaBrenz, Meyer, Reindel, Ross, Schmitzer, and Schoenow.

ABSENT: NONE.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Smith, City Clerk Kerns, City Planner Kraushar, Director Hopp, DPW Superintendent Braeutigam, Ass't. DPW Superintendent Scherzer, Parks & Recreation Director Kaschinske, Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) Superintendent Schluckebier, Police Chief Mawer, and Water Superintendent O'Brien.

Mayor Mary Anne Ackerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 A.M. and opened the meeting by leading the pledge of allegiance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There being no public comments, the Mayor proceeded with the agenda.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER/REVIEW OF REPORTS/MINUTES OF BOARDS,  
COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES**

The Mayor sought comments concerning board, commission and committee meetings and highlights included Planning Commission information on a proposed N. Franklin Street extension to Main Street, Sister City Committee's work on the upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planning, an update on the DDA's emergency traffic management planning for Heritage Park events and Main Street traffic improvements that was presented, and staff comments on department/project happenings.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

There being no objection, the Mayor approved the agenda as presented and added a discussion item on the bike trail committee's potential grant application to the State Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Moved by Reindel, seconded by LaBrenz to approve the agenda as amended. Unanimously carried.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Update from Plante & Moran. City Manager Smith introduced Brian Camiller and Carolyn Lorenz from Plante & Moran, the accounting firm assisting the City with treasurer duties while the position is vacant, and he provided an update on their services to the City.

Camiller provided a brief, general review of Plante & Moran's municipal services division. They also reviewed that they are assisting the City with interim accounting services during the vacancy of the City's treasurer position and that Plante & Moran does both temporary and permanent work for

municipalities. Their current goal is also to assist in getting the audit completed, update accounting records for the current fiscal year, assist City staff with general needs, and filling in the voids created by the vacancy.

Discussion took place on replacing the treasurer and Plante & Moran's opinion, the differences in treasurer and finance director positions, that there is a marked difference in private versus public accounting experience, and their level of oversight needed after the fact depending on the experience and qualifications of the new treasurer.

City Manager Smith reviewed the internal work that staff is performing while the position is vacant, the implementation of the new finance software, that the timely filing of the audit has a bearing on the City's rating, and preliminary plans for finding a replacement.

ARPA Funds. City Manager Smith reviewed U.S. Department of Treasury final rules on the use of ARPA Funds specifying that expenses under \$10 Million can be utilized for any official government function, and reporting is required.

Discussion took place on up to \$100,000 in ARPA funds being earmarked for the HE Kern Pavilion roof repairs and utilizing that contribution to leverage other Community donations.

Further discussion took place on the potential to obtain Community input and involvement for other projects such as bike trail development, keeping in mind that maintenance funds are also necessary to be held in reserve for future expenses for planned improvements. The Council will be provided a list of staff recommendations for potential ARPA funded projects as well as there being a surplus from the levee project and how to best utilize these monies.

M-83/Cass River Bridge Replacement. City Manager Smith reviewed information concerning the Michigan Department of Transportation commencing planning on the replacement of this 70-year-old structure due to its age and condition.

It has been estimated that the cost would be approximately \$10 Million which would also include reconstruction of S. Main Street. Review took place on the proposed plans for the new bridge and that the bottom of the new bridge would need to be raised to the height of the levee wall on the north side of the river.

It is well known that Community discussion will be necessary as project planning commences and that 2027 is the earliest estimated date for the project to start. In addition, this bridge has been on a critical repair list for some time. There will be much more to come.

Proposed Consumers Energy Utility Changes over the Cass River. Ass't. DPW Superintendent Scherzer reviewed a proposal to reroute overhead powerlines from over the rock ramp on the Cass River to further down river. Zehnder's is spearheading the project.

Bike Committee Trails Update. Parks & Recreation Director Kaschinske reviewed a proposed DNR Natural Trust Fund Grant Development Agreement with Spicer Group for \$6,500 that would ready the Community's anticipated grant request to expand bike trails from Heritage Park. Discussion took place on a 25% local share being the minimum we would need to provide.

Discussion took place on project timing, location of City owned property involved, the recent DDA emergency traffic management study, the grant being an estimated \$500,000 award, future plans for connections, local match sources, long term maintenance funding, and that the services quoted by Spicer are competitive.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 A.M.

Phillip W. Kerns  
City Clerk