

City Commission
February 20, 2017

Mayor Mark Warba called the regular meeting of the City Commission to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Lynn Anderson, Tom Hogenson, Lorraine James, and Dan Rothstein; Mayor Mark J. Warba; City Manager Mark Gifford; City Attorney Eric D. Williams; and City Treasurer Aaron Kuhn.

Absent: None

There were 15 people in the audience.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Hogenson that the minutes of February 6, 2017 regular meeting be accepted as corrected.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

SPECIAL ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mayor Warba presented Carrie Weis-Stermer, Card Wildlife Director, with a proclamation recognizing Mayors' Monarch Pledge Day. Ms. Weis-Stermer said that she would take it and have it framed for the Mayor.

Ms. Weis-Stermer commented how much she appreciated the City working with Ferris State and the Monarch organization to make this possible for our community. The Monarch butterfly decrease is serious business whereby over 90% of the Monarch butterflies have died off. Along with the Mayor's pledge, 5,000 milkweed will be planted in the Spring.

There are three schools involved with over 250 children who will be learning about the Monarch butterflies in the classroom. Soil, containers and seeds will be provided so that the children can grow milkweeds. Caterpillars will also be provided for observation. She is hoping to raise more funds to enhance the gardens here in Big Rapids.

The Save the Monarch Organization will be in Big Rapids April 27, 2017 to talk about their organization and what they are doing regarding the Monarchs. The Wild Card center will be offering a special conservation badge to Girl Scouts.

STUDY SESSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rose Mary Jennings commented that she had a situation which the Department of Public Safety Department handled very nicely. She would like the City to keep the police and fire departments in mind during the budget process. Mrs. Jennings asked if the City could please find a way to keep the pool open. With Michigan having many lakes, it is very important for children to learn how to swim.

PUBLIC HEARING – none

RESOLUTION NO. 17-17

Commissioner Hogenson moved, seconded by Commissioner Rothstein, the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE
IN THE STANDARD LIGHTING CONTRACT
AT S. STATE STREET**

WHEREAS, said contract calls for the installation of 2 – 110 LED Cobrahead lights at Oak Street and S. State Street and Spring Street and S. State Street.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is hereby deemed advisable to authorize Consumers Energy Company to make changes in the lighting service as provided in the Standard Lighting Contract between the Company and the City of Big Rapids, dated 8/1/2013, in accordance with the Authorization for Change in Standard Lighting Contract dated 1/25/2017,

Heretofore submitted to and considered by this Commission, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor be and is authorized to execute such authorization for change on the behalf of the City.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF Mecosta

I, Tamyra K. Gillis, Clerk of the City of Big Rapids, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Commission of said municipality, at the meeting held on February 20, 2017.

Tamyra K. Gillis
Date: February 21, 2017

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba
Nays: None
The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.
Dated: February 20, 2017

RESOLUTION NO. 17-18

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Hogenson, the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE
IN THE STANDARD LIGHTING CONTRACT
AT 235 BALDWIN STREET**

WHEREAS, said contract calls for the installation of 1 – 110 LED Cobrahead light at 235 Baldwin Street.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is hereby deemed advisable to enter into a contract with Consumers Energy Company of Jackson, Michigan, for furnishing lighting service within the City of Big Rapids for a period of 2 year(s) and thereafter from year to year, in accordance with the terms of the contract heretofore submitted to and considered by this commission, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the Clerk be and are authorized and directed to execute such contact on the behalf of the City.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF Mecosta

I, Tamyra K. Gillis, Clerk of the City of Big Rapids, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Commission of said municipality, at the meeting held on February 20, 2017.

Tamyra K. Gillis
Date: February 21, 2017

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba
Nays: None
The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.
Dated: February 20, 2017

RESOLUTION NO. 17-19

Commissioner Hogenson moved, seconded by Commissioner Rothstein, the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE
IN THE STANDARD LIGHTING CONTRACT
AT 220 S. STEWART STREET**

WHEREAS, said contract calls for the installation of 1 – 110 LED Cobrahead light at 220 S. Stewart Street.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is hereby deemed advisable to enter into a contract with Consumers Energy Company of Jackson, Michigan, for furnishing lighting service within the City of Big Rapids for a period of 2 year(s) and thereafter from year to year, in accordance with the terms of the contract heretofore submitted to and considered by this commission, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the Clerk be and are authorized and directed to execute such contact on the behalf of the City.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF Mecosta

I, Tamyra K. Gillis, Clerk of the City of Big Rapids, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Commission of said municipality, at the meeting held on February 20, 2017.

Tamyra K. Gillis
Date: February 21, 2017

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: February 20, 2017

RESOLUTION NO. 17-20

Commissioner James moved, seconded by Commissioner Rothstein, the adoption of the following:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE
IN THE STANDARD LIGHTING CONTRACT
AT THE 215 BLOCK OF MARION AVENUE**

WHEREAS, said contract calls for the installation of 1 – 110 LED Cobrahead light at 215 Marion Avenue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is hereby deemed advisable to enter into a contract with Consumers Energy Company of Jackson, Michigan, for furnishing lighting service within the City of Big Rapids for a period of 2 year(s) and thereafter from year to year, in accordance with the terms of the contract heretofore submitted to and considered by this commission, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the Clerk be and are authorized and directed to execute such contact on the behalf of the City.

STATE OF MICHIGAN
COUNTY OF Mecosta

I, Tamyra K. Gillis, Clerk of the City of Big Rapids, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Commission of said municipality, at the meeting held on February 20, 2017.

Tamyra K. Gillis
Date: February 21, 2017

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba
Nays: None
The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.
Dated: February 20, 2017

Mr. Sochocki stated that the Big Rapids Housing Commission has agreed to accept this property. They hope to have it demolished quickly and will front the cost of the demolition. They will take a look at all of their options in regards to the disposition of the property and in the end, they just hope to have their demolition cost recovered. Mr. Sochocki handed the Commission the Big Rapids Housing Commission's Annual Report for review.

Mayor Warba asked Mr. Williams if there were any issues with the City purchasing this property and then transferring to the Housing Commission. Mr. Williams stated that there was no issue.

RESOLUTION NO. 17-21

Commissioner Rothstein moved, seconded by Commissioner Hogenson, the adoption

A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER THE REAL ESTATE AT 717 FINLEY TO THE BIG RAPIDS HOUSING COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the structure at 717 Finley within the City of Big Rapids suffered severe fire damage for which there was no insurance coverage, and the property needs to be cleaned up, and

WHEREAS, The City of Big Rapids purchased the real estate at 717 Finley for the price of \$5,000, on January 19, 2017, and

WHEREAS, the Big Rapids Housing Commission is organized and administered for the purpose (among others) of improving the residential housing stock within the City of Big Rapids, and

WHEREAS, the City of Big Rapids is authorized to appropriate or contribute funds or real property to the Big Rapids Housing Commission for the purpose of improving residential housing within the City.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City shall convey the real property commonly known as 717 Finley Street (legally described as Lots 5 and 6 of Block 6,

Rose's Second Addition) to the Big Rapids Housing Commission by a Warranty Deed drafted by the City Attorney, which the Mayor is authorized to sign, with the expectation that the fire damaged structure will be razed and removed and the parcel will be sold or redeveloped with, or for, single family residential housing.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: February 20, 2017

RESOLUTION NO. 17-22

Commissioner Hogenson moved, seconded by Commissioner James, the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PROPOSAL FROM FLEIS & VANDENBRINK FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR MITCHELL CREEK PARK IMPROVEMENTS

WHEREAS, the City of Big Rapids applied for a grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Recreation Passport Grant Program per Resolution No. 16-33, dated March 21, 2016 to fund a portion of the Mitchell Creek Park Improvement Plan, and

WHEREAS, a requirement of the Passport Grant is to retain a Prime Professional when total costs of a project are over \$15,000, and

WHEREAS, per the Development Project Procedures Prime Professionals are those registered in the State of Michigan as an Architect, Professional Engineer or Landscape Architect, and

WHEREAS, the City has retained Fleis and VandenBrink Engineering Inc. to provide engineering services, with the adoption of Resolution No. 15-52 dated June 1, 2015, and

WHEREAS, the City desires professional services to assist in the design, bidding and construction assistance for the Mitchell Creek Park Improvements, and

WHEREAS, Fleis and VandenBrink Engineering Inc. has submitted a proposal outlining the engineering tasks and services they will provide in the amount of \$13,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission hereby accepts the proposal of Fleis and VandenBrink Engineering Inc. to provide engineering services for the design, bidding and construction assistance in the amount of \$13,000 for the Mitchell Creek Park Improvements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the cost be expensed from the following Account Numbers:

101-756-967.205 (DNR Passport Grant Match)	\$1,600
590-561-967.205 (DNR Passport Grant Match).	\$11,400

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba
Nays: None
The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.
Dated: February 20, 2017

RESOLUTION NO. 17-23

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner Hogenson, the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE WORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUSKEGON RIVER WATERSHED ASSEMBLY AND THE CITY OF BIG RAPIDS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT FOR PLANTING TREES AT CLAY CLIFFS NATURE AREA

WHEREAS, The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) applied for two grants to reduce the harmful effects of non-point source pollution by planting native trees and shrubs in the City park lands, and

WHEREAS, a U.S. Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant has been awarded to the MRWA, which will allow the City to plant 300 native trees on a portion of Clay Cliffs Nature Area to restore wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS, the cost to plant native trees at Clay Cliffs is \$56,510.00, which will be reimbursed pending timely receipt of acceptable status reports with supporting documentation of eligible project expenditures, and

WHEREAS, this expense will be budgeted in the Fiscal Year 2017/18 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission Approve the Cooperative Agreement between the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly and the City of Big Rapids to participate in the U.S. Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to plant native trees at Clay Cliffs Nature Area.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the cost be expensed to Account Number 101-756-967.065 (USFS Tree Planting) and the Mayor is authorized to sign said agreement.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba
Nays: None
The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.
Dated: February 20, 2017

RESOLUTION NO. 17-24

Commissioner Anderson moved, seconded by Commissioner James, the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A COOPERATIVE WORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MUSKEGON RIVER WATERSHED ASSEMBLY AND THE MECOSTA COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION AND THE CITY OF BIG RAPIDS PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO PLANT NATIVE SHRUBS AT CLAY CLIFFS NATURE AREA AND PERENNIAL PLANTS AT OSCEOLA PARK

WHEREAS, The Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) applied for two grants to reduce the harmful effects of non-point source pollution by planting native trees and shrubs in the City park lands, and

WHEREAS, the Mecosta County Community Foundation grant has been awarded to the MRWA, which will allow the City to provide native shrubs for the wildlife habitat at Clay Cliffs Nature Area and perennial plants at Osceola Park, and

WHEREAS, the cost to plant native shrubs at Clay Cliffs and perennial plants at Osceola Park is \$2,500.00, which will be reimbursed pending timely receipt of acceptable status reports with supporting documentation of eligible project expenditures, and

WHEREAS, this expense will be budgeted 50% in the Fiscal Year 2016/17 and 50% in Fiscal Year 2017/18 budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Commission Approve the Cooperative Agreement between the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly and the Mecosta County Community Foundation and the City of Big Rapids to participate in the Mecosta County Community Foundation grant to plant native shrubs for the wildlife habitat at Clay Cliffs Nature Area and perennial plants at Osceola Park

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the cost be expensed to Account Number 101-756-967.066 (MCCF Tree Planting) and the Mayor is authorized to sign said agreement.

Yeas: Anderson, Hogenson, James, Rothstein, Warba

Nays: None

The Mayor declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: February 20, 2017

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS

- The Mayor and Mr. Gifford attended the Big Rapids Township meeting to discuss the incorporation of Clay Cliffs into the City. One of the concerns expressed at the meeting was restricting the property to park use and a nature reserve. Mr. Williams has been asked to research if there is a way to add a recorded deed restriction, especially for the property that is referenced as the Borth property.

The two Muskegon River Watershed Assembly grant resolutions and the additional work that is being done to enhance Clay Cliffs is important information for the Big Rapids Township board to know. The Clerk was asked to send Mr. Stanek copies of the two Muskegon River Watershed Assembly grant resolutions that were passed by the City Commission tonight so that Mr. Stanek could share them with his board.

The Mayor would like the Clay Cliffs Incorporation as an action item on the May/June Agenda for the City Commission.

- Commissioner Anderson expressed her enjoyment of the Grand Rapids Symphony as part of the Festival of the Arts.
- Commissioner Rothstein commented on how much he has enjoyed many of the events of the Festival of the Arts.
- Commissioner James referenced the Manager's newsletter regarding the downtown theatre. Carmike has been sold to AMC, which is a very large company. Mr. Gifford has tried to make contact with AMC to encourage investment in the theatre at its current location.
- Commissioner James would like the street lights on Bjornson Street reviewed the next time street lights are assessed because it is very dark in the City limits. Several people have made comments to Commissioner James regarding the lights on Baldwin Street Bridge. It seems that there are more lights on the west side of the bridge than the east. Mr. Gifford stated that the City's long term plan is to take the lights all the way to Catherine Street.
- Commissioner Hogenson commented that if a person were to google Monarch Butterfly Costumes there are several beautiful costumes.

There being no further business to come before the City Commission, the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

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Mayor Mark J. Warba

Tamyra K. Gillis, City Clerk