

September 24, 2012

Mayor Jenkins opened the regular meeting of the Gaylord City Council with prayer by Council Member Wishart at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 24, 2012, in the City Council Chambers, located in the Gaylord City Hall, 305 East Main Street, Gaylord, Michigan. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the invocation.

Members Present: Campbell, Duczkowski, Jenkins, Johnson, Mankowski and Wishart.  
Members Absent: Sharrard.

Motion by Mankowski, supported by Campbell, to amend the agenda for the meeting by adding the following under New Business:

Request by Knights of Columbus for a Charitable Solicitation Permit

Motion by Duczkowski, supported by Campbell, to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the meetings of September 10, 2012 and September 17, 2012 and to accept them as presented.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Otsego County Sheriff Jim McBride presented a proclamation to Chief of Police Joseph FitzGerald in honor of his upcoming retirement.

Motion by Johnson, supported by Campbell, to excuse the absence of Council Member Sharrard from the meeting.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Duczkowski, supported Campbell, to excuse the absence of Council Member Johnson from the meetings of October 8, 2012 and October 22, 2012.

Ayes: Campbell, Duczkowski, Jenkins, Mankowski and Wishart.

Nays: None. Abstained: Johnson. Motion carried.

City Council discussed a request received to remove the stop sign on North Ohio Avenue at the Jenson Street intersection. City Manager Joseph Duff reviewed the request and referenced written comment he had received from property owners along the North Ohio corridor in opposition to the removal of the stop sign, due primarily to the speed that vehicles are already traveling along the roadway. The following public comments were heard:

Mrs. Meg Foote, property owner of 421 North Ohio Avenue, stated that the noise at the corner of North Ohio Avenue and Jenson Street is bad, however if the stop sign were relocated to another intersection it would only displace the noise. Mrs. Foote stated the stop sign was needed to slow down traffic, and that safety reasons should be the only reason to move the stop sign. Additionally Mrs. Foote stated she never let her kids walk to North Ohio Elementary and if City Council were to move the stop sign it should be moved to the North Street intersection.

Ms. Gerri Koscielniak, 718 Jenson Street, stated no school children walk that far and questioned which property owners received notices regarding the stop sign removal and why.

Motion by Mankowski, supported by Johnson, to deny the request to remove the stop sign on North Ohio Avenue at the intersection of Jenson Street.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

City Council instructed the City Manager to direct the City Police to provide additional traffic enforcement on North Ohio Avenue.

Mayor Jenkins conducted a verbal poll of each Council Member as to their choice of who should be appointed as the next Chief of Police. Of those in attendance, Sgt. Brett McVannel was the unanimous choice of the three (3) candidates interviewed for the position.

City Manager Duff recommended that Sgt. Brett McVannel be appointed Chief of Police upon the effective retirement of Chief Joseph FitzGerald.

Motion by Campbell, supported by Wishart, to confirm the City Manager's appointment of Sgt. Brett McVannel to fill the position of Chief of Police.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

City Council thanked all three (3) candidates who applied for the position.

Motion by Duczkowski, supported by Campbell, WHEREAS, as provided by the MERS Plan Document, and in accordance with the Employer's policy there under, the additional credited service described (one (1) year) is hereby granted to Member Troy Huff by Resolution of the Governing Body of Gaylord, City of, at its meeting on September 24, 2012. The Employer understands this is an estimated cost, calculated using actuarial assumptions approved by the Retirement Board. Any difference between the assumptions and actual experience will affect the true cost of the additional service. For example, changes in benefit programs through adoption or transfer of the affected employee to a division with "better" benefits; increases in wages other than 4.5% per year; and changes to the anticipated date of termination, will affect the actual cost of the additional service (increase or decrease). Thus, actual future events and experience may result in changes different than those assumed, and liability different than that estimated. The Employer understands and agrees that it is accountable for any difference between estimated and actual costs.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Mankowski, supported by Wishart, to approve the following requests for Charitable Solicitation Permits:

Gaylord Lion's Club on October 13, 2012; and,  
Knight's of Columbus on October 5-7, 2012

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Rebecca Curtis, City Clerk  
John Jenkins, Mayor