

October 25, 2021

Mayor Pro Tem Hartz opened the regular meeting of the Gaylord City Council with a prayer by Council Member Sharrard at 7:00pm on Monday, October 25, 2021. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the invocation. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers, located at City Hall, 305 East Main Street, Gaylord, Michigan.

Members Present: Hartz, Sharrard, Ouellette, Awrey, and Witt.

Members Absent: None.

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Witt to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the October 11, 2021 meeting and accept them as presented.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

The Public Hearing the Variance Request for Bliss Salon opened at 7:01 p.m. Zoning Administrator, Travis Hewitt informed the council that our ordinance requires 21 parking spaces based on the square footage. With the new addition to the building, the variance requested is for 12 parking spaces. One letter of support was received. The business is appointment based. Todd Seidell, architect of the project was present for questions. No public comment was received. The Public Hearing closed at 7:41 pm.

Public Comment:

Joe Wambold, 302 S. Center inquired about the house on the corner of Court & Second. Stated it appears unsafe and there is glass scattered everywhere. The house is an empty rental and is currently being gutted and will eventually be fixed up.

Kristy Forrest, 600 East Main Street is opposed to the road from 5th street to M32. She sees it has a hazard and a huge concern. She has difficulty now getting out of her driveway and believes it will be even more difficult if the road is built there. She stated drivers do not abide by the speed limit, making it unsafe and difficult to get out of her driveway. The traffic is heavy coming into town from Joburg.

Pat Scott, 579 E. Fifth Street has lived on the street for 30 years. Traffic flow was better back in the day and questioned why the road to M32 is going in between 2 homes, he does not understand and believes there has got to be another solution to help with the congestion. The school blocked the way the traffic moved through the parking lot, then traffic became difficult and congested.

Alyssa Morrow, 615 E. Fifth Street, owns a daycare and traffic is an issue. Traffic will be backed up clogging up 5th street and M32. There has to be a better option of putting the road than where it is currently proposed. She has lived on 5th street for 11 years.

Melissa Tillotson, 1699 S. Otsego is concerned about traffic going around her on the side of the road when she turns into the Stoney Hill party store. They are illegally passing on the gravel. She is also concerned as to how emergency vehicles will get to her. She is against marihuana and doesn't believe in drugs.

Motion by Awrey, Supported by Witt to approve the Variance Request from Bliss Salon.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Witt, supported by Awrey to appoint Robert Wilson as Councilman for Ward 2.

Ayes: 4 Nays: 1 Absent: 0 Motion Carried.

Motion by Witt, supported by Ouellette to table the Approval of the Agreement to Purchase Real Estate (589 E. Fifth Street/590 Main Street & Sagasser & Associates Proposal to the second meeting in November. Tabling the meeting will allow for a public hearing with the Council and Gaylord Community Schools representatives.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Awrey, supported by Witt to approve purchase of a replacement vehicle for Chief Claeys with the condition of receiving at least 3 bids for a vehicle lease option.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Sharrard to approve the Additional MERS payment in the amount of \$170,000 by end of year.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Sharrard to approve the MERS Retiree Health Funding Vehicle Uniform Resolution to set up a trust fund for the MERS account.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Motion by Sharrard, supported by Witt to approve the MERS Resolution Establishing Authorized Signatories for MERS Contracts and Service Credit Purchase Approvals.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

No other business was presented and the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Jennifer Molski, City Clerk

Stephen Hartz, Mayor Pro Tem