

**ONTONAGON VILLAGE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT 6:00 PM ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2017
AT 315 QUARTZ STREET, ONTONAGON**

PUBLIC HEARING – 2017-03 – BLIGHT ORDINANCE

PRESENT: President Waldrop, Trustees: E. Marks, J. Hamm, M. Mogan, T. Smydra, D. Chastan, B. Seid and Manager, J. Erickson

ABSENT: None

CALL TO ORDER:

AT 6:00 pm the meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice - President Marks.

AGENDA:

A motion was made by Hamm, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to approve the agenda with the addition of 9F- Approve Village Picnic Expenses.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2017-03 BLIGHT ORDINANCE

At 6:01 pm a motion was made by Marks, second by Mogan, (CARRIED) to enter a Public Hearing to discuss the 2017-03 Blight ordinance as presented.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at the meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: None

The Village Manager reviewed the 2017-03 Blight Ordinance. An ordinance to prevent, reduce or eliminate blight or potential blight within the Village of Ontonagon, and to provide for orderly application of the rules, regulations, penalties and rights of the Village to address, mitigate, and eliminate areas of blight in order to protect the health and safety of the Village Constituents.

Per the Ordinance blighted properties are:

1. Building in poor condition, such as broken windows, unsecured doors, damaged roofs, partially collapsed or damaged structures, damaged or missing sliding, or any structural, mechanical, electrical or plumbing deficiencies.
2. Any building deemed to be a fire hazard or in violation of the State Construction codes.
3. Any building where utilities have been shut off for more than one year.
4. Any building that has remained vacant for more than 5 years.

5. Any building that is tax reverted to the Village, County or State.
6. Any building enrolled in a Land Bank.

The ordinance provides for a Hearing Board to provide for appeals and grant time extensions for mitigating the blight issues.

No comments from the public were made in writing prior to the meeting. A Public Hearing notice was published in the local newspaper according to the requirements.

Comments from the public and council at the meeting:

Councilman Hamm commented he was not pleased with Articles 2 and 3 and stated we are not a gated community and feels the Blight Ordinance is too restrictive.

Five members of the public asked questions and expressed their opinions. Subjects were:

- Once the ordinance is implemented, there will be no room for latitude.
- Issues relating to a specific address on Parker Avenue.
- A building inspector's role in the enforcement of the ordinance.
- Whether Village property is covered by the ordinance.
- Village representative's authority and ability to go onto private property.

There was consensus that the Village Attorney would review the final draft of the ordinance and answer any questions that the Council may have at that time.

At 6:45 pm a motion was made by Smydra, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to close the Public Hearing.

ITEMS FROM THE FLOOR:

Matt Weisen was present to address issues related to the east pier boardwalk by his home.

Arnie Bolo set a RICC Park group work bee for Monday, September 25 and Tuesday, September 26th to work on the RICC Park pavers.

At 7:00 the items from the floor was closed.

APPROVAL OF CONCENT MINUTES:

A motion was made by Seid, second by Hamm, (CARRIED) to approve the Village Council minutes of August 28, 2017.

APPROVE THE CURRENT BILLS:

A motion was made by Hamm, second by Chastan, (CARRIED) to approve payment of the current bills for September 2017 in the amount of \$ 859,249.90.

Included in the above total is:

Previous bills paid \$280,996.85

Current Bills - \$365,040.66

Blue Cross Retiree -\$753.39

Mers – General Fund- \$20,648.36

USDA Sewer Loan - \$115,542.50

Employee Payrolls (8/24 & 9/7) GROSS- \$76,268.14

Included in the Payroll is:

Blue Cross –employee September 2017 - \$14,779.16

MERS- \$8,411.84

Standard Insurance (2 months) - \$112.28

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: None

MANAGERS REPORT

1. Lansing – The legislature is back this week.
2. Updates –
 - a. Paddle craft Landing: The site is at a rough grade. The concrete work is being scheduled.
 - b. River Street Garage – The trusses should get set in place this week.
 - c. Marina Dredging – The contractor is set up and dredging starts this week.
3. RICC Park – The pavers are here and date needs to be set with RICC to get the project started.
4. Aspirus Ontonagon Hospital - will hold a 10 years Anniversary Celebration from 3 to 7 p.m. on Monday September 18th. The council has been invited to attend.
5. Sewer Cleaning and Video scanning – Tunnel Vision will be in the Village starting this week, to video scan our sewer system. The Village Vac Truck and crew will be doing some sewer cleaning as part of this project. This project is part of the SAW Grant and will clean and video-scan most of our sewer system.

6. Labor Day Festival – Wrap up - First off thanks to all the volunteers that make the events of the weekend happen. Numbers were down for the picnic, but the number of people attending the Friday night dance, increased due to the earlier starting time. On Saturday, the rain made Maxwell Street Day a bust. I do want to note that the decision to open up the Rec Building to the vendors **was not** the Labor Day Committee’s decision. If they would have waited another hour or so, the rain would have passed and the afternoon could have been busy on the street. The weather was great for the parade and the rest of the weekend’s event.

7. Junk Ordinance – I have a hearing with Doug Musket our “Attorney” in District Court scheduled for September 18th at 9:00 a.m. for the Junk Ordinance enforcement on Mr. Pragacz properties.

Meetings Attended – Ontonagon Brownfield Authority – 9

A motion was made by Hamm, second by Chastan, (CARRIED) to accept and place on file the Manager’s Reports.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. 2017-03 BLIGHT ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Smydra, second by Chastan, (CARRIED) to table the Blight Ordinance, send it back to the Blight Committee with the suggestions and to discuss with the Village attorney.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: President Waldrop, Mogan, Marks, Chastan, Smydra and Hamm

Nays: Seid

ABSENT: None

President Waldrop asked Councilman Seid why he voted against this motion and he said we have reviewed the ordinance and he feels we will never please everyone.

B. COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS – RECREATION, VILLAGE HOUSING, MARINA COMMISSIONS & OLD SCHOOL ADVISORARY.

The following Commission has vacant seats at this time:

Village Housing Commission - 1 seat – full 5 years terms to 3/31/2022.

Recreation Commission – 1 seat – remainder of term to 3-31-2020.

Marina Commission: 1 seat – remainder of term to 3-31-2019

Old School Advisory Committee:

- 3 Village Council members
- 1 Township member – Township recommends Bill Chabot
- 1 DDA member
- 1 Historical Society Member
- 1 At-Large Set
- Ex-officio Member – Village Manager

A motion was made by Smydra, second by Marks, (CARRIED) to table the Recreation, Marina and Old School Advisory Committee appointments.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at the meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: None

The council discussed the conflict of the expiration seat of Pam Coey from the Village Housing that it appeared to be expired on 3/31/2017.

A motion was made by Marks, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to approve Village Housing President Pam Coey to remain in her seat until her terms expires on 3/31/2019.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: President Waldrop, Marks, Seid, Mogan, and Hamm

Nays: Smydra and Chastan

ABSENT: None

Councilman Chastan asked what will happen now when 2 seats will expire in 2019. President Waldrop asked if the Village Housing Liaison review this matter with the Village Housing Director and only the director and not to include the secretary or President. Director Jarvey and councilman Chastan agreed to meet.

C. LEASE MAINA BUILDING

Hilton Marine Construction has requested to lease the Marina building (former JJ's Tackle Shack) for the duration of the dredging project. It is recommended we grant the lease to Hilton Marine Construction as an in-kind contribution to our local match for the project. The in-kind match will be the equivalent of \$500 per month, plus utility costs. This will reduce our cash match of up to \$28,000 for the project.

A motion was made by Marks, second by Smydra, (CARRIED) to approve the lease of the north marina building to Hilton Marina Construction for in-kind match of \$500/month plus utilities.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at the meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: None

D. CHANGE DEPOSITORY

With the purchase of the State Bank of Ewen by the Gogebic Range Bank, the Village Council needs to formally approve the Gogebic Range Bank as an authorized depository for Village Funds.

A motion was made by Hamm, second by Marks, (CARRIED) to authorize the change of depository from State Bank of Ewen to Gogebic Range Bank as the authorized depository for Village Funds.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at the meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: None

E. APPROVE CD ROLLOVER

A motion was made by Marks, second by Chastan, (CARRIED) to approve the Village Clerk to roll over CD 5 and 6 to the Gogebic Range Bank at the current interest rate of 1%.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at the meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: None

E. APPROVE THE VILLAGE PICNIC EXPENSES

A motion was made by Marks, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to approve the Village picnic expenses.

ROLL CALL:

AYES: All present at the meeting

Nays: None

ABSENT: None

OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Councilman Marks asked what Florence Construction was doing on River Street. President Waldrop explained they are repairing and sealing the joints. Councilman Marks complained about the dust and Village Manager Erickson said he has passed this information onto MDOT.

Councilman Smydra asked if the water faucet will be repaired this year? The Village Manager will review with the DPW supervisor.

Councilman Smydra asked about the dredging of the Marina harbor because he feels nothing has moved forward on the project. The Village Manager said the Corps of Engineer and EDC don't want it done until spring. Councilman Smydra suggested the EDC, DDA and Village work together to make sure everyone is on the same wavelength.

At 7:40 pm a motion was made by Marks, second by Seid, (CARRIED) to adjourn the meeting.

Marcia Aho-Black - Village Clerk

Date approved