

City of Stanton
Regular Meeting
March 15, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Tissue-Daws.

Commissioners present: Burris, Corwin, Basom, Petersen, Johnson and Yoder.

Absent: None

A motion was made by Corwin and supported by Johnson to approve the agenda with the additions of an Asset Test for Poverty Exemptions, two executive sessions at employee's request. 6 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Petersen and supported by Corwin to approve the minutes to the February 23, 2016 Regular Meeting and the Public Hearing the Grant Application. 6 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

The DPW report is attached.

Police Report is attached.

City Manager's report is attached.

City Manager Eckholm gave a presentation of the Taste of Montcalm Festival Planned. A motion was made by Burris and supported by Petersen to endorse the festival. 6 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Petersen and supported by Yoder to endorse the garden club. 6 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

Commission discussed the development of an asset test for poverty exemptions. A motion was made by Petersen and supported by Burris to have the City Manager's office develop an asset test and have the Board of Review review it before bring it back to the commission. 6 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Burris and supported by Petersen to go into executive session at 7:55 at the request of Employee Jake Eckholm.

Return to regular Meeting at 8:03.

A motion was made by Petersen and supported by Corwin to approve an annual stipend to City Manager Jake Eckholm of 3% of gross pay instead of the current Deferred Compensation Plan the city provides to full time employees. The 3% will be retroactive from the date of employment. 5 yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Burris and supported by Petersen to into executive session at 8:05 the request Of Janet Davis. Return to Regular Meeting at 8:10pm.

A motion was made by Burris and supported by Johnson to pay up to \$1000 a month towards the insurance for employees who have at least 20 years of service who wish to retire at 62 years of age and

reimburse them for all deductibles up to \$2500 for two people and families and \$1250 for one person annually when presented a receipt to the City Clerk until the age when Medicare is received. 5 Yes. Yoder No. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Burris and supported by Corwin to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Monica Tissue-Daws, Mayor

Janet Davis, Clerk

D.P.W. Report

March 4, 2016

Another hefty snowfall kept us busy for a while, along with reading water meters. We did snow blow and salt the business district sidewalks, but still have not at this point gotten to the secondary sidewalks.

Septic tank cleaning will start Monday, March 8th.

New water meter reading software has been installed and tested with positive results.

All trucks and implements have been serviced.

All in all, we feel caught up, and are ready for the next big project which should be residential meter installations.

City Manager's Report
Stanton City Commission Meeting
3/15/16

To the Commission and Citizens of Stanton,

We are making considerable progress on numerous projects and I am pleased to offer some updates:

1. The annual City of Stanton Newsletter has gone out and contains the letter concerning the meter replacement. We have already had a case of someone attempting to impersonate a City worker under the pretense of changing the meter in a resident's home. It explicitly states in the letter that our staff will arrive by appointment in marked vehicles and identify themselves. Our Community Liaison Elizabeth has made them new name badges with pictures signed by the City Clerk.
2. Tonight I will share a proposal for a new event to be held in the City of Stanton, sponsored by the Downtown Development Authority. They have developed a model for a county-wide food festival which will ideally draw a large crowd to the City and also raise unrestricted revenue for the DDA to complete beautification projects in keeping with their Development Plan.
3. We have prepared an RFP for both web site design firms as well as appraisal firms. These projects will be crucial as we go forward with our efforts to inspire civic pride and reinvestment in the City. I was hoping to have bids and proposals for these projects by now, but it will likely be the first meeting in April.
4. This month I have managed to set appointments to meet with private foundations and to get on the agenda at various civic clubs in the area to begin spreading the word and soliciting funds for the Stanton Veteran's Memorial Park Project. It is my hope that people will see the value of this project for the whole region, not simply the City.
5. As you are likely already aware, the Headlee rollback for Montcalm County failed to pass by a wide margin. This will likely translate into significant cuts to county services, including police coverage. As we ascertain the extent of these cuts, it may be prudent for us to consider expanding local coverage before we finish the fiscal year. I will monitor this issue closely and keep you informed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Jake Eckholm, City Manager