

**ESSEXVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
DECEMBER 11, 2007 7:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Rehmus called the REGULAR MEETING of the Essexville City Council held on December 11, 2007 to order at 7:00 PM. The following Council Members were in attendance: Barrow, Chavalía, Connelly, Graham, Hydorn, Link and Rehmus.

Councilman Connelly led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Barrow, Graham:

Resolved; the agenda be approved as presented.

YES: Unanimous voice vote

Motion Carried

CONSENT CALENDAR

Connelly, Link:

Resolved; the Consent Calendar be approved as presented.

- A. Resolved; the minutes prepared by the City Clerk of the City Council's November 19, 2007 Regular and Organizational meeting are approved.**
- B. Resolved; pursuant to the City Code and law, the City Council confirms the City Manager's reappointment of David Williamson (Essroc) and Roger Rosebush (Be Cool) to the Downtown Development Authority each to a four year term effective January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2011.**
- C. Resolved; pursuant to the City's Zoning Ordinance and law, the City Council reappoints Victor Gansser (205 Burns Street) and Al Bilhimer (1003 Borton Avenue) to the Board of Zoning Appeals each to a three year term effective January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2010.**
- D. Resolved; pursuant to applicable law and its own policy, the City Council authorizes the Board of Review for the City of Essexville to consider and grant where appropriate requests for exemptions from taxation of real property for homesteads of persons in poverty based on the 2008 federal poverty guidelines.**

YES: Unanimous

Motion Carried

CITIZEN INPUT

Dennis Rondeau, 704 Langstaff Street, asked if there was a City ordinance in regard to the removal of snow from sidewalks and the removal of dog droppings. The City Manager informed him that both items were indeed covered by ordinances. He also stated that there is a vehicle parked all the time on Main Street at the NE corner of Borton & Main. The City Manager said he would have the Public Safety Director check out the parked vehicle.

Thomas Bleau, 1102 Woodside Avenue, wondered if the City was going to display its manger scene this year. He was informed that the manger scene was disposed of several years ago due to its poor condition.

The Mayor asked if any other citizen wished to address the Council, hearing none, he continued with the agenda.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Mr. Krygier, County Commissioner, was not in attendance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE COMMITTEE

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Graham, Chavalia:

Resolved; that expense vouchers 34 through 35 totaling \$122,226.60 and payroll vouchers 36 through 39 totaling \$90,447.32 for a grand total of \$212,673.92 be paid as stated.

YES: Unanimous

Motion Carried

PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006/2007

Mr. Ned Kleinke, from Quast Janke and Company, was in attendance to present the Audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007. He informed the Council that the City once again has a clean unqualified opinion from the Auditors. He explained some of the different tables in the audit and answered questions from the Council. He also stated that he would continue to present the audit in the form presented to them at this meeting, even though it is presented differently to the State of Michigan because of the GASB rules. Mr. Kleinke praised the City Manager and Staff for their fiscal responsibility during the past year.

Graham, Hydorn:

Resolved; the annual audit for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2007 presented by Quast Janke and Company at its regular meeting of December 11, 2007 is received and accepted as presented.

YES: Unanimous

Motion Carried

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Councilman Hydorn had no report this month.

MUNICIPAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Councilman Connelly had no report this month.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Councilman Chavalia had no report this month.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Councilman Barrow had no report this month.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Councilman Graham had no report this month.

UTILITY AND SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Councilman Link had no report this month.

PLANNING COMMISSION

Councilman Connelly had no report this month. The Planning Commission did not hold a November meeting.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Councilman Hydorn had no report this month. The Downtown Development Authority did not hold a December meeting. However, they will be sponsoring the Ninth Annual Community Outdoor Holiday Lighting Contest.

ATTORNEY'S REPORT

The City Attorney is still reviewing information in regard to the large AT&T cable boxes being erected on out lawns prior to introducing an ordinance against them at a future meeting. The Zoning Enabling Act is in the process of being amended. The City may have to revise its Zoning Ordinance to comply with the amendment.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager reported on his miscellaneous communication to the City Council. **Water Issues:** All of the out-city customers met yesterday in a meeting called by Bob Redmond. **Storm Water Authority:** The next Storm Water Authority meeting is scheduled for January 16. **Problem Properties:** Nothing new to report. **Woodside Avenue Redevelopment Project:** The Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) held a special board meeting last Thursday regarding the Qualified Application Process (QAP). The revised QAP was approved by the board subject to approval by the Governor. The developer is waiting to complete the full market study for the project until he knows what the final rules will be and the few remaining environmental issues are resolved. Wilcox believes they will soon resolve the remaining issues with the MSHDA environmental consultant. The developer indicated that should the second tax credit round be scheduled he wants to be ready to submit our project as he believes we should be in a good position to be selected. The City Manager is trying to schedule another meeting for next year with the committee working on the post office relocation project. **Bay Composites Project:** All of the permits required for Mr. Fonzi to proceed with the construction of the public water and sewer utilities have been received. Mr. Fonzi's contractor is scheduled to begin work on December 10 with installation of all the underground utilities, both public and private, and will be doing preliminary site preparation over the next two weeks. **NPDES Permit:** The local office of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) has advised the City Manager that they have received the consultant's final report but it will be sometime in January before

they will schedule a meeting with us. **Miscellaneous Matters:** The recommendation for the 2008 Citizen of the Year Award as compiled by the Citizen of the Year committee was enclosed with the Council packets. The Council will officially name its Citizen of the Year at its January meeting. Michigan State University recently conducted a research project for the Michigan State Treasury. The research project utilized nine fiscal stress indicators to determine the impact on local government's financial conditions. The City of Essexville scored 4 out of 9. The higher the number the more fiscal stress a community is under. Three of the four points we received are directly related to the state's fiscal policies. The City Manager believes the problems with both the Headlee amendment and Proposal A contribute to the negative position with respect to real taxable value growth. The General Fund operating deficits which gave us a 1 rating in two years would never have happened had the state not reduced our revenue sharing by over \$100,000 per year. The department will be posting this information for all cities and villages on its website in January. City Council is well aware each of the areas of concern raised in the report for Essexville have been recognized by staff and Council for the past four years and we are at least making an effort to address them within our resources. Fall leaf pickup was not extended. The DPW has been collecting the few bags of leaves that have been set out by residents after the end of yard waste collection by Waste Management. This year's annual Christmas luncheon will be on Friday, December 14 at the new Department of Public Works facility. The DDA will again sponsor the Holiday Lighting Contest. Judging will take place during the week of December 17. An ad will be placed in the *Bay City Times* notifying residents when the judging will be.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

INFORMATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS

Miscellaneous Informational Communications were received for the Council's review.

CITIZEN INPUT

John Connelly, 10 West Sharlear Drive, stated that Consumers Energy has not done any repair work along Woodside Avenue where they were testing gas lines. The City Manager said the repair work would be done in the spring.

The Mayor asked if any other citizen wished to address the Council, hearing none, he continued with the agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Graham, Link:

Resolved; that the meeting be adjourned.

YES: Unanimous voice vote

Motion Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM

Thomas Rehmus
Mayor

Cynthia J. Fournier
City Clerk