

CITY OF REED CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
April 10, 2023

Mayor Meinert called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 227 E. Lincoln Avenue, Reed City, Michigan.

- Present** Mayor, Roger Meinert. Council Members: David Belden, Dan Burchett, Trevor Guiles, Russell Nehmer, Nicole Woodside and Brad Nixon. City Attorney, David Porteous and City Manager, Rich Saladin, were also in attendance. Department Heads attending were, Curt Brackenrich, Rich Rehkopf, Barbara Westerburg, and Fire Chief, Jeff Stein. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag. There were citizens in the audience.
- Agenda** Motion by Guiles, seconded by Woodside, **CARRIED**, to approve the agenda as presented. Affirmed by voice vote.
- Minutes** Motion by Nehmer, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2023, regular meeting as presented. Affirmed by voice vote.
- Bills** Motion by Woodside, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to approve paying bills as presented for payment for a grand total approved amount of \$347,949.95. Roll call vote. Voting yes were Nixon, Woodside, Meinert, Guiles, Burchett, Nehmer and Belden.
- Audience** Dave Lucey, Reed City Recycle gave a presentation on what and how Reed City Recycle works. They are a senior citizen fully volunteer run recycle center. They have cardboard and tin bins open and are looked to get one for plastic. The problem they have is people leave garbage with the recycle. They would like to do more but at this time they don't have the ability. Recycle will work with the city with recycle.
- Reports** Chief Jeffrey Stein, Fire Dept., Police Chief Christopher Lockhart, Rich Rehkopf, DPW, and Curt Brackenrich, WWTP, filed written reports. Kadee Kidd and Barb Westerburg provided by email, Financial Reports including a Revenue/Expenditure Report as of February 28, 2023.
- Motion by Woodside, seconded by Nehmer, **CARRIED**, to approve the Department Head reports as submitted. Affirmed by voice vote.
- New Fire Truck** Motion by Belden, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to accept the Allied/Alexis stainless steel fire truck for \$637,364.00 contingent with finance. Voting yes were Woodside, Nixon, Meinert, Guiles, Burchett, Nehmer and Belden.
- Old Tender 2** Motion by Woodside seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, for the Fire Department to table the bids for Pierce Freightliner Pumper old tender for the Department. Affirmed by voice vote.
- Boy Scout #4** Motion by Woodside, seconded by Nixon, **CARRIED**, to approve the lease alteration & improvements for application #4. Roll call vote. Voting yes were, Woodside, Meinert, Nixon, Burchett, and Nehmer, Guiles and Belden.
- Boy Scout #5** Motion by Nehmer, seconded by Nixon, **CARRIED**, to approve the lease alteration & improvements for application #5. Roll call vote. Voting yes were, Belden, Guiles, Woodside, Meinert, Nixon, Burchett, and Nehmer.
- 2023 Social Dist** Motion by Nixon, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to open the Social District from Friday, May 26, 2023 until Saturday, September 2, 2023 for Friday and Saturday only from 5pm until 10pm. Affirmed by voice vote. 6 yea votes and 1 nay vote. The yeas have it and the motion is adopted.
- Street Close/Noise** Motion by Woodside, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to close the 100 block of West Upton for the Social District activities on May 27, 2023, June 24, 2023, July 29, 2023 and August 26, 2023 from Friday, 4pm until 10pm and to allow noise variance from 5pm to 10pm. Affirmed by voice vote.

Resolution Motion by Belden, seconded by Nehmer, **CARRIED**, to approve Resolution 2023-04 to approve request that Legislature/Governor include funding in the 2023 Budget for communities following pension best practices established by state. Affirmed by voice vote. 6 yeas and 1 nay vote. They yeas have it and the motion is adopted.

City of Reed City
RESOLUTION 2023-04
REQUEST THAT LEGISLATURE/GOVERNOR INCLUDE FUNDING IN THE 2023 BUDGET
FOR COMMUNITIES FOLLOWING PENSION BEST PRACTICES ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE

The following resolution was offered by Member David Belden, seconded by Member Russ Nehmer, at a regular meeting of *City Council for City of Reed City* conducted April 10, 2023, at City Hall 227 E. Lincoln, Reed City, MI 49677.

WHEREAS, City of Reed City has taken financially difficult steps to stabilize its pension program and get its pension costs and liabilities under control; and

WHEREAS these steps followed best practices established by the State of Michigan and kept (local government unit) operationally viable in the face of enormous financial pressure; and

WHEREAS, HB 5054 of 2022 would have divided \$250 million between (local government unit), and other communities like it, that made the tough decisions and followed those best practices; and

WHEREAS, City of Reed City and others like it are ineligible for \$750 million in pension relief allocated by the State in 2022 despite experiencing the same pension-related financial stresses as those who will receive that relief; and

WHEREAS, these stresses have been amplified by market losses in 2022 and a volatile market in 2023; and

WHEREAS, this \$250 million would have immeasurable impact on our ability to address our pension liabilities, maintain employment levels, and provide the services our taxpayers depend upon; and

WHEREAS, both the \$750 million allocated and the \$250 million requested here had broad, bipartisan support in the House a year ago; and

WHEREAS, HB 5054 created an equitable balance between those with pensions the House considered substantially underfunded and those who had followed best practices to achieve a higher funding ratio; and

WHEREAS, unallocated revenues are available to the State in 2023 to again make this pension assistance equitable by helping those communities struggling with pension costs, but ineligible for the \$750 million;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, City Council for City of Reed City asks the State of Michigan Legislature and Governor's Office to revisit HB 5054; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature and Governor give bipartisan support to the inclusion of the \$250 million in the 2023 State budget to be divided between communities including City of Reed City that meet the best practices required in that Bill.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 6 yes 1 No, with Members Meinert, Woodside, Belden Nehmer, Burchett, and Nixon voting yes, Member Guiles voting no, and Members 0 absent.

I certify that the following resolution was adopted April 10, 2023 by *City Council for City of Reed City* at a regular meeting conducted April 10, 2023, at City Hall 227 E Lincoln, Reed City, MI 49677.

Ord 001-2023 Mayor Meinert introduced Ordinance 001-2023 Zoning Map change and rezone for 215 East Church from R-2 to C-4. A second public hearing is set for May 8, 2023.

Consent Motion by Woodside, seconded by Nehmer, **CARRIED**, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Affirmed by voice vote.

City Manager Rich Saladin submitted a written report and highlighted the following:

- Barb Westerburg's last official day will be April 21, 2023 as the Treasurer of The City of Reed City. Appreciate everything she has done. The main reason the City is in such great shape is because of her hard work and dedication. Thank you to you Barb. Very well earned.
- Did receive a part of the grants that we applied for last year. They are starting to trickle in will keep you updated.

Mayor Report:

Board of Rev Motion by Meinert, seconded by Nehmer, **CARRIED**, to appoint Larry Emig to Housing Commission one year term 03/31/2024 Affirmed by voice vote. 4 yea votes and 3 Nay votes. They yeas have it and the motion is adopted.

- Thank you to Barb Westerburg for three terms of working together, It has been a pleasure and you will be greatly missed. You will be missed and I appreciate EVERYTHING you have done to make being on council so great.
- Budget Meeting set for April 19, 2023 at 6:00pm.
- Reminded David Belden he is appointed to review bills prior to the May council meeting.
- Refresh Reed City is Saturday April 29, 2023 at starting 8:45am at the Depot.

Attorney Report The City Attorney thanked Barb Westerburg for her years of service. City Attorney Porteous stated that he has been practicing for over 40 years and has served on many different boards and commissions and has never seen a Treasurer get such glorying reports from Auditors and maintain pristine books as Barb does. It really is extraordinary. The City was very, very fortunate to have her all these years.

Council Nicole Woodside: Thank you Barb!
Rus Nehmer: Thanks to Barb and enjoy your retirement!
Trevor Guiles: Thank you Barb! Since I have been on council it has been a huge benefit to have you as Treasurer. You have even stepped in as City Manger at times and you know this City like the back of your hand. You will be greatly missed.
Dan Burchett: Thank you Barb! Thank you to Casey Merris, who broke down the ice rink. Disc golf course was cleaned up by the Jeff LaPlant's community service crew. It's looking great and a lot of people are using it.

Adjourn Mayor Meinert adjourned the meeting at 7:55 P.M.

Amye Hensel, City Clerk