

**CITY OF REED CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
In Person and Virtual Meeting
March 15, 2021**

Mayor Meinert called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 227 E. Lincoln Avenue, Reed City, Michigan in person, and also electronically for participation via computer or phone.

- Present** Mayor, Roger Meinert. Council Members: Nathan Bailey, Dan Burchett, Trevor Guiles, Russell Nehmer arrived at 7:01 P.M. and Nicole Woodside. Brad Nixon was absent. City Manager, Ron Howell, also attended in person. City Attorney, David Porteous attended electronically. Department Heads attending electronically were, Curt Brackenrich, Rich Rehkopf, Barb Westerburg and Jeffrey Stein. Police Chief, Chris Lockhart, attended in person. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag. There were citizens attending in person and via electronically.
- Agenda** Motion by Guiles, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to approve the Agenda as presented. Affirmed by voice vote.
- Minutes** Motion by Burchett, seconded by Bailey, **CARRIED**, to accept the minutes of the February 16, 2021 regular meeting as presented. Affirmed by voice vote.
- Bills** Motion by Nehmer, seconded by Bailey, **CARRIED**, to approve paying bills as presented for payment for a grand total approved amount of \$226,479.52. Roll call vote. Voting yes were, Guiles, Woodside, Bailey, Burchett, Meinert and Nehmer.
- Audience** Michele Hoytenga, State Representative, appeared virtually to give a Legislative Update. Representative Hoytenga serves as Chair of the Communications and Technology Committee, Vice-Chair of the Regulatory Reform Committee, member of the Energy Committee and member of the Oversight Committee. Hoytenga encouraged people to reach out to her office if they need help obtaining mental health care.
- Rhonda Lang, Commissioner on the Michigan Independent Citizens Redistricting Commission (MICRC) appeared in person and gave an overview of the responsibilities of the MICRC and provided where to obtain further information about the new redistricting process.
- Trevor Mund of the Reed City Chamber of Commerce appeared in person to present their new Reed City CASH program. The goal of the program is to promote spending locally in restaurants, businesses, and shops – to keep the dollar here locally. Reed City CASH will be made for purchase like a gift certificate and be able to spend it at places that accept Reed City CASH. Trevor also announced they will be having a Golf Outing on Friday, June 11th at Spring Valley Golf Course. In addition, he also announced there is a new beauty salon, Bright Lights Salon, and the Grand Opening will be soon.
- Reports** Chief Jeffrey Stein, Fire Dept., Police Chief Christopher Lockhart, Rich Rehkopf, DPW, and Curt Brackenrich, WWTP, filed written reports. Barb Westerburg, submitted Financial Reports electronically.
- Sewer Line** Motion by Guiles, seconded by Woodside, **CARRIED**, to approve the bid from Gerber Construction in the amount of \$14,000.00 for a new sewer main in the alley of Coats Avenue. Roll call vote. Voting yes were, Woodside, Nehmer, Meinert, Guiles, Bailey and Burchett.
- WA Equip.** Motion by Woodside, seconded by Nehmer, **CARRIED**, to authorize the Department of Public Works to obtain bids for new water meter reading equipment. Affirmed by voice vote. Bailey and Guiles voted no.

- Signage Motion by Guiles, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to allow the Chamber to work with the City Manager on getting a proposal to MDOT for the two locations, Chestnut and US10 and 220th and US10, for business signage. Affirmed by voice vote.
- Museum Council members discussed the future use of the Museum property based on the Planning Commission recommendation for an indoor recreation center. Attorney Porteous, restated that a Title search needs to be done to see if there are any restrictions on that park property.
- Chamber MOU Motion by Bailey, seconded by Nehmer, **CARRIED**, to amend the Memorandum of Understanding with the Reed City Area Chamber of Commerce to no longer partner with the City for the website. Roll call vote. Voting yes were, Bailey, Burchett, Guiles, Meinert, Nehmer and Woodside.
- Hazardous Wast Motion by Guiles, seconded by Bailey, **CARRIED**, to participate in the Osceola-Lake Conservation District 2021 Hazardous Waste Collection and approve payment of Invoice 1-1755 in the amount of \$575.00 for payment. Roll call vote. Voting yes were, Burchett, Woodside, Bailey, Nehmer, Meinert and Guiles.
- Social District Discussion on establishing a Social District in the 100 block of W. Upton Avenue and the Depot property. Police Chief Lockhart voiced his concerns and suggested maybe starting out with a few block parties throughout the year to see how they are received. A committee consisting of the Chamber, Roger Meinert, Nicole Woodside and assisted by Nate Bailey and the Chief of Police will meet to work out some of the concerns and make a proposal for establishment of a Social District.
- Meeting Motion by Guiles, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to approve continuing the meeting through the end of the Agenda. Affirmed by voice vote.
- Consent Motion by Bailey, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Affirmed by voice vote.
- Committee Mayor Meinert reported the City Manager Search Committee has not met but will put on his to-do list to do something next week.
- Ron Howell reported a potential buyer of the Mill & Supply is willing to sell a portion of the land to the City to create more parking. Ron will get an Engineer estimate for the redevelopment of the North parking lot and the expansion.
- Depot Committee has not met as Chairperson Brad Nixon has been out of town.
- City Manager City Manager, Ron Howell, reported on the South Plant project and ask for Council to set a special meeting for the Public Hearing on the project. It was the consensus of council to set the Public Hearing for April 26, 2021 at 5:30 P.M. Ron would like to move ahead with design of the Veteran’s Park working with Councilpersons Nehmer and Burchett and report back to council. Ron reported he had not received the Engineer report from 101 W. Slosson. There was discussion that the building may be in the process of a sale.
- Councilperson Nehmer left council chambers at 9:31 P.M.
Councilperson Nehmer returned to chambers at 9:33 P.M.
- Councilperson Burchett left council chambers at 9:33 P.M.
Councilperson Burchett returned to chambers at 9:35 P.M.
- Councilperson Woodside left council chambers at 9:35 P.M.
Councilperson Woodside returned to chambers at 9:38 P.M.

The City Manager was directed to get a copy of the Purchase Agreement from the purchaser to verify the property is being sold.

Motion by Guiles, seconded by Bailey, **CARRIED**, to table any further discussion on 101 W. Slosson until the next monthly council meeting. Affirmed by voice vote.

A 2021-22 Budget Adoption Calendar was included in the packet. Council members discussed the Memorandum of Understanding for City Manager services beginning May 1, 2021 and ending December 31, 2021. A couple of concerns with the MOU were discussed. It was agreed to put the MOU on the Agenda for the April council meeting.

Housing Motion by Bailey, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to re-appointed Patricia Morrone to the Housing Commission term ending 3/31/2026. Affirmed by voice vote.

Bills The 2021 Schedule of Reviewing Bills appoints Nicole Woodside to review bills prior to the April meeting.

Comments Roger Meinert announced Refresh Reed City is set for Saturday, April 24th.

Russ Nehmer advised he will be having a car show the third week of June and the proceeds from the car show will go towards the Veteran's Park.

Dan Burchett reported he has been trying to get ahold of his contact with the State regarding the Dog Park but has not heard back from him.

Nate Bailey updated council regarding the Museum. John McDowell not only bequeathed the funeral home building to them but also bequeathed a sizeable monetary donation. The Museum also received another sizeable monetary donation from another person for building improvements and doing upgrades. They are still looking for anyone to do volunteer work for a variety of things for the Museum. Nate also would like to bring back discussion to remove the prohibition of marijuana sales in the City.

Adjourn Mayor Meinert adjourned the meeting at 10:09 P.M.

Jacalyn R. Beam, City Clerk