

A Special Workshop Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held Monday, February 1, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Withee at 6:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Brent Milhiem, Lauri Krueger and Dustin McNees. Absent: Mayor Trobeck. Also present: City Manager Mitchell, Finance Director Storbeck and Fire Chief Weber.

Commissioner Krueger moved to excuse Mayor Trobeck, seconded by Commissioner McNees. CARRIED.

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. OTSEGO/PLAINWELL CHAMBER – REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CONTRACT

City Manager Mitchell opened the conversation regarding the Otsego/Plainwell Chamber of Commerce presentation at the previous workshop meeting, by asking for the Commission's opinions. Finance Director Storbeck gave a brief history of how the contract for services evolved. He stated that the City was informed that they could not pay dues to a non-professional group, hence the contract for services was entered into. A lengthy conversation took place regarding:

- The continuation of the contract with the Chamber
- The amount that the City is willing to contribute for the services that the City is getting in return.
- Why the City is paying more than the private businesses.
- The Chamber's relationship with the DDA (i.e. Creative Arts Festival)
- Confusion on roles of the Chamber and the City.
- City services that are expected from the Chamber (i.e. DPW)
- The Chamber's potential contract with the City of Plainwell
- Various options and amounts of a potential contract

City Manager Mitchell will make contact with the City of Plainwell to find out the amount of their contribution and terms. He will also get an employee count and compare it to what businesses are paying for membership. City Manager Mitchell will also find out what the DDA/Main Street will be committing to and report these findings back to the Commission.

2. FUND BALANCE POLICY

City Manager Mitchell stated that all of the changes that were made as requested by the Commission at the last City Commission meeting, and the policy will be presented at the Regular City Commission Meeting. Commissioner McNees commented that he appreciated that the changes were made. Finance Director answered questions of the Commission.

3. LAWRENCE DR. RIGHT OF WAY VACATION

City Manager Mitchell reviewed the history of Mr. Schurman requesting to purchase the right-of-way that he has been maintaining for many years. He explained that there is a storm sewer running down the middle of the property, so nothing can be built on the property. He stated that the only benefit for him is that he could park on the property and it would expand his lot

dimensions if he were to add on to his garage. Mr. Schurman has an attorney who will be going in front of a judge, requesting that the property in question be given to him. City Manager Mitchell explained that the City has no use for the property, just the storm sewer easement is of use to the City. He explained the court process and that the City will be given notice to voice our objections. City Manager Mitchell answered questions of the Commission. The Commission agreed that there was no reason to object to the transfer of property.

4. GOALS

City Manager Mitchell commented that he thought that talking about goals for the Commission is a great idea and maybe should be conducted annually.

Commissioner Milhiem:

- Keep City financially viable
- Fill storefronts in the downtown
- Recreation & Riverfront development
- Blight

Commissioner Krueger:

- Dog Park
- Marketing
- Community Policing

Commissioner McNees:

- Pavilion
- Recreation (dog park, soccer park)
- Social Media (post agendas)
- Blight

Commissioner Withee:

- Blight
- Dog Park
- Educate Public (i.e. what the City can and can't do with City funds)

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

None.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner McNees, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED – 7:01 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk