

**REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN  
25500 GIBRALTAR ROAD  
FLAT ROCK, MI 48134**

**MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Flat Rock City Council convened at the Municipal Building, 25500 Gibraltar Road, Flat Rock, Michigan 48134, on the above date at 7:30 p.m.

**1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**2. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

PRESENT ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Dropiewski

Council Members: Maul, Tefend, Wrobel

ALSO, PRESENT: City Attorney Matthew Zick, City Clerk Meaghan Bachman, Fire Chief Bill Vack, Police Chief John Leacher, DPS Director Jim Lancaster, Recreation Director Rodney Wade, Treasurer/City Administrator Brian Marciniak, Economic Development Director Liz Hendley.

**Resolution 06-03-19-01**

Motion by Wrobel

Supported by Tefend

RESOLVED, that the Flat Rock City Council hereby excuses Council Members Bergeron, Little, and Martin as absent, at the regular City Council meeting of June 3, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Resolution 06-03-19-02**

Motion by Wrobel

Supported by Tefend

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of May 20, 2019 as presented.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

**4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

None

**5. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Police Chief John Leacher welcomed Police Officer Matthew Maclachlan and presented him with his Oath of Honor. Officer Maclachlan's wife pinned his badge on his uniform.

Economic Development Director Liz Hendley spoke of the successful Chalk the Walk event on June 1<sup>st</sup>, at Huroc Park. She congratulated Primerica on opening their business in Flat Rock. Primerica had a ribbon cutting on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Director Hendley welcomed them to the community.

Department of Public Services Director Jim Lancaster provided project updates. Chip-sealing on Cahill and Seneca began on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and should finish up the following day. Street Sectioning program is almost complete. Phase 4 Sewer project should begin in the next week. Director Lancaster noted he is looking into options for recycling.

Fire Chief Bill Vack noted a house in Pebble Brooke was struck by lightning and sustained some damage to the wiring in the home. He spoke of a power outage that took out the lighting on Woodruff Road and a few of the streets within the subdivision around Woodruff. The Chief said another power outage took place on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, due to a squirrel that got into a substation in Rockwood to a feed that powers Huron Woods.

City Attorney Matthew Zick reminded residents that citizens cannot campaign at City Council Meetings.

**6. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

City Council Member Mark Maul noted the upcoming weekend is Summer Blast and reminded everyone to support local businesses.

City Council Member Ken Wrobel spoke of concerns regarding Vreeland Road and noted it is unsafe. He would like something to be done with the road. The Mayor noted it can be discussed more during the budget hearing. He noted it really should be a road that is owned by Wayne County and not the City. He said TIFA only has a limited piece of Vreeland and TIFA does not have the money this year. If it was special assessed, it would be assessed to the larger business around the area but also a couple homeowners. He mentioned a while back, Attorney Grunow was asked for a legal opinion if the railroad would be subject to a special assessment. Attorney Zick said he would like into it.

**7. MAYOR COMMENTS:**

The Mayor thanked the American Legion and VFW for organizing the Memorial Day Parade. He noted Keith Gardner who is the MC of the event came straight from the hospital to host the event and did a nice job.

Mayor Dropiewski congratulated Primerica and welcomed them to Flat Rock. He noted the owner is local to the Community and commented it is nice to have people invest in their own towns and local areas.

The Mayor reminded everyone of Summer Blast weekend on June 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> at Huroc Park. He spoke of the event activities and the entertainment lineup. He noted fireworks

will be on Friday night and shuttle bus service is available to the event. More event details were discussed.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**Item 9-A-Public Hearing for the 2019-2020 Budget**

**Resolution 06-03-19-03**

Motion by Wrobel  
Supported by Tefend

RESOLVED, to open the public hearing for the 2019-2020 Budget.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

Mayor Dropiewski asked if the public and City Council would like to comment on the budget. Council Member Wrobel noted he has a lot of issues and felt it should be discussed through a work session due to the absence of three (3) City Council Members. Council Member Maul agreed. The Mayor noted the work session can be held before the City Council Meeting of June 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. The Mayor said the budget has a deficit of \$900,000.00 and is the worse budget since his 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year as Mayor. The primary drivers of the change are the State funding for personal property tax of a negative of \$200,000.00 and MERS assessment up by an additional \$400,000.00. Council Member Wrobel noted prior City Council did not put anything in MERS. The Mayor noted the MERS shortage started in 1985 and carried through 1996. MERS suggested a calculated amount to pay and it wasn't paid for seven (7) of those years. Council Member Wrobel thanked the Treasurer's Office for the information they provided him. The Mayor and Treasurer are looking into solutions for MERS and noted unfunded liabilities may be bonded if the requirements are reached. He noted since then, the required contributions to MERS have been made. Council Member Maul asked if Mayor Dropiewski and Council Member Wrobel were on Council at that time; it was noted no, they were not. He asked if it continued after 1996 and it was noted, no it didn't. The Mayor noted since he has been there in 2004, the City always made the required contribution just not able to make any extra payments.

**Resolution 06-03-19-04**

Motion by Wrobel  
Supported by Maul

RESOLVED, to close the public hearing for the 2019-2020 Budget.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

**Item 9-B-Road Closure Requests – East Huron River Drive**

**Resolution 06-03-19-05**

Motion by Wrobel  
Supported by Tefend

RESOLVED, WHEREAS, Flat Rock Our Hometown, Flat Rock’s Associate Level Main Street Group, submitted a letter dated May 30, 2019 requesting the City Council consider closure of E. Huron River Drive between Garden Boulevard and just east of Seneca for two (2) events including the Taste of Flat Rock on Saturday, July 20, 2019 and Spooktacular on Saturday, October 19, 2019; and

WHEREAS, Flat Rock Our Hometown contends that closing E. Huron River Drive for these two (2) events will allow Flat Rock businesses to participate in these events that can help support their local businesses; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council does hereby request that the Wayne County Department of Public Services allow the City of Flat Rock to close E. Huron River Drive from Garden Boulevard to just east of Seneca for the Taste of Flat Rock from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 20, 2019 and for the Spooktacular from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 19, 2019, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Flat Rock agrees to fulfill all permit obligations and conditions; indemnifies, holds harmless and defends Wayne County and its officials and employees against any and all damages, claims, suits or judgements of any kind or nature arising as a result of the permitted activity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Flat Rock designates John Leacher, the Police Chief, or Jim Lancaster, the DPS Director, to sign the permit on its behalf.

Discussion: The Mayor noted music will be at the Taste of Flat Rock this year. Council Member Maul asked if alcohol will be there also; the Mayor noted, potentially.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

**Item 9-C-Vehicle Towing Services Agreement**

**Resolution 06-03-19-06**

Motion by Wrobel  
Supported by Tefend

RESOLVED, to approve the vehicle towing services agreement.

Discussion: Council Member Maul asked Attorney Zick if he reviewed the agreement; Attorney Zick responded, yes, he drafted the agreement.

Motion carried unanimously 4-0

**10. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

Business owner John Fiorelli spoke of concerns regarding alcohol being served at the Taste of Flat Rock. He asked why the City is hosting a beer tent when there are business owners who sell alcohol. He noted businesses should be benefiting from the event, especially since they are donating. The Mayor noted Wyandotte and Trenton do the same thing at their event. Mr. Fiorelli felt it should not be allowed. Council Member Maul noted he would like to make a motion to prohibit outside alcohol to be sold within that block for the event. He noted the business is already there and why bring in outside alcohol sales to compete with the businesses. Council Member Tefend asked if Council Member Maul meant alcohol from other Flat Rock businesses; Maul responded, a beer tent by Taste of Flat Rock. Tefend asked who the non-profit is. The Mayor responded, Flat Rock our Hometown, the City, or the Foundation, he noted it is still just an idea and noted he is not part of the planning process. Tefend noted he agrees with the concern voiced by Mr. Fiorelli and with the restaurants being in that block or other locations in town and would like to bring something to the event. Mr. Fiorelli voiced other concerns from his seat in the audience. Maul noted the Taste of Flat Rock is an event and the business are already there and asked the Mayor if he said there is no way to limit the festival or someone coming into the festival and selling beer. The Mayor responded he did not say that; he said a place like old town can't take their liquor license from their Telegraph location and sell alcohol on Huron River Drive. Maul asked what about Flat Rock our Hometown putting up a beer tent. The Mayor responded, he didn't know, and the Attorney would have to look into it. John Fiorelli could sell because he has a catering license. The Mayor noted, in the past, they looked into this for Michael's on the River. Maul asked if a business could go to summer blast and have a beer tent. The Mayor noted yes, with a catering license. John Fiorelli said his point was that the City should create the environment for the business that could do something like that, so the business would want to do it, and it would benefit the business.

The Mayor noted to Council Member Maul that he had to correct misinformation that Maul put out on Facebook saying that Flat Rock food and beverage businesses were not permitted to participate in the festival. Maul noted that was correct. Mayor responded it is not correct and noted Biggby Coffee and Captain Nemo's were at Riverfest last year. Maul responded, the Mayor's post said they are not taking any food vendors; the Mayor noted because they are full. Maul asked what Flat Rock business this year serving food; Mayor noted none applied. Maul responded because the businesses were told not to from the Facebook post. Mayor noted the post said if you're interested in any future events, please apply and none were received. Maul said that wasn't what the post said, it noted they are not accepting any outside food vendors.

IT was noted the closed session originally scheduled for June 3, 2016<sup>9</sup> would be postponed until the next City Council meeting due to the absence of three (3) members.

**11. LATE CORRESPONDENCE:**

**None**

12. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Resolution 06-03-19-07**

Motion by Wrobel  
Supported by Tefend

RESOLVED, to adjourn the regular City Council meeting of June 3, 2019 at 8:06 PM.

All voting yes; motion carried unanimously 4-0

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved

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JONATHAN D. DROPIEWSKI, MAYOR

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MEAGHAN K. BACHMAN, CITY CLERK