

CITY OF CHARLEVOIX
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 24, 2010 — 5:00 p.m.
210 State Street, City Hall, Council Chambers, Charlevoix, MI

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mayor Norman Carlson

I. Pledge of Allegiance

II. Roll Call of Members Present

Mayor: Norman L. Carlson, Jr.
City Attorney: Absent
City Manager: Rob Straebel
City Clerk: Stephanie C. Brown, Deputy Clerk
Members Present: Councilmembers Jill Picha, Greg Stevens, Bryan Vollmer, Shane Cole, Lyle Gennett, and Dennis Kusina,

III. Inquiry Regarding Possible Conflicts of Interest

None.

IV. Requests, Petitions and Communications and Actions Thereon

A. Discussion Regarding Fire/EMS Contracts with Local Townships

The following facts were disclosed and discussed during the meeting:

- Norwood Township has stated that they will not agree to the proposal unless the rates remain the same.
- The City sent formal offers of protection and requested a written response by March 19, 2010.
- Council is aware that all the townships are considering Allied EMS for ambulance services.
- The Mayor explained the methodology used to come up with Fire and EMS rates that would be fair to everyone involved.
- Marion Township has chosen to go with Charlevoix Township for fire services and is still considering options for EMS.
- Hayes Township has paid through October 31, but the City may choose to terminate the contract with 30 days notice and reimburse the Township.
- The purpose of re-evaluating the fees is that the City has been paying more than it's share, resulting in the City taxpayers subsidizing services for the townships.
- Council generally agreed that ample time has been given for the townships to make a decision.
- Council discussed the impact on Eveline Township, which has already returned a signed contract, if the other townships choose not to receive fire services from the City.
- Chief Ivan explained that EMS services would continue until the City revises its license issued by the State. Amending the license should take approximately three weeks.
- City Manager Straebel explained that the contracts stipulate termination notification of 30 days for Hayes Township and "within 60 days" for all other townships. While "within 60 days" could mean as little as one day, Mr. Straebel feels that the responsible thing to do is to provide 30 days notice to all townships except Eveline. Mr. Straebel proposes that letters be sent immediately with a termination date of May 1 if new contracts are not negotiated by that time.

The Mayor opened the item to public comment at 5:28 p.m.

Marion Township residents Stephanie Brown and Patti Spencley expressed concern that township residents are not aware of the potential changes to their fire and EMS protection services and asked Council to give the townships another thirty days to negotiate, as proposed by the City Manager.

Chief Ivan reported that by law, townships are required to provide fire services. EMS services will be provided based on the location of the emergency, not the residency of the people involved.

The Mayor stated that aspersions have been cast on the abilities of the City's firefighters, but that the City's fire department trains firefighters from surrounding departments. The Mayor stated that the City's fire and EMS providers are very well qualified.

The City Manager and Chief Ivan have stated that they would accept any invitation to attend a township meeting to answer any questions of township officials or residents. Only Hayes Township has extended an invitation.

The Mayor closed the item to public comment at 5:35 p.m.

Motion by Councilmember Stevens, second by Councilmember Picha, to direct staff to send out a letter stating that as of May 1 their current contract will be terminated unless they choose to accept one of the new proposals submitted.

Yeas: Picha, Stevens, Vollmer, Cole, Gennett, and Kusina
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

B. Planning Commission Appointments

The Mayor would like to appoint Rebecca Doan to the Planning Commission.

Motion by Councilmember Gennett, second by Councilmember Cole, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Rebecca Doan to the Planning Commission.

Yeas: Picha, Stevens, Vollmer, Cole, Gennett, and Kusina
Nays: None.
Absent: None.

V. Audience - Non-agenda Input (written requests take precedent)

Fire Chief Ivan reported that the burning of the building at 108 Park Avenue went well, though the night went much longer than anticipated.

VI. Adjourn

The Mayor stated if there were no objections, the meeting would adjourn. There were no objections. Meeting adjourned at 5:43 p.m.

Stephanie C. Brown

Deputy City Clerk

Norman L. Carlson, Jr.

Mayor

Carol A. Ochs

City Clerk