

CITY OF MUSKEGON
CITY COMMISSION WORKSESSION

Monday, February 8, 2016
5:30 p.m.
City Commission Chambers

AGENDA

1. Second Quarter Budget Reforecast
2. Playground at Pere Marquette Park
3. Flint Water Crisis Resolution
4. No Reason Absentee Voting – Resolution in support
5. PA 269 of 2015 – Resolution in opposition
6. Any Other Business
7. Adjournment

CRC will meet immediately following the Worksession meeting.

**Resolution in Support
No Reason Absentee Voting**

WHEREAS, the Muskegon City Commission supports no-reason absentee voting; and

WHEREAS, no-reason absentee voting will allow every registered Michigan voter the opportunity to vote 45 days in advance of the election, enjoying convenient and secure voting; and

WHEREAS, Act 116 of 154, 168.759 (1) states that an elector who qualifies to vote as an absent voter, as defined in section 758, may apply for an absent voter ballot; and

WHEREAS, allowing no-reason absentee voting may increase voter participation and eliminate the anxiety of voters having to wait in longer lines; and

WHEREAS, no-reason absentee voting will provide the voters a more convenient and simple way to participate in the elections; and

WHEREAS, the issuance of absentee ballots require local clerks to perform several verification procedures such as the applicant's signature, the applicant's certification they are a United States citizen, they are a registered and qualified elector, and their date of birth, thus ensuring a secure method of voting.

Now therefore be it resolved the Muskegon City Commission supports no-reason absentee voting and urges Michigan Legislators to adopt legislation allowing Michigan voters to vote an absentee ballot without a reason.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____, and same was duly passed at a general session of the City of Muskegon City Commission, with the vote as follows:

Yeas:

Nays:

Absent:

By: _____
Stephen J. Gawron
Mayor

Attest: _____
Ann Marie Meisch, MMC
Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Commission of the City of Muskegon, County of Muskegon, Michigan at a regular meeting held on February 9, 2016.

Ann Marie Meisch, MMC
Clerk

RESOLUTION No. _____
Opposition to Public Act 269 of 2015

WHEREAS, Governor Rick Snyder signed into law, with immediate effect, Public Act 269 (Senate Bill 571) of 2015 despite widespread calls for a veto of this bill, including from members of his own party; and

WHEREAS, both the Michigan Senate and the Michigan House of Representatives passed Senate Bill 571 late into the night of December 16, 2015, just prior to recessing for the year; and

WHEREAS, one of the last minute amendments made to Senate Bill 571, without the knowledge of the Michigan Municipal League or other local government organizations, and approved without any public testimony or awareness, was the new language inserted into Section 57, subsection (3); and

WHEREAS, this new law prohibits a public body, or a person acting for a public body, from using public funds or resources for the purpose of communicating any information to the electorate regarding a local ballot question that is to appear on the ballot, within 60 days of an election, and

WHEREAS, this law places an immediate gag order on entities with ballot questions on the March 8, 2016 ballot and every election thereafter; and

WHEREAS, municipal elected and appointed officials have a civic and legal duty to the residents of their communities to fully inform them regarding the issues placed before them, upon which they may exercise their constitutional right to vote; and

WHEREAS, existing laws, including the former language in Section 57, and decades of guidance from the Michigan Secretary of State, already prohibit the use of public funds to advocate for or against ballot issues; and

WHEREAS, existing laws already provided for an allowance for elected and appointed officials to express their views without fear of violating the act; and

WHEREAS, because the new law bans only communication on *local* ballot issues, it creates inconsistent treatment of statewide ballot questions versus local initiatives; and

WHEREAS, there are substantial questions regarding the constitutionality and legality of the new law, including a possible ban on freedom of speech;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Muskegon calls for an immediate repeal of the new language in Section 57, subsection (3) of PA 269 of 2015; and

WHEREAS, the new language inserted into Section 54, subsection (3) now prohibits a long-standing allowance for corporations to establish and administer salary-reduction agreements at the request of employees to contribute to a separate segregated fund used for political advocacy; and

WHEREAS, this new language now bans corporations from deducting money from an employee's paycheck and depositing the same into the Political Action Committee (PAC) of that employee's Labor Union; and

WHEREAS, a double standard has been created, whereby payroll deductions for contributions to a corporate PAC are allowed while this practice is banned for employees wanting to use the convenience of payroll deduction to contribute to the PAC of the labor union representing themselves;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Muskegon calls on the State Legislature and Governor to resolve the aforementioned double standard, either repeal the language of Section 54, subsection (3) of PA 269 of 2015 or similarly prohibit payroll deductions from being used to fund a corporation's own PAC; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the city's state representatives in the Michigan House of Representatives and the Michigan Senate.

The foregoing Resolution was offered by Commissioner Johnson and supported by Commissioner _____, and same was duly passed at a general session of the City of Muskegon City Commission, with the vote as follows:

Yeas:

Nays:

Absent:

By: _____
Stephen J. Gawron
Mayor

Attest: _____
Ann Marie Meisch, MMC
Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Commission of the City of Muskegon, County of Muskegon, Michigan at a regular meeting held on February 9, 2016.

Ann Marie Meisch, MMC
Clerk