

CITY OF MUSKEGON
CITY COMMISSION WORKSESSION

Monday, February 7, 2022
5:30 p.m.
City Commission Chambers
933 Terrace Street, Muskegon, MI 49440

MINUTES

2022-10

Present: Mayor Johnson, Vice Mayor German, Commissioners Gorman, Emory, St.Clair, and Ramsey

Absent: Commissioner Hood

Terry Sabo, 92nd District State Representative, was in attendance and addressed the City Commission regarding some legislative updates.

Access for All – Youth Training Program

Access for All representatives were in attendance and provided information about “Access for All” which is an Apprenticeship Readiness Training Program for those 18 years of age or older that are local residents. Potential Success for All applicants who are interested in having access to trade positions are a strong catalyst in job creation for youths in Muskegon County. Classes consist of 25 verified high school students or youth 18-22 years of age seeking occupations through higher education in several building trades including excavation, electrical, plumbing, mechanical, and building.

Arena Restrooms, ADA Improvements

Staff is seeking approval to enter into a design build agreement with Spark 43 to design and construct ADA egress, public restrooms, storage and alley/utility improvements at the Mercy Health Arena.

Staff has been working to develop a long-term solution to three downtown issues: Large-capacity public restrooms for special events and daily visitors, ADA egress from the west side of the arena, and capacity to replace the arena’s storage that was lost in a windstorm in 2015.

If approved, this plan will help address all three issues. The construction would create ADA access from Western Avenue using the small alleyway between the arena and the CIO Hall. The walkway would consist of a ramp connecting Western Avenue to the egress doors on the Arena’s western façade. Current, all occupants utilizing that egress point must exit via a steep set of stairs constructed 50+ years ago. As part of the ramp construction, we will gain barrier-free entry to the arena’s new restrooms directly from the exterior of the arena. This will allow the arena restrooms to be accessed by the

general public without entering the arena. Additionally, as part of the new ramped egress, a storage area approximately 20 feet x 25 feet will be created to help store important arena assets like football/soccer turf, floor coverings, etc. The project would also include replacing the stormwater, sanitary sewers, and watermains in the alley.

Note that the costs are based on engineers estimates, and all trades will be hard-bid to meet the City's purchasing policies. We are proposing to use ARPA for the non-utility improvements, and the utility funds for the corresponding utility improvements.

Discussion took place, this item will appear on the agenda for the meeting to be held Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Marihuana Consumption Community Outreach

The City received \$112,000 last year from excise tax from marihuana sales. 35% of that money (\$39,200) is to be allocated for the Muskegon Social Equity Program. 35% of that money (\$13,720) is to be spent on education and community outreach for responsible marihuana consumption related to harm reduction. Advertisements renderings to choose from as well as the quote from Lamar Advertising are provided. The quote lists panels of information for each potential location. Each panel includes a start date, rate per cycle, and a one-time production fee. A cycle is 28 days long so most of the quotes are for four cycles.

Mike Franzak, Planning Manager, provided the Commissioners with additional options for advertising. This item will appear on the agenda for the meeting to be held Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

Bang the Table

Staff spent a majority of its time getting familiar with and setting up Bang the Table in 2021. In the past year we found that Bang the Table has grown in recognition and has been purchased by Granicus, Inc. Granicus, Inc. is one of the top information technology companies in the USA and growing in popularity with other countries as well.

Bang the Table is great for putting out surveys (DPW utilized this service for the parks this past summer). We also see that many communities are utilizing it to communicate about ARPA funds.

Staff recommends not renewing at this time. Discussion took place and it is understood that our internal Information Technology department has the ability to launch a similar platform and will allow for internal control rather than have a 3rd party software vendor provide the platform.

Precinct Boundary Changes

Following the 2020 Census, State of Michigan Redistricting, and County Reapportionment, we are requesting changes to some precinct boundaries in order to better balance the number of registered voters in each ward.

Due to the timeline for getting changes submitted to the State of Michigan, Bureau of Election, we are seeking approval of the changes so that we can submit our revisions as soon as possible.

The deadline to file ballot wording of proposals qualified to appear on the May 3, 2022 ballot is February 8, 2022 and we have been told to expect the MAISD to file.

The deadline for precinct boundary changes to be submitted for the May 3, 2022 Election is March 4, 2022. The deadline for precinct boundary changes to be submitted for the August 2, 2022 Primary is April 4, 2022. We would like to have the changes made before the May Election to allow for time to send new voter ID cards to voters in the City of Muskegon. Approximately 721 voters will be assigned to new precincts and polling places. All voters will receive new ID cards to identify changes to Precinct, Ward, Polling Place, County Commission District, State House District, State Senate District, and Congressional District numbers.

The City of Muskegon Election Commission will meet before the February 7, 2022 Worksession to consider the proposed changes in our precinct boundaries.

Change #1 – move approximately 164 voters from Ward 3 Precinct 10 to Ward 2 Precinct 7 – these are voters at 550 W. Western, the Amazon Building. (These voters are supposed to be in precinct 7, this is a correction that needs to be made anyway.)

Change #2 – move approximately 299 voters from Ward 1 Precinct 2 to Ward 2 Precinct 5 – these are voters in an area West of Getty between Brusse and Marcoux. This helps with balancing the number of registered voters per ward as well as making a clearer, more concise boundary line.

Change #3 – move approximately 33 voters from Ward 4 Precinct 11 to Ward 3 Precinct 9 – these are voters in an area East of Glade between Laketon and Hackley. This helps with balancing the number of registered voters per ward as well as making a clearer, more concise boundary line.

Change #4 – move approximately 225 voters from Ward 4 Precinct 12 to Ward 3 Precinct 10 – these are voters in an area South of Laketon, Northwest of Ruddiman Creek. This helps with balancing the number of registered voters per ward as well as making a clearer, more concise boundary line.

There was discussion regarding this item. The changes were approved by the Muskegon City Election Commission at a meeting on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. This item will be on the agenda for consideration on Tuesday, February 8, 2022.

Public Comment: Public Comment was received.

Adjournment: The Worksession meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Marie Meisch, MMC – City Clerk