

**Harbor Springs City Council
January 19, 2009**

Mayor Dika called the sixth meeting of the Harbor Springs City Council to order at 7:00 p.m., in the City Council Chambers at 160 Zoll Street, Harbor Springs, Michigan.

1. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

Present: Alan Dika, Alan Hegedus, Michael K. Heinz, Laura Kors and Pringle Pfeifer

Absent: None

Also Present: City Attorney James T. Ramer, City Manager Frederick W. Geuder, Police Chief Daniel J. Branson, City Assessor/Zoning Administrator C. Tim Grimm and City Clerk Ronald B. McRae

2. City Clerk / Comptroller / Treasurer

A. Approval of Minutes

It was noted that Item 4, page 2, first paragraph, the third sentence reads, "...the State's project deficit..." It should read, "...the State's projected deficit..."

#7523 – Motion by Pfeifer, second by Heinz, to approve the January 5, 2009 regular City Council meeting minutes as amended.

Ayes – 5
Nays – 0

B. Approval of Bills

I have examined the bills appearing on the vouchers below and recommend they be allowed and payment be made from the following funds:

Voucher Number	Description	Fund Name	Amount
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7522	Payroll Ending 1/4/09	General Fund	\$39,389.86
		Major St. Fund	3,753.18
		Local St. Fund	1,472.20
		Historical Fund	443.60
		Electric Fund	10,723.35
		Water & Sewer Fund	5,693.56
		Waterfront Fund	304.80
		Equipment Fund	878.64
7523	Trust Payouts 12/1/08 Through 12/15/08	Trust Fund	\$791,581.26
7524	State Sales Tax & Withholding Through 12/31/08	General Fund	\$3,962.72
		Electric Fund	11,800.83

7525	Accounts Payable - Council 1/19/09	General Fund	\$39,189.66
		Major Street Fund	602.72
		Local Street Fund	602.72
		Police Reserve Fund	0.00
		Historical Fund	588.51
		Electric Fund	77,283.74
		Water & Sewer Fund	37,985.87
		West Traverse Water	0.00
		Waterfront Fund	921.56
		Equipment Fund	10,716.55

#7524 – Motion by Heinz, second by Hegedus, to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,037,859.33.

Ayes – 5
 Nays – 0

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that claims on voucher numbers 7522, 7523, 7524 and 7525 checked by the Finance Committee, in the amount of \$1,037,859.33 be allowed for payment, and the City Manager and the Mayor are hereby authorized to execute warrants to be drawn on the following funds:

General Fund	\$82,506.24
Major Streets Fund	4,355.90
Local Streets Fund	2,074.92
Police Reserve	0.00
Historical Fund	1,032.11
Electric Fund	99,807.92
Water & Sewer Fund	43,679.43
West Traverse Water Fund	0.00
Waterfront Fund	1,226.36
Equipment Fund	11,595.19
Trust Fund	791,581.26

Total	\$1,037,859.33
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3. Citizen Comments

None

4. Update of 2009 Assessments

Manager Geuder stated that the City of Harbor Springs (the "City") is "bucking" the trend of declining property values. Many communities, especially in Southeast Michigan, are going through declining property values. Many of them are dropping to the point where the "Assessed Values" are meeting the "Taxable Values" or dropping lower than the previous year's "Taxable Values".

City Assessor/Zoning Administrator C. Tim Grimm stated that based on the sales studies for 2007 and 2008 the Emmet County Equalization Department required the City to increase its real property values in the residential class \$16,362,600. Grimm explained the process the local assessor uses to assign the value determined by a County Equalization Department.

Grimm addressed City Council's questions and concerns. Grimm, reflecting on Southeast Michigan, stated that the "Taxable Value" of a parcel can never exceed its "Assessed Value". After addressing Council members' questions and concerns, Grimm suggested that they refer constituents to him to review any individual assessment in question.

5. Boards and Commissions

A. Planning Commission (PC)

Council reviewed the January 15, 2009 PC meeting minutes. Mayor Dika stated that the next PC meeting is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., Thursday, February 19, 2009.

B. Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

Mayor Dika announced that the next ZBA meeting scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, February 11, 2009.

C. Appointments for 2009

Mayor Dika stated that he contacted the following individuals and they have agreed to be reappointed to the following terms:

Board of Review	Linda Rachwitz	Term ending 1/1/12
Planning Commission	Mary Ellen Hughes Sara Smith Sheryl McCleery	Term ending 2/25/12 Term ending 2/25/12 Term Ending 2/25/12
Harbor Commission	Jane Ramer Fred Rachwitz Bill McCullough Al Dika	Term ending 1/1/13 Term ending 1/1/13 Term Ending 1/1/13 Mayor's Designee
Downtown Development Authority	Josh Baker Rob Mossburg Andy Bultman Pam Pfeifle Laura Kors	Term ending 1/1/13 Term ending 1/1/13 Term Ending 1/1/13 Term Ending 1/1/13 Council Representative
Building Authority	Joel Clark Al Dika	Term ending 5/21/12 Until New Manager is on board
H.A.R.B.O.R., Inc.	Alan Hegedus	Mayor's Designee
H.A.R.B.O.R., Inc. Recreation & Open Space Initiative	Laura Kors or Al Dika	Until New Manager is on board
Airport Authority	Al Dika	Until New Manager is on board

D. Next City Council Meeting

Mayor Dika announced the next regular City Council meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 2, 2009 in the City Council Chambers.

Mayor Dika announced that a special meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20, 2009 to meet with the City Manager Search Consultant to review and possibly select applicants for interview.

Mayor Dika announced that January 30, 2009 and possibly January 31, 2009 are special meetings scheduled for interviews of applicants for City Manager.

6. Old and New Business

A. Insufficient City Manager Applicant Information

Councilperson Pfeifer commented that based on the information submitted by the City Manager Search Consultant, Bill Richards, she cannot make a determination of which candidates should be selected for interview. There is not enough information or too many gaps. The rest of the Council members present agreed with her.

Manager Geuder stated that he would contact Richards to discuss this issue. Manager Geuder stated that Richards is scheduled to be in Harbor Springs at 5:00 p.m. Council members could possibly review the applicants' cover letters and résumés at that time.

7. Adjournment

With no further business, Mayor Dika adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Ronald B. McRae, City Clerk

Approved: February 2, 2009

Alan J. Dika, Mayor

City Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2009
Attachments