

**Harbor Springs City Council Meeting Minutes
May 15, 2006**

Mayor Jardine called the twelfth meeting of the Harbor Springs City Council to order at 7:02 pm, in the City Council Chambers at 160 Zoll Street, Harbor Springs, Michigan.

1. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum

Present: Jean Jardine, Mick Heinz, Laura Kors and Dennis Wiggins
 Absent: Jim Grogan
 Also Present: City Attorney James Ramer, City Manager Fred Geuder, City Police Chief Dan Branson, City Clerk Ron McRae, and City General Secretary Jennifer Kruzel.

Mayor Jardine noted that Jim Grogan's absence is due to treatment he is receiving in Chicago; he will return as soon as possible.

2. City Clerk / Comptroller / Treasurer

A. Approval of Minutes

#7166 – Motion by Kors, second by Heinz, to approve the May 1, 2006 regular City Council meeting minutes as read.

Ayes – 4
 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:

#7286 – Payroll	P.P. E. 4/30/06	\$ 32,028.10 General Fund 325.29 Major St Fund 422.40 Historical Fund 10,586.06 Electric Fund 5,403.69 W & S Fund 2,991.54 Waterfront Fd 717.99 Equipment Fd
#7287 – A/P	Payout 4/4 – 4/30/06	\$ 6,169.40 Trust Fund
#7288 – A/P	Sales Tax 5/15/06	\$ 3,529.02 General Fund 12,086.31 Electric Fund
#7289	Council 5/15/06	\$ 51,210.29 General Fund 5,976.00 Major Sts Fd 6,444.00 Local Sts Fd 177.02 Police Res Fd 508.56 Historical Fd 599.95 BA Const Fd 44,708.11 Electric Fd 30,352.26 W & S Fund 10,235.46 Waterfront Fd 4,246.84 Equipment Fd

#7167 – Motion by Wiggins, second by Kors, to approve the bills in the amount of \$228,718.29.

Ayes – 4
 Nays – 0

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that claims on voucher numbers #7286, #7287, 7288, and #7289, checked by the Finance Committee, in the amount of \$228,718.29 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	86,767.41
Major Streets Fund	6,301.29
Local Streets Fund	6,444.00
Police Reserve	177.02
Historical Fund	930.96
B. A. Construction Fund	599.95
Electric Fund	67,380.48
Water & Sewer Fund	35,755.95
West Traverse Fund	0.00
Waterfront Fund	13,227.00
Equipment Fund	4,964.83
Trust Fund	6,169.40

Total	\$228,718.29
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3. Citizen Comments

None.

4. Public Hearing on the Proposal to Expand Walstrom Marine

Mayor Jardine called the public hearing to order at 7:08 p.m. Jardine noted that all correspondence received had been distributed to each Council member.

Mayor Jardine asked if anyone would like to speak to this issue. Jardine recognized:

Jean Beckley - 5 Woodloft Trail, Harbor Springs – asked if it would be possible for the City to expand its moorings, instead of allowing the Walstrom expansion. City Manager Geuder responded to Ms. Beckley’s inquiry by stating that the City has an optimal number of moorings in the harbor at this time, in order to provide a “safe swing” for each of the boats.

Bryan Burley – 3064 Meadowlands, Harbor Springs, and downtown commercial property owner – stated that his father, Jack Burley, had participated in the original Harbor Commission Plan, which allowed for expansion. He was in support of the Walstrom project and felt that his father’s work, along with the original Harbor Commission Plan, should be followed.

Miles Trumble – 8492 Blackberry Trail, Harbor Springs – said that Harbor Springs is known for its deep harbor, protected shoreline, and pristine basin. Harbor Springs has served a great number of boaters over the years. The Walstrom expansion will serve the harbor, and lend great value to the community as a whole. The boatyards also serve as huge employers for this town.

Raoul LePage – 564 E. Main Street, Harbor Springs – asked how Walstrom will service this large expansion, including maintaining the boats. Fred Walstrom stated that additional servicing is handled at their off-site Hoyt Road property, particularly in the winter.

Cece Johnston – 571 E. Main Street, Harbor Springs – inquired as to how many of the new Walstrom slips would be available to transient boats and local boaters. Fred Walstrom replied that all of the new slips would be available to transient and local boaters.

Dave Williams – 6595 Forest Way, Harbor Springs – commented that he was very much in support of the Walstrom expansion. He has summered in Harbor Springs since 1982, and now lives here. Walstrom has excelled in service for him over the years. He feels the expansion is necessary; he has always had to anchor out and use his dinghy to get to shore.

Jerry Burns – 535 Spring Street, Harbor Springs – complimented Mayor Jardine on her handling of the Walstrom Marine project and small town politics. He also complimented Fred Walstrom on his patience in dealing with small town politics. He was in support of the Walstrom expansion and felt it was time to expand the waterfront to its limit, as shown in the Harbor Plan.

Sandy Baker – 7480 Ridge Road, Harbor Springs – stated that she agreed with Jerry Burns. She also thanked Fred Walstrom for his efforts in preserving Zoll Street and the free water flow, and for working hard to make a plan that will accommodate Harbor Springs so well.

Jim Nichols – commercial property owner in Harbor Springs – stated that he has been a local business owner since 1987. Walstrom Marine is the largest employer in town. Their operation is first class in service, beautification, and good for the overall local dollar. He felt there were no negatives in allowing the Walstrom expansion.

Mayor Jardine adjourned the public hearing at 7:18 p.m.

5. Walstrom Marine Project

Laura Kors stated that she is in support of the Walstrom Marine expansion project. The Harbor Commission has worked hard on this project and approved it unanimously. Kors stated that she would honor their decision. Walstrom has had a positive history with our community.

Mick Heinz felt that the Walstrom Marine Expansion Project would benefit the City on many levels.

#7169 – Motion by Wiggins, second by Heinz, to approve the Walstrom Marine Expansion Project as presented, to include a positive recommendation to the State of Michigan.

Ayes – Kors, Wiggins, Heinz

Nays – Jardine

Absent - Grogan

Fred Walstrom applauded the members of City Council for their efforts with the expansion project and commended the value of the process, even though it was lengthy. He said that Walstrom will now continue to the State level with the best plan possible.

Ward Walstrom Jr. also thanked Council and members of the community for their support. He stated that he hoped those who disapproved of the expansion project

would allow Walstrom Marine to prove to them how well the project will benefit the community.

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6. Introduction of Troop 55 Boy Scout Members

There were four members of Troop 55 in attendance, earning their Citizenship Badge. They were Jake Hansen, Mitch Weber, Kole Slabaugh and Tucker Bartz.

7. Traffic Control Order for the Handicap space at the United Methodist Church

The United Methodist Church contacted Chief of Police Dan Branson regarding the addition of a handicap parking space directly in front of their church, on Main Street. Currently the church has one handicap space in their private parking lot behind the church, but the handicap accessibility is at the front of the church. Branson stated that he had discussed this issue with Kathy Lott, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, and she did not see any problem with it. There was further discussion about an alternate site being the first parking space closest to the church on Gardener Street. Pringle Pfeifer stated that designating the space in front of the church on Main Street would create a possible hardship for the food pantry unloading on a weekly basis. Branson stated he could get back with the church to discuss further which space would better suit their needs.

#7170 – Motion by Heinz, second by Wiggins, to create a Traffic Control Order allowing the United Methodist Church to have a handicap parking space, either on Main Street or Gardener Street, whichever would best work for the Church, and under the direction of Chief Branson.

Ayes – 4

Nays - 0

8. East Bluff Drive parking in front of Harbor Springs High School

City Manager Geuder stated he had received some telephone calls regarding the parking situation in front of the high school on East Bluff Drive. Discussion followed regarding the lack of parking close to the high school. Students have been parking too far along East Bluff Drive, all along Spring Street, on Center Street, and on Pine Street. The parking lot in front of Shay has been empty on a regular basis as students feel it is too far from the high school. Chief Branson stated that a solution might be to clearly mark the south side of East Bluff Drive and paint approximately 12 spaces for the students to use.

#7171 – Motion by Heinz, second by Wiggins, to clearly mark the south side of East Bluff Drive in front of the high school, allowing students to utilize that side of the street for parking.

Ayes – 4

Nays – 0

9. Resolution concerning City Boardwalk

City Attorney Jim Ramer addressed Council members regarding the liability of the boardwalk. The City residents who own the bluff property directly above the boardwalk also own all the way down to the foot of the bluff. This means that the boardwalk crosses private property. The property owners on the bluff wanted official

documentation that the City would take all responsibility for the boardwalk, the liability, and the boardwalk's maintenance.

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#7172 - Motion by Kors, second by Heinz, to adopt the Resolution Indemnifying the Property Owners on the Bluff over which the boardwalk extends.

Ayes – Wiggins, Jardine, Heinz, Kors
Nays – None
Absent – Grogan

10. Andrew J. Blackbird Museum hosting Art Fair

Kathy Lott, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, and Board Member of the Andrew J. Blackbird Museum, stated that the Museum will be hosting an Art Fair on July 22, 2006, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The Board is currently working on an alternate rain site. Since Council has already approved this event, no action was needed.

11. Resolution on Cable/Video Providers

City Manager Geuder stated that the Michigan Municipal League has contacted the City asking us to join other municipalities forcing AT & T to “play by the rules” when it comes to cable franchising. Significant changes are being proposed in Congress, nationalizing the cable franchising business by eliminating the local cable franchise process. This will permit providers to decide who gets service and who does not, essentially allowing the practice of “redlining” by choosing which neighborhoods will get cable service and which will not. Geuder stated that local municipalities, like the City of Harbor Springs, need to make sure that A T & T will not be allowed to eliminate local cable franchise agreements by having nationwide franchising approved.

#7173 – Motion by Heinz, second by Kors to adopt the Resolution urging Federal and State policymakers to continue local control of cable/video providers.

Ayes – 4
Nays – 0
Absent – Grogan

12. West Traverse Township's Water Proposal regarding Harbor Point

As an add-on to the agenda, Geuder asked for Council's consideration again regarding West Traverse Township's proposed purchase of the Harbor Point Water System. This issue was considered about a year ago, and no resolution was reached at that time. City Attorney Ramer participated in drafting the Agreement between the City and West Traverse Township, in addition to the Amendment to the Contract. Heinz stated that consideration should be given to the installation of a water meter at the entrance to Harbor Point Association.

Mayor Jardine asked if this issue might be considered at the next Council meeting, so that Council members might have more time to review the information presented.

Ramer noted that the Township has a June 1st deadline on their agreement. The City Manager was asked to look into the issue, and if needed, to schedule a special meeting prior to June 1st.

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17. Boards and Commissions

A. Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)

Mayor Jardine announced the next ZBA Meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 14, 2006. The meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers.

B. Next City Council Meeting

The next City Council meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm, Monday, June 5, 2006, in the City Council Chambers.

18. Old and New Business

None.

19. Adjournment

With no further business, Mayor Jardine adjourned the meeting at 8:17 pm.

Ronald B. McRae, City Clerk

Approved: June 5, 2006

Jean Jardine, Mayor

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Attachments