

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MILAN CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON May 8, 2017
147 WABASH STREET, MILAN, MICHIGAN 48160**

Mayor Armitage called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Armitage, Pro-Tem Gee, Council Members Churchill, Gilson, Hamden, Kerkes, Thompson.

OTHER OFFICERS PRESENT: City Administrator Jade Smith, City Clerk Lavonna Wenzel, City Attorney Ron Liscombe, Treasurer Karen Samborski - Excused, Police Chief Donald Tillery, Building/Zoning Official Robert Grostick - Excused, MIS/Communications Director Slay, Parks and Recreation Director Ellen Bell, Main Street Director Jill Tewsley, Fire Chief Stevens.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sallie Bancroft, Joyce Ervin, David Conger, Dave Snyder.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: May 8, 2017

Motion by Councilperson Hamden, to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Councilperson Gilson. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: April 24, 2017 - Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Kerkes to approve the minutes, seconded by Churchill. Motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: A Proclamation read by Mayor Armitage to designate Police Memorial Day and Police Week, May 15 to May 21 and presented to Chief Tillery.

Chief Tillery accepted and added that May 15th is Police Day. He invited anyone to say "Hello" to an officer if they see one that day.

CITIZENS MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR: (5-minute time limit per person)

A. Residents:

Dave Snyder, 6 Tolan Street announced with great pride to the council and residents that he and Mayor Armitage on behalf of Milan received a 'Downriver Historic Preservation Award' presented on May 2, 2017 at the State Capitol. He further shared that Milan is one of six communities to have received this Governor's Award in recognition of their Historic Districts. The others included Detroit, Jackson, Grand Rapids, Michigan State University Campus and Harbor Springs. Mr. Snyder thanked council for their consideration of the Historic Ordinance 2017-04.

Joyce Irving, 183 E Main Street, spoke on behalf of the Historic Commission and as a member. She and the commission voice their support and favor of the new ordinance for the Historic District. Ms. Irving is hopeful that it will maintain the downtown area and historic architecture of Milan.

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Ms. Tewsley 87 First Street also showed her support of the new ordinance and would like our historic nature preserved and protected as we are forgoing a revitalization process.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Fundraiser, Parade, Solicitation and Special Event Request Form. (American Legion Post 268 Parade and Special Event May 29, 2017)**
- B. Building Department Monthly Report for April 2017.**
- C. Milan Parks & Recreation Commission meeting minutes of February 6, 2017.**
- D. Milan Parks & Recreation Commission meeting minutes of March 6, 2017.**
- E. Milan Parks & Recreation Commission meeting minutes of April 3, 2017.**
- F. Milan Beautification Commission meeting minutes of March 29, 2017.**
- G. Approval of the Amendment to Intercreditor Agreement.**
- H. Approval of the proposed FY17-18 budget for the Milan Area Fire Department.**

Motion by Councilperson Churchill to approve Consent Agenda items A through G. as presented seconded by Gee and moved Item H to Matters for Action. Motion carried unanimously.

MATTERS FOR ACTION:

- 1. First Reading - Ordinance 2017-04 approve or not approve AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ADD CHAPTER 28 "HISTORIC PRESERVATION DISTRICTS" OF THE MILAN CITY CODE, IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A HISTORIC PRESERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSION AND SET FORTH STANDARDS AND PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING HISTORIC PRESERVATION DISTRICTS AND REVIEWING PERMIT APPLICATIONS WITHIN HISTORIC PRESERVATION DISTRICTS.**

Motion by Councilperson Churchill, seconded by Councilperson Thompson.

Ayes – Churchill, Gilson, Hamden, Kerkes, Armitage

Nays – None

Abstained – Gee

- 2. First Reading – Ordinance 2017-05 approve or not approve AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 2, ARTICLE IX (HISTORICAL COMMISSION) OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF MILAN.**

Motion by Councilperson Hamden, seconded by Councilperson Churchill.

Ayes – Gee, Gilson, Hamden, Kerkes, Thompson, Churchill, Armitage

Nays – None

Mayor Armitage elaborated on the purposes of both ordinances and gave a brief overview of the Historic Study Commission process and its benefits.

Councilperson's Hamden, Kerkes and Gilson shared common concerns for homeowners that may wish to opt out of the classification due to the control they surrender of making any exterior renovations or improvements.

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Councilperson Churchill gave a presentation of the ordinances and addressed those concerns for homeowners' rights to opt out of the Historic District. She assured that the Council would have full control over the decision making process and can vote in the residents favor. She further shared the positive point that having a Historical classification has been known to increase a property's value.

Administrator Smith provided the differences between a study committee and a standing committee. The Study Committee members are responsible for the selection of historical structures, and appointed by the Mayor. The standing committee is the actual Historic Commission.

3. Approve or Not Approve the purchase of a Police Motorcycle, and choose either Option A or Option B as presented.

Motion by Councilperson Thompson, seconded by Councilperson Hamden.

Ayes – None

Nays – Gilson, Hamden, Kerkes, Thompson, Churchill, Gee, Armitage

After a discussion of positive and negative viewpoints, a decision was made to re-visit this matter in the next budget year 2018-2019.

BILLS PAYABLE AND PAYROLL: \$ 1,077,935.07

Motion by Councilperson Thompson to approve, seconded by Councilperson Hamden. Motion carried unanimously.

CITIZENS MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR: (3 minutes time limit per person)

A. Residents: None

B. Non-Residents: None

MAYOR, COUNCIL AND STAFF REPORTS AND/OR COMMENTS:

Administrator Smith is seeking five members for the council approved "Corridor Improvement Authority" to set by-laws and improvements along Dexter, Exit 27 and Exit 25. He is looking for residents and business owners to fill these seats. He also reminded everyone to come out to the Bloom Spring Festival.

Chief Tillery recognized and thanked the citizens for their support and wanted to let them know that May 15 is Police Day, and encouraged residents to say "Hello" if you see an officer that day. He announced that April 29 was Prescription day, and residents turn in over 100 pounds in unused prescriptions. He further shared that there are four new officers that have completed the radar and speed laser training, and to be mindful of your speed.

Mr. Slay gave progress update on having a railroad camera installed that would collect data that will allow police and fire departments to see if there is a train blocking the road.

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Ms. Bell announced the Dog Obedience class that starts on Wednesday, May 10, 2017 has a few spots still open. There are still openings for the Mommy and Me painting class that is on May 23. She also announced all the upcoming summer programs to sign up for. One is Safety Town for ages 5-7. The American 1 Credit Union is sponsoring the Summer Magic Picnic on June 30, 2017 and it is free to the first 250. Lastly, a new program called Sports & S'mores, which will include camping in the park, is scheduled for August 12, 2017.

Ms. Tewsley provided a brief overview of the National Mainstreet Event that she and two others attended. They learned many exciting things. One item they will be implementing right away is having an ALL committee meeting(s) to bring the four committees involved in Mainstreet together instead of meeting separately. The first meeting will meet at Co-Milan on 17 W. Main Street on May 9 at 7:00 pm. She invited everyone to come meet the committees and learn what Mainstreet is all about. Ms. Tewsley would also love to see everyone come and enjoy the Bloom Spring festival this Saturday. Volunteers are welcome.

Mr. Conger of Wade Trim gave an update that the new water main on Lewis Street is in and was chlorinated and flushed. He informed residents that while the filling and dumping of the mains are going on, it is normal to see water running down the road and may cause cloudy water as well. He reassured the water is safe, recommended letting it run for a few seconds. He announced the new project is going great and will start tying into houses soon. They have added four new fire hydrants to Lewis Street. He advised residents to inform their insurance companies if one is close to their home, as it could potentially lower their rate.

Councilperson Kerkes gave an overview of all the happenings at the BLOOM festival this Saturday. Starting at 11:00am with be a Home & Garden Expo, there will be flowers and produce for sale at Wilson Park. Live music will be going throughout the day with six different bands playing. The digital scavenger hunt will include finding clues and getting a picture with the Mayor who will be in disguise. There will be crafts, stroller and bike decorating event that will end with parade displaying them. Residents are encouraged to come and have lots of fun!

Councilperson Hamden commended hats off to the Richie's and the Milan Youth League for their hard work to make opening day a great success. He was extremely impressed by the care and maintenance of the fields even after all the rain to make opening day possible. Also, gave hats off to everyone who contributed to Milan Spring Clean-up day.

Mayor Pro-Tem Gee congratulated Mr. Bob Real for is 55 years of service, 47 of which he served Milan and on his retirement. Also, announced the Magnificent Youth Ceremony will be this Thursday at 7:00pm. They will be recognizing four magnificent youths that have been nominated.

Councilperson Thompson also wanted to show his gratitude for the opening day of the Milan Youth League and the bake sale at the Methodist Church.

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Councilperson Gilson announced May 26 at 6:00am to 9:00am is Firehouse Friday, come out and meet some firefighters. He was happy to see the Milan Youth Parade on opening day, and very proud to live in a community that shows so much dedication to its youth league. He mentioned many worked all through the night to make opening day possible. Also, mentioned plans to raise funds to add a lighted diamond to the fields and hopes to see community participation in that as well. Mr. Gilson added that the Cruise season will kick off on May 18 in Wilson's Park, invited everyone out to see that. Lastly, he wished an early Happy Mother's Day.

Mayor Armitage shared his gratitude to all the volunteers and community for making opening day a huge success and commended the players as well. He provided an update on the railroad closures is set for May 9 for approximately two hours and will effect Allen Road, County Line Road, E. Main and Dexter Street. Wabash is not included however, making alternate plans is recommended in the event their equipment blocks it. To receive these kind of emergence updates, he instructed citizens to go online to milanmich.org and sign up for Rave Alerts on the right side of the home page.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING: May 22, 2017 (Submission Deadline May 17, 2017)

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Councilperson Gilson, seconded by Gee, to adjourn meeting at 9:12p.m.

Michael Armitage, Mayor

Lavonna Wenzel, City Clerk