

Wyandotte, Michigan August 1, 2011

Regular session of the City Council of the City of Wyandotte, the Honorable Mayor Joseph Peterson presiding.

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilpersons Browning, DeSana, Fricke, Galeski, Sabuda, Stec

Absent: None

Page 4, 5 and part of 6 of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Financial Affairs dated June 30, 2011 was read into the record:

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FINANCIAL REVIEW

The committee offers the following recommendations for review by the Mayor and Council to determine potential additional revenue and/or cost savings or budget adjustments. Some of these recommendations may result in immediate savings, some may suggest the beginning of a process that may affect savings in the immediate future, and, lastly, some may require longer term application.

EMPLOYEES

- Consideration of some form of a 4 day workweek of 36 hours for non union employees
- Consider making 3 paid holidays (Good Friday, Friday after Thanksgiving and President's Day, for example) as non-paid holidays
- Elimination of paid birthdays and 3 paid personal days
- Initiate mandatory hiring freeze - Hiring only "as needed" employees at reduced entry wages
- Wage freeze for employees
- Review bank and leave time
- Review longevity bonuses for possible modification
- Consider outsourcing employees where possible
- Conduct staffing audits by each department
- Revisit the 13th check for retired employees with consideration for modification
- In negotiating union contracts, review each recommendation for possible implementation
- Consider early retirement/rehiring as contract employee (no benefits) where possible
- 10% Administrative salary reductions

OPERATIONS

- Upgrading telephone services to VOIP systems;
- initiate paperless operations as much as possible using expanded IT resources
- Review departmental functions for overlap, possible consolidation
- "Purchase services" where possible – lease equipment, computers, software and employees
- Review use of city facilities, consolidation of programs in all city buildings to save cost or close
- Central purchasing/leasing for all city departments – perhaps consolidate this function with other cities
- Increase marketing of rental space in all city facilities – review rental fees. Reduce or eliminate no-fee users.
- Revisit benefits of the revenue producing "Bag and Tag" program formerly in effect
- Begin charging fees for use of our recycling center by non-residents – (possible "Best Practice" idea if consolidating with surrounding cities)

FEES AND SERVICES

- Across the board review of all fees and charges for services, rentals, etc.
- Review costs of all city events – parking fees to come to city with % to non-profits
- Actively seek sponsorships for all special events, recreational programs and facilities, etc.
- Review city Tot Lot/City Park maintenance – solicit sponsor maintenance donations and/or neighborhood participation
- Paid parking in downtown area (meters, lots)

PROGRAMS

Departmental review of all city programs – regarding scope, cost, participation, staff, possible consolidation with other city programs (if improvements are realized by Wyandotte), facilities, use and possible elimination

GENERAL AND POSSIBLE FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

- Continue to explore consolidation of services with other communities
- Establish police-operated vehicle impound controlled by WPD to collect fees direct
- Recommend to District Court fines and fee amnesty program
- Sell available vacant city lots without requirement to immediately build on them
- Consider using a grant writer to seek other available revenue sources/programs
- Establish mechanism for city acceptance of citizen monetary donations to general fund
- Establish a Dog Park in the city, possible consolidating with other cities ("Best Practice")
- Consolidation of Animal Control, animal shelter with other cities with Wyandotte as base ("Best Practice")
- Review of building codes to establish specs for building "cottage" homes on small vacant lots-smaller "footprint" homes, with solar, geo-thermal, etc – to get homes on lots and increase population and tax income.

CONSIDERING A SUPPLEMENTAL OPERATING MILLAGE

Unfortunately, the cumulative financial benefits of our recommendations to the city's general operating fund don't begin to solve the revenue shortfall facing the city.

Therefore, a significant amount of our meeting time was spent on the issue of additional revenue raised from a supplemental operating millage. Obviously a sensitive topic, our work and investigation supported the fact that the magnitude of the revenue shortfall facing the city cannot be remedied by simply cutting expenditures. Not only would cultural, recreation, and special event activities be adversely affected, but so would public safety.

Consequently, the committee is also recommending a supplemental millage be pursued to mitigate the negative effects of the expenditure and service cuts that would be necessary without additional revenue. In addition to the reasons mentioned previously, additional basis for this recommendation are:

- the vast majority (over 82%) of Wyandotte property owners have seen a reduction in total property taxes which would average \$490 in the current year
- the additional millage would not eliminate the gross cost savings being realized in property taxes as the supplemental millage will be less than the current savings being realized
- whereas the school district, community college, transit system, special education district, and zoo HAVE raised property taxes in the recent past, Wyandotte has NOT

CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL AFFAIRS

Michael Beaubien	Corki Benson	Brandon Crupi	Richard Custer
Rose Darin	Eron Feltz	Stephanie Jasinski	Ferd Keller
John Mongeluzzo	Steve Semetko	Milton Zaysza	

COMMUNICATIONS MISCELLANEOUS

July 25, 2011

Riverside Yarn Gallery, 2941 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte, MI 48192 (734) 284-5143

Dear Mayor Peterson and Council,

We are Michelle Pappas and Laura White, owners of Riverside Yarn Gallery. This was our first experience setting up in front of our shop at the Wyandotte Street Art Fair. On Monday of that week, our neighbor, Mary of Country Enchantments came to us and stated she had paid for extra space but did not want to be put in the street as the new blacktop was marking up her wood floors. She asked if we minded if she put her extra tent along side her other two tents which would put it a little in front of our shop. We told her we were also putting up a tent in front of our shop but we had no problem with her tent as long as we had room for our tent. On Tuesday, she and her husband were putting up their three tents and Michelle could see there would not be enough room for our tent so she went out and asked Mary if she thought they would all fit as there was a light pole in the way on one side and the concrete flower bed on the other. She said it wouldn't be a problem and put the third tent up about a foot over where the city had marked for our tent. Mary refused to move her tent because she paid for extra space but didn't want to be in the street where the city had put her. We called Heather and she talked to Mary then told us we had her permission to put anything we needed in the street if we didn't have enough room, which we didn't want to do. Meantime, Symon Rental came to put our tent up and stated there was not enough room for our tent and asked what we suggested they do with it. Putting it up in the space we had left meant it would be one and a half feet over the flower bed leaving us less than nine feet of space in front of our shop for our display. Mary came out and suggested we put it that way and put one of our tables up on top of the flowers. She saw nothing wrong with that. Symon Rental had to secure our tent to the tree and we placed our table on the flower bed which caused about 15 inches of table space to stick out of the tent under the tree. As a result, we were dealing with bird droppings on our tablecloth and merchandise. During the time it took to setup, things got a little heated between us and Mary when we realized she was in no way going to cooperate and move her tent to allow us space in front of our shop. Her third tent came over across our door to our window.

The way we understood our application to read, we are entitled to the entire store front of our business as paying WBA members. We would like to know that if something like this happens at future events, we have the backing of the city. Heather did not back us up by having Mary move her tent to make room for ours in front of our own business. In the future, who should we contact that will be effective at resolving a situation should it arise? Please contact us to advise.

Sincerely,

Michelle Pappas and Laura White

PERSONS IN THE AUDIENCE

Tom Pillar, 2397 – 23rd, spoke of problems of assessing – not consistent throughout the City. Need for budget cuts. Possibly get out of the cable and electric business because we are spending too much money.

Richard Miller, 1202 – 2nd, regarding his electric bill, compared to his sister's Southgate electric bill, feels Wyandotte rates are lower.

Gabby Feltz, regarding Green Box Program, please keep open!

Chris Calvin, Green Box mentor to children, get people to sponsor Green Box programs.

Mayor Peterson read various letters from children regarding their support of the Green Box Program.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY AND OTHER OFFICIALS

July 27, 2011

Mayor Joseph Peterson and City Councilmembers
3131 Biddle Avenue
Wyandotte, Michigan 48192

RE: 2020 Eureka (E-Z STOP MARKET)

Dear Mayor Peterson and Councilmembers:

The following request was received from the Michigan Liquor Control: Request from GRACE PARTY STORE Inc. to transfer ownership of a 2011 SDM Licensed Business located at 2020 Eureka, Wyandotte, Michigan 48192, Wayne County from E-Z Stop Market Inc.

Said request has been forwarded to Engineering, Municipal Service, Fire, Police, Treasurer and Legal Departments.

In view of the above, said application is being forwarded to you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

William R. Griggs, City Clerk

July 27, 2011

Mayor Joseph Peterson and City Councilmembers
3131 Biddle Avenue
Wyandotte, Michigan 48192

RE: 3177 Fort (Wyandotte Wines)

Dear Mayor Peterson and Councilmembers:

The following request was received from the Michigan Liquor Control: Request from MISE EN PLACE, LLC requesting a NEW SDM License to be located at 3177 Fort Street, Wyandotte, Michigan 48192, Wayne County.

Said request has been forwarded to Engineering, Municipal Service, Fire, Police, Treasurer and Legal Departments.

In view of the above, said application is being forwarded to you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

William R. Griggs, City Clerk

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council

DATE: July 28, 2011

FROM: Daniel J. Grant, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: PARKING ISSUES ON CHERRY STREET

CC: Police Commission

In regards to the correspondence from Sandra Pratt of 1214 Cherry Street relative to parking issues during baseball games at the adjacent park, I have had the opportunity to speak with Traffic Sergeant Jamie Pouliot regarding her request. Most of the persons attending these baseball games are Wyandotte residents and in my opinion enforcement of a "resident only" parking zone by issuing citations to persons attending these games would create further problems. The number of athletic events which occur in our many parks and schools throughout the year is often an inconvenience for our residents but the problems are short in duration. If we start posting one area for restricting "resident only" parking we will start a trend which will likely result in further requests throughout the entire city which will compound the problem.

Sgt. Pouliot and I agree that enhanced patrols by our Officers during baseball games in Ms. Pratt's neighborhood to ensure that driveways are not blocked and other parking violations are not present will be the most effective manner of assisting in their problem at this time.

Respectfully,

Daniel J. Grant, Chief of Police
Jamie Pouliot, Traffic Sergeant

Item #5 removed from Agenda as requested by Melanie McCoy

July 28, 2011

The Honorable Mayor Joseph R. Peterson And City Council
City Hall
Wyandotte, Michigan

RE: 664 Goddard Street, Wyandotte, MI

Dear Mayor Peterson and Council Members:

On May 12, June 15, and July 20, 2011, Show Cause Hearings were held in the Engineering and Building Department regarding the dilapidated, deteriorated, dangerous and unsafe dwelling and garage at 664 Goddard Street, Wyandotte, Michigan. Attached are minutes of the Hearings and Property Maintenance letters.

At the hearings it was determined and ordered that the dwelling and garage, due to the described conditions and property maintenance violations, should be demolished. As of today's date, the order has not been complied with.

Therefore in accordance with Section PM-107.6 Filings of findings, the undersigned requests that your Honorable Body set a hearing to show cause why the dwelling and garage should not be demolished in accordance with Section PM-107.7 Council Action, of the Wyandotte Property Maintenance Code.

Very truly yours,
Lou Parker, Hearing Officer

July 25, 2011

The Honorable Mayor Joseph R. Peterson And City Council
City Hall
Wyandotte, Michigan

Dear Mayor Peterson and City Council Members:

At the regular meeting of the Planning Commission on July 21, 2011, the Commission held the required public hearing regarding amendments to the City of Wyandotte Sign Ordinance, Section 2408 (F)(1)(h) regarding attention-getting devices in the CBD Zoning District and Section 2408(F)(2)(j)(1) regarding attention-getting devices in the O-S, B-1 and B-2 Zoning Districts.

A Motion was made by Commissioner Rockershousen, supported by Commissioner Lupo to recommend approval of said changes as presented to the Commission at said public hearing.

Very truly yours,
Elizabeth A. Krimmel, Chairperson Planning Commission

REPORTS AND MINUTES

Fire Commission Meetings	July 12 and July 26, 2011
Design Review Committee	July 25, 2011
Recreation Commission	July 19, 2011
Fire Fighter's Civil Service	June 8, 2011
Police Commission Meeting	July 26, 2011
Planning Commission Meeting	July 21, 2011
Zoning Commission	July 20, 2011

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

None

RECESS

RECONVENING

ROLL CALL

Present: Councilpersons Browning, DeSana, Fricke, Galeski, Sabuda, Stec

Absent: None

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND A PORTION OF SUBSECTION F OF SECTION 2408
OF THE CITY OF WYANDOTTE ZONING ORDINANCE CONCERNING
BANNERS AND TEMPORARY SIGNS

AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES
BY ADOPTING ARTICLE XI ENTITLED REGULATING PORTABLE ON SITE
STORAGE UNITS IN CHAPTER 25
ENTITLED "OFFENSES-MISCELLANEOUS"

RESOLUTIONS

Wyandotte, Michigan August 1, 2011

RESOLUTION by Councilperson Sheri M. Fricke

RESOLVED by the City Council that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with and the same stand APPROVED as recorded without objection.

I move the adoption of the foregoing resolution.

MOTION by Councilwoman Sheri M. Fricke
Supported by Councilman James R. DeSana
ROLL ATTACHED

Wyandotte, Michigan August 1, 2011

RESOLUTION by Councilperson Sheri M. Fricke

RESOLVED by the City Council that the communication from Michelle Pappas and Laura White, owners of Riverside Yarn Gallery, 2941 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte relative to the placement of tents during the 2011 Art Fair is hereby referred to the Superintendent of Recreation, Leisure and Culture, Special Events Coordinator and Wyandotte Business Association for a review and report back to Council in one (1) week.

I move the adoption of the foregoing resolution.

MOTION by Councilwoman Sheri M. Fricke
Supported by Councilman James R. DeSana
YEAS: Councilpersons Browning, DeSana, Fricke, Galeski, Sabuda, Stec
NAYS: None

Wyandotte, Michigan August 1, 2011

RESOLUTION by Councilperson Sheri M. Fricke

RESOLVED by the City Council that Council CONCURS in the recommendation of the City Clerk to APPROVE the transfer of ownership of a 2011 SDM Licensed Business located at 2020 Eureka from E-Z Stop Market, Inc. to GRACE PARTY STORE Inc.

I move the adoption of the foregoing resolution.

MOTION by Councilwoman Sheri M. Fricke
Supported by Councilman James R. DeSana
YEAS: Councilmembers Browning, DeSana, Fricke, Galeski, Sabuda, Stec
NAYS: None

Wyandotte, Michigan August 1, 2011

RESOLUTION by Councilperson Sheri M. Fricke

RESOLVED by the City Council that Council CONCURS in the recommendation of the City Clerk to APPROVE the NEW SDM Licensed Business to be located at 3177 Fort Street (Wyandotte Wines) as requested by MISE EN PLACE, LLC.

I move the adoption of the foregoing resolution.

MOTION by Councilwoman Sheri M. Fricke
Supported by Councilman James R. DeSana
YEAS: Councilmembers Browning, DeSana, Fricke, Galeski, Sabuda, Stec
NAYS: None

Wyandotte, Michigan August 1, 2011

RESOLUTION by Councilperson Sheri M. Fricke

RESOLVED by the City Council that Council CONCURS in the recommendation of the Chief of Police and Traffic Sergeant as set forth in their communication dated July 28, 2011 to DENY the request of Sandra Pratt, 1214 Cherry and others for the placement of resident only parking signs. AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Recreation be directed to notify the Police Department of all scheduled events at all City parks in order for the Patrol Officers to be aware and able to monitor the parking situations at said events.

I move the adoption of the foregoing resolution.

MOTION by Councilwoman Sheri M. Fricke

Supported by Councilman James R. DeSana

YEAS: Councilmembers Browning, DeSana, Fricke, Galeski, Sabuda, Stec

NAYS: None

Wyandotte, Michigan August 1, 2011

RESOLUTION by Councilperson Sheri M. Fricke

RESOLVED by the City Council that whereas hearings have been held in the Office of the Engineer in the Department of Engineering and Building 3131 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte, Michigan on May 12, June 15, and July 20, 2011, and whereas the property owner or other interested parties, have been given opportunity to show cause, if any they had, why the dwelling and garage at 664 Goddard Street has not been repaired or demolished in accordance with the City's Property Maintenance Ordinance, and whereas the Hearing Officer has filed a report of his findings with this Council;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that this Council shall hold a public hearing in accordance with Section PM-107.7 in the Council Chambers of the Wyandotte City Hall, 3131 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte, on August 22, 2011, 7:00 p.m., at which time all interested parties shall show cause, if any they have, why the dwelling and garage has not been brought up to code or demolished or why the City should not have the dwelling and garage demolished and removed at 664 Goddard Street.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk shall give notice of said hearing ten (10) days before the hearing by certified mail, return receipt requested, and first class mail, in accordance with the provisions of Section PM-107.4 of the Property Maintenance Ordinance.

I move the adoption of the foregoing resolution.

MOTION by Councilwoman Sheri M. Fricke

Supported by Councilman James R. DeSana

YEAS: Councilmembers Browning, DeSana, Fricke, Galeski, Sabuda, Stec

NAYS: None

Wyandotte, Michigan August 1, 2011

RESOLUTION by Councilperson Sheri M. Fricke

RESOLVED by the City Council that the communication from the Planning Commission dated July 25, 2011 is hereby received and placed on file AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said first reading be held at tonight's meeting.

I move the adoption of the foregoing resolution.

MOTION by Councilwoman Sheri M. Fricke

Supported by Councilman James R. DeSana

YEAS: Councilmembers Browning, DeSana, Fricke, Galeski, Sabuda, Stec

NAYS: None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Councilperson Sheri M. Fricke

Supported by Councilperson James R. DeSana

That we adjourn.

Carried unanimously.

Adjourned at 8:05 PM

August 1, 2011

Maria Johnson, Deputy City Clerk