



**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Cedar Springs City Council**

Thursday, June 12, 2014

**Cedar Springs City Hall
66 S. Main St.
Cedar Springs, Michigan**

**Workshop
6:15 p.m.**

Members Present: Ken Benham, Ashley Bremmer, Daniel Clark, Gerald Hall, Robert Truesdale, Patricia Troost, Mark Fankhauser.

Also Present: City Manager Thad Taylor, City Clerk Linda Christensen, Finance Director Deb Brunett, Police Chief Roger Parent, Fire Chief Marty Fraser and DPW Director Tom Stressman.

Members reviewed agenda items with the City Manager.

**Meeting
7:00 p.m.**

1. The Meeting was Called to Order by Mayor **Mark Fankhauser** at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. <u>ROLL CALL:</u>	Mr. Ken Benham	Present
	Mrs. Ashley Bremmer	Present
	Mr. Daniel Clark	Present
	Mr. Gerald Hall	Present
	Mr. Robert Truesdale	Present
	Mayor Pro Tem Mrs. Patricia Troost	Present
	Mayor Mr. Mark Fankhauser	Present

3. PUBLIC FORUM.

Shawn Kiphart, 1575 21 Mile Road; provided examples of police service provided by CS Police Officers. Kent County did not know the town, he said and that could not be priced out. There was no apples to apples comparison between what was being offered by CS Police and what could be offered by Kent County.

Flossie Bliss, 401 Susan St., Cedar Springs Police Officers know who we are; they come to us and are involved with us. They're friendly and they are out to help people, she said.

Mark Laws, 54 S. First St., people need to remember that the Sheriff's Department has promised the CS Police Officers a job. The response the attorney filed to the State regarding his filing citing a violation of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act stated that there was no expense involved in an investigation. That was not true, he stated.

June Payne, 57 E. Ash St., said the officers here did wonders. They go way above and beyond what is necessary. Why change? she asked.

Steve Horowitz, 426 S. Main St., cited various examples of personal experiences he had experienced with the CS Police Department.

Wendy Turbergen, 345 Sarah St., Cedar Springs Police officers have made Cedar Springs what it is. You won't get the same service with Kent County, she said. You would be making a horrible mistake if you get rid of the police department.

Resident, 421 Sarah, the police have helped her to become who she is today. they have gotten her through so much.

Zachery Surh, 57 E. Ash St., did not want to see the police officers go.

Scot Peavey, 361 Allen St., would hate to see Cedar Springs in the future without a local police department. There was a personal thing going on; the police officers know the people.

Angela Shaunt, 439 Linda St., thanks to the City police, things were getting better in the town. I know I can go to work and my kids are safe because of these officers, she said.

Dale Thurston, 274 S. Fifth St., I grew up in this town. If it isn't broke, don't mess with it and the Cedar Springs Police Department is not broke.

Resident, 26 S. First St., the officers have straightened her out.

Perry Hopkins, 90 N. Main St., I know going with the County there will be a savings of dollars; but what are you giving up? he asked. We can rationalize anything you want but are we really saving if we go with the County?

Kathy Bremmer, 205 E. Maple St., what kind of community do we want? she asked. The stories told here tonight tell us. You can't get that kind of service from the County. You can't put a price on community.

Earla Alber, 17 S. Second St., stated someone had asked her about the recall election and had heard that she (Earla) supported it. She wanted the Council to know that she did not support the recall, never had and never will.

Ed Good, CS police officer, said there was a common theme spoken tonight – community policing. All the examples given encompass what the police officers do. The officers go over and above because of who they know. The officers know the community, they solve crimes and they hear citizens and what they say. There was 60 years of policing experience in the CS Police Department. You can't buy the kind of things we are providing, he said.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

A. **Motion by Troost, supported by Bremmer, to open a Public Hearing on establishing an Industrial Development District for 95 N. Main St.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:40 p.m.

1. Staff Comments.

City Manager **Thad Taylor** stated the request for establishing an Industrial Development District had come from the CS Brewing Co. which was in the process of securing the site for their new business. This distinction would help them facilitate some tax relief at the State level, he said.

2. There were no public comments.

3. **Motion by Bremmer, supported by Hall, to close the public hearing.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:42. p.m.

B. **Motion by Hall, supported by Benham, to open a Public Hearing on an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate for CS Manufacturing, 299 W. Cherry St.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

The Public Hearing opened at 7:43 p.m.

1. **Taylor** explained the IFT Committee had met and recommended approval of the IFT Tax Exemption Certificate. CS Manufacturing was looking to purchase equipment costing approximately \$500,000.00 and did not intend to lose any jobs with the purchase. The IFT Committee was recommending a 12-year tax abatement.

Fankhauser said this was an excellent way to promote business in the City.

2. There were no public comments.

3. **Motion by Hall, supported by Bremmer, to close the Public Hearing.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:44 p.m.

5. **Motion by Bremmer, supported by Benham, to approve the agenda.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

6. **Motion by Benham, supported by Bremmer, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the following:**

- A. **approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 8, 2014.**
- B. **approval of the Checks Paid Prior #s 36527 – 36620 totaling \$63,971.83; the May Accounts Payable #s 36621 – 36665 totaling \$91,394.11 and Electronic Transfers totaling \$2,897.78. The total of all checks and transfers was \$158,263.72.**
- C. **Resolution No. 2014 – 23, a resolution to add delinquent water and sewer accounts to the 2014 Summer Tax Roll.**
- D. **Resolution No. 2014 – 25, a resolution to add unpaid invoices to the 2014 Summer Tax Roll.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

7. Correspondence for the month consisted of:

- A. Shred-it Certificate of Environmental Accomplishment.
- B. a monthly update from The Right Place.

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

A. Presentation by Kent County Sheriff's Department regarding policing services for the City of Cedar Springs.

Kent County Sheriff **Larry Stelma** said he was a firm supporter of Cedar Springs and this presentation was not an effort to degrade the law enforcement in this community; but rather an effort to help Cedar Springs and bring law enforcement to the next level.

The County's proposal included offering employment to the City's existing officers and allowing them to keep their same uniform and cars. The officers would be placed in a pool of officers for payroll purposes, he explained. This would result in a \$100 - \$130,000 a year savings for the City. The current City officers could be retained in Cedar Springs and the same level of service would be provided. One individual would be assigned to work closely on a daily basis, while some of the work now done by staff in the City would be done at the sheriff's office. Such work included detective work, crime lab work and other lab work. These services are currently being paid for by the City but if the City went under the County's umbrella for policing, those expenses would be paid for by the County, he said. There would be no overtime and 300 extra hours of law enforcement services would be provided. It was a win/win proposal he said. The City could maintain its identification and officers and the officers would have more opportunity for advancement and training. The officers would be expected to fill out an application, pass a physical, have a criminal record check and certification check. They would also be interviewed by the administrative staff and undergo training to learn how to do things the way the County does them.

Chief Deputy County Sheriff **Michelle Young** stated 100% of the costs involved in policing were passed on to the community. On the average, she

said, there was a one and a half percent increase in expenses each year. The officers would join the County and receive wage increases as they reached the County wage increments. The officers would be brought in at whatever would be the top pay.

Bremmer asked if the County would be available on Red Flannel Day for assistance.

Stelma replied there was a larger pool of officers available at the County level and there shouldn't be a problem with coverage.

Fankhauser explained the City would be holding special meetings in July to enable the citizens of the City to provide input before the Council made a decision regarding policing services.

- B. Motion by Troost, supported by Clark to approve eliminating the Council Finance and Personnel and Compensation Committees.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

- C. Fankhauser** requested that the August Council meeting be moved to August 21st.

Motion by Troost, supported by Benham, to approve moving the August City Council meeting to August 21st.

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

9. NEW BUSINESS.

- A. Motion by Truesdale, supported by Bremmer, to approve Resolution No. 2014 – 19, a resolution establishing an Industrial Development District for 95 N. Main St. Parcel No. 41-02-25-430-014.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

- B. Motion by Troost, supported by Bremmer, to set a public hearing on an amendment to the City of Cedar Springs Brownfield Plan for the Cedar Springs Brewing Company LLC Redevelopment Project for the July 10, 2014 City Council Meeting.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

- C. Motion by Troost, supported by Clark, to approve the purchase of computers with upgraded operating systems from Zylatech at a cost of \$7,510.00.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

- D. Motion by Hall, supported by Clark, to approve Resolution No. 2014 – 21, a resolution approving an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for CS Manufacturing, 299 W. Cherry St. for 12 years for \$500,000.00 in Personal Property costs.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

- E. **Motion by Troost, supported by Benham, to approve Resolution No. 2014 – 22, a resolution supporting Proposal 1 on the August 5, 2014 Ballot.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

- F. **Perry Hopkins**, local business owner, requested three-hour parking limitations on Main Street, stating the majority of the street parking in the downtown was being used by tenants who live in up stair apartments. **Troost** asked how it would be enforced. **Taylor** responded that it would be done by the police through chalking tires; but added it would not be a top priority of the police department. **Hall** suggested having the three hour parking from Elm St. to Beech St. and then amended the suggestion to Oak St. to Beech St.

Motion by Benham, supported by Bremmer, to approve three-hour parking limitations on Main Street from Oak St to Beech St.

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

- G. **Motion by Troost, supported by Bremmer, to approve a request from the CS Area Chamber of Commerce to waive the peddler’s fees for the Cedar/Solon Farmer’s Market.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

- H. **Motion by Troost, supported by Hall, to approve a request from the CS Area Chamber of Commerce to allow overnight camping at Morley Park for the participants of the Renaissance Encampment as a part of the Summer Celebration.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

- I. **Motion by Clark, supported by Troost, to approve Resolution No. 2014 – 24, a resolution approving the CS Area Parks and Recreation’s Concerts in the Park as a Community Event.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

- J. **Motion by Troost, supported by Clark, to approve Resolution No. 2014 – 26, a resolution approving budget amendments to the City’s 2013-14 Annual Budget.**

VOTE: 6 – 1 (Truesdale) Motion Carried.

- K. **Motion by Troost, supported by Clark, to approve Ordinance No. 188, an ordinance to amend Chapter 40, Signs, of the City of Cedar Springs, Michigan, Code of Ordinances as a first reading.**

Discussion:

Clark said businesses depended on signage for success and felt individuals had the right to say what they wanted on a sign. He wanted to see a more

liberal attitude of the Planning Commission regarding signs and wanted the ordinance sent back to them for rewriting, saying certain language was not consistent.

Truesdale said he didn't know why sandwich board signage was limited. Signage could make or break a business, he said.

Troost said sandwich board signs should promote a business and be limited to advertising and selling the goods offered in the business.

Benham stated that temporary signs could be used for special events that a business owner wanted to support

VOTE: 5 – 2 (Truesdale, Clark) Motion Carried.

- L. Motion by Clark, supported by Troost, to decline the offer to purchase foreclosed properties from Kent County.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.

- A. General Information and Special Projects discussed included;
- Staking of property for the library and a meeting with the DEQ,
 - DNR Recreation Passport Grant for Veteran's Park denied.
 - Deputy Treasurer was leaving City employment.
 - Conditional offer of employment for the Administrative Assistant position.
 - EVIP programming discontinued at State level.
 - DEQ not allowing any farming on City drain field.
- B. Monthly Department Reports were offered by the following:
1. Department of Public Works.
 - a. Infrastructure Alternative's operational & maintenance report.
 2. Police Department.
 3. Fire Department.
 4. City Clerk.
 5. Finance Officer/Treasurer.
 - a. Cash Summary Report.
 - b. Revenue/Expenditure Report.
 6. Professional Code Inspection's Rental Registration Report.
 7. Code Enforcement Log.
 8. Minutes from the following Boards and Commissions:
 - a. the May 23, 2014 DDA Meeting.
 - b. the May 28, 2014 Industrial Facilities Tax Advisory Board Meeting.
 - c. the April 28, 2014 CS Library Board Meeting.
 - d. the April 1, 2014 CS Area Parks & Recreation Board Meeting and the May 5, 2014 Director's Report.

- 11. Motion by Troost, supported by Hall, to adjourn into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

The Council adjourned into Closed Session at 9:38 p.m.

12. **Motion by Troost, supported by Bremmer, to return to Open Session.**

VOTE: 7 – 0, Motion Carried.

The Council returned to Open Session at 10:03 p.m.

13. COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Troost – extended her sympathy to Thad Taylor whose father-in-law had recently passed away; was looking forward to the special meetings coming up.

Clark – reported on a meeting with the County Drain Commissioner regarding open drainage in the Grant and Park St. area. Some of the property owners maintain, because they were not informed of the easement with the properties, the City is liable.

Benham – extended his condolences to Thad and family; it was nice to see the citizens come out tonight and was looking forward to the special meetings.

Bremmer – thanked all the department heads and the citizens who had come out that evening; it was great to hear how wonderful the Police Department was.

Hall – suggested sending out a community survey to see how the community feels the direction the Police Department should go.

Fankhauser – extended his condolences to Thad; gave his appreciation to the business owners and citizens who spoke at the meeting; assured them their comments did not fall on deaf ears; the community needs to be involved in this decision; appreciated the Council agreeing to move the August Council meeting.

14. The Meeting adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

Linda Christensen, City Clerk

Mark Fankhauser, Mayor