



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

**Thursday, August 11, 2016**

**7:00 p.m.**

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

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

2. <u>ROLL CALL:</u>	Mr. Daniel Clark	Present
	Mr. Perry Hopkins	Present
	Mrs. Molly Nixon	Absent
	Mrs. Rose Ellen Powell	Present
	Mr. Jerry Gross	Present
	Mrs. Pamela Conley, Mayor Pro Tem	Present
	Mr. Gerald Hall, Mayor	Present

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS.

**Heidi Reed, 366 E. Beech Street**, announced that she is running for the Cedar Springs School Board. She gave the history of her family and experience. She has served on several committees, has kids in the school, and believes her prior government program experience can be blended with the needs of the school system. She stated that she is passionate about accountability, highest and best use of tax payer dollars, balanced leadership, and most importantly learning and teaching issues.

**Earla Alber, 17 S. Second Street**, stated her displeasure about the increase in the water bill. She wishes it would have increased in three phases instead of all at once.

4. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

There were no public hearings.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

**Motion by Hopkins, seconded by Clark, to change Action Items 8C, 8D to**

**reflect all of the City's accounts at Chase Bank, Independent Bank, and Choice One Bank, and to add Rebecca Newland as a signatory.**

**VOTE: 5 – 0, Motion Carried.**

6. CONSENT AGENDA.

**Motion by Hopkins, seconded by Clark, to approve all consent agenda items.**

**VOTE: 5 – 0, Motion Carried.**

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Lew Bender Strategic Planning and Training.

The Council has explored this training before. Manager Womack will look into scheduling and training costs. It would be beneficial to have all department heads in place before proceeding and to schedule after council members have attended the elected officials training.

B. Officials Training November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 in Muskegon

Mayor Hall encouraged all elected officials to attend this training and notify Manager Womack if interested.

C. Hall to remain open on Red Flannel day, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016?

It was determined that City Hall will remain open during Red Flannel Day. Council members will rotate shifts to make sure there is complete coverage from 10:00 a.m. until no later than 6:00 p.m.

D. Nixon White Pine Trail sign proposal

Manager Womack talked about Councilor Nixon's proposed sign. It is a brass-like sign. There would be two of them placed at the north and south ends of the trail at a cost of \$316.95. The Council asked if funding was available for this. There was discussion about whether or not money should be spent until a treasurer is hired.

E. Councilor Hopkins White Pine Sign proposal

Councilor Hopkins presented the idea of three separate signs, two of them double-facing that would be placed by 17 Mile and 18 Mile, and another sign at the staging area. The Chamber of Commerce has offered assistance with the costs and maintenance of the sign. Manager Womack will contact the White Pine Trail to find a suitable area for installation. The Council also feels that the North Country Trail should be contacted for input.

F. Expansion of grass area north of Memorial Park

There was discussion about Memorial Park. There is currently a gravel driveway cutting across the area owned by the City that is used for an apartment building that would be removed and filled with a plantable material. A tree line or fence might be used to delineate the boundary line. The feeling is that the entire area should be used as a memorial, not just the north or south side of it which is divided by the creek. The DPW will maintain it. Councilor Clark would like to see a curb put in where the driveway cut is in the long term.

G. Little Free Library, location discussion

Donna Clark spoke about the benefits to the community that the Little Free Library can provide. The idea would be to have two of them installed, one at Morely Park and one at the staging area. There has been discussion about collaborating with the woodshop class at the school. Womack will look at zoning to make sure this would comply with the current ordinance.

H. Title VI Non-discrimination plan

Womack will be presenting this in the future.

8. ACTION ITEMS.

- A. Jerry Gross Appointment  
a. Oath of Office

**Motion by Conley, seconded by Hopkins, to appoint Jerry Gross to the City of Cedar Springs Council.**

**VOTE: 5 – 0, Motion Carried.**

Interim City Clerk administered the oath of office.

- B. Rebecca Newland Appointment  
a. Oath of Office

**Motion by Conley, seconded by Clark, to appoint Rebecca Newland as City Clerk.**

**VOTE: 6 – 0, Motion Carried.**

Interim City Clerk administered the oath of office.

- C. Motion to remove Deb Brunett, Linda Christensen, and all former employees from the City's accounts at Chase Bank, Independent Bank, and Choice One Bank, and add Michael Womack, City Manager, and Rebecca Newland, City Clerk to all of the City's bank accounts.

**Motion by Conley, seconded by Hopkins.**

**VOTE: 6 – 0, Motion Carried.**

Agenda Items 8D and 8G were incorporated into 8C

E. Motion to name Michael Womack, City Manager as the representative of Cedar Springs to the Grand Valley Metro Council Board.

**Motion by Hopkins, seconded by Conley.**

**VOTE: 6 – 0, Motion Carried.**

F. Motion to approve Resolution 2016-27 the CS Brewery Community event application, must waive 2-month requirement.

**Motion by Conley, seconded by Powell, to waive Policy 12.**

**VOTE: 6 – 0, Motion Carried.**

Discussion: There was discussion amongst the council members as well as the Kent County Sheriff and Fire Chief about the numbers of people who will be congregating at this busy corner, as well as parking concerns and no provision of Porta Johns. There is concern that the proximity to the fire barn may be an issue if there is the need to get the trucks out on an emergency call. The sheriff will have extra patrols that night. Womack will contact Ringler to voice the Council's concerns.

**Motion by Conley, seconded by Hopkins, to approve Resolution 2016-17.**

**VOTE: 6 – 0, Motion Carried.**

9. COMMUNICATIONS.

- A. Kent County boards, commissions, and committee vacancies.
- B. Kent County Report.
- C. West Michigan Regional Planning Commission RE Broadband Federal Funding
- D. Red Flannel Festival brochure of events.

10. DEPARTMENT REPORTS.

A. City Manager. Manager Womack has been working on a new City Facebook page, added a weather widget to the website, posted the Treasurer position and received some qualified applications. He has attended the Lions/Rotarians picnic, as well as a Million Pennies fundraiser held at the golf course. He will be out of town on September 14-16 and October 24-29.

B. Department of Public Works. Stressman met with representatives from the USDA at the federal and state level to show them the upgrades at the waste water treatment facility with the funds the USDA provided. He said this was a great opportunity to meet them and showcase the facility. He received extremely positive feedback on the project. He confirmed that this was only a small piece of what needs to be upgraded as far as the water system infrastructure and to get the City where it needs to be would be another \$20-30 Million. The current infrastructure underground is over 50 years old and past its usable life.

C. Police Department Sheriff's Report. No additional comments.

D. Fire Department monthly summary. Fraser explained the value of membership with the Kent County Fire Commission. The insurance coverage and savings, as well as the bulk buying power benefit the City in a very positive way. Because payment to the Fire Commission is based on SEV, Cedar Springs receives a share from other municipalities.

E. City Clerk. Interim City Clerk will get ready for the next election welcomed new City Clerk Newland, thanked the Council for the opportunity, and offered support to the City in the transition.

F. Finance Director/Treasurer. Not Present.

- a. Cash Summary Report.
- b. Revenue/Expenditure Report.
- c. USDA

G. Code Enforcement Monthly Summary July 2016

H. Building Inspection.

I. Board and Commission Minutes:

None.

## 11. COUNCIL COMMENTS.

Councilmember Clark attended the Wolverine Skyhawks event which turned out huge numbers in attendance and money raised the Veteran's Home in Grand Rapids. He has been in discussions about the Patronicity and TAP Grants. He offered that the expense is going up because of the 14-foot wide boardwalk requirement for the bridge. He feels there is value in submitting a video for the Patronicity grant because the number of matching funds is high.

Councilmember Powell also commented about how great the airshow was. She commented that the clock tower salesperson is going to be at the CDBT meeting to provide information and examine the site. She received a card from Bob Truesdale thanking the Council. She wished everybody a Happy Red Flannel Day.

Councilmember Conley is really excited about the new clerk and is glad Councilor Gross was able to join. She expressed that Gross can help provide the City with more history and is an asset because of the wonderful service he has given to the community. She is also excited about the Red Flannel Festival and all of the hard work people are putting in to make it happen.

Councilmember Gross thanked the Council for the opportunity to sit before election day. He wants to be a value to the Council and hopes that he can provide new insight. He looks forward to working with everybody.

Councilmember Hopkins thanked everybody who is putting in extra time and efforts. He thanked Fraser for putting the fires out and the DPW for their good work with the USDA. He announced that the new sculpture is up behind the fire barn. He encouraged people to attend the fundraiser for Brison Ricker on October 15. He feels fortunate that so many people are investing in the community.

Councilmember Hall thinks it is an exciting time in Cedar Springs. He feels everything is going great and the City is moving forward. He appreciates having Manager Womack here.

12. The Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

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Christine Witt, Interim City Clerk

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Gerald Hall, Mayor