

The Village of Lexington Common Council held a Public Hearing and Regular Council Meeting Monday, November 27, 2023 in the Council Chambers at 7227 Huron Avenue, Lexington, MI 48450

Public Hearing Called to Order at 7:00 p.m. by President Kristen Kaatz
To consider the Birch Drive Sanitary Sewer Special Assessment District and hear objections or comments regarding: (i) the necessity of the public improvements; (ii) the nature of the public improvements; and (iii) financing of the public improvements via special assessment in accordance with Section 58-32 of the Village of Lexington Code of Ordinance.

Public Comment

- Ron Bloink (5125 Birch Dr.) – asked about the cost of the project and drawings. Lori Fisher addressed this and will follow up with Mr. Bloink.

Closed Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.

Call to order the Regular Council Meeting at 7:03 p.m. by President Kristen Kaatz

Pledge of Allegiance led by President Kristen Kaatz

Roll call taken by Clerk Vicki Scott

Present: Gresock, Adams, Muoio, Morris, Klaas, DeCoster, Kaatz

Absent: – None

Others present: L. Fisher, E. Ehardt, and 11 citizens

ATTENDANCE –

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Motion by Gresock, seconded by Muoio, to approve the agenda as presented.

All ayes

Motion carried

BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATION

A. EVANS EHARDT – (County Commissioner) – The County finished their draft master plan. The renewable energy guide is now on the County website. The County is looking into changing the ORV driving requirements with crossing major roads.

B. CYNTHIA CUTRIGHT – Cynthia's report is in the packet. She was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Lori explained Cynthia's report and answered questions.

C. LORI FISHER – Lori updated Council on her report and answered all questions. Lori stated she finished the on-line asset management class. The sewer cleaning is underway. Lori will be working with the Keel & Roxbury group for the next article. Lori will follow up with the investment plan tomorrow.

D. MINUTES – Motion by Klaas, seconded by Adams, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 23, 2023, as presented.

All ayes

Motion carried

E. INVOICE – FLETCHER FEALKO SHOUDY & FRANCIS, P.C. – Motion by Gresock, seconded by Morris, to approve the payment of \$360.00 to Fletcher Fealko Shoudy & Francis, P.C. - \$360.00 from the General Fund.

Roll Call

Ayes- Gresock, Morris, DeCoster, Klaas, Muoio, Adams, Kaatz

Nays- None

Motion carried

F. USDA SEWER PROJECT - Motion by Gresock, seconded by Muoio, to authorize the draw amount of \$6,084.00 from the USDA Rural Development for expenses incurred related to the Sewer Infrastructure Project.

Roll Call

Ayes – Gresock, Muoio, Adams, Morris, Klaas, DeCoster, Kaatz

Nays – None

Motion carried

G. WATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS – Motion by Gresock, seconded by Morris, to accept the recommendation from Townley Engineering and award the bid to Booms Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$6,404,000.00 for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements subject to approval of USDA Rural Development funding.

Roll Call

Ayes – Gresock, Morris, Adams, Muoio, Klaas, DeCoster, Kaatz

Nays – None

Motion carried

H. WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS – Motion by Muoio, seconded by Morris, to accept the recommendation from Townley Engineering and award the bid to Boddy Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,379,865.00 for the Water Main Improvements subject to approval of USDA Rural Development funding.

Roll Call

Ayes – Muoio, Morris, Gresock Adams, Klaas, DeCoster, Kaatz

Nays – None

Motion carried

I. RESOLUTION #2023-17 FINAL DETERMINATION TO PROCEED WITH BIRCH DRIVE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT DISTRICT & DIRECTIVE TO PREPARE THE SPECIAL ASSESSMENT ROLL – Motion by Klaas, seconded by Muoio, to approve Resolution #2023-17 as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes- Klaas, Muoio, Gresock, Adams, Morris, DeCoster, Kaatz

Nays- None

Motion carried

J. PUBLIC HEARING – Motion by Gresock, seconded by Morris, to set a Public Hearing on Monday, December 18, 2023, at the regular Council Meeting set for 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of final approval of Birch Drive Special Assessment District & approve the Special Assessment Roll.

Roll Call

Ayes- Gresock, Morris, Adams, Muoio, Klaas, DeCoster, Kaatz

Nays – None

Motion carried

K. VC3 INVOICE – Motion by Klaas, seconded by Gresock, to approve the invoice to VC3, Inc. in the amount of \$9,686.18 as presented.

Discussion: Lori Fisher explained we put this out for bid last fall and did not receive any bids back. I continue to search for a company that can meet our needs and is lean certified to handle our police computers. If we find another company that could suit our needs with the proper credentials, we then could look into providing a 30-day notice to VC3 breaking the contract. Discussion followed.

Roll Call

Ayes – Klaas, Gresock, Adams, Muoio, Morris, DeCoster, Kaatz

Nays – None

Motion carried

L. BOARDS/COMMITTEES REAPPOINTMENTS – Motion by Morris, seconded by Adams, to approve the reappointments of Jackie Huepenbecker to Planning Commission, James VanDyke to DDA, and Patty Davis to the Cemetery Board.

All Ayes

Motion carried

M. FEE SCHEDULE –

Motion by Gresock, seconded by Morris, to approve the proposed 2024 fee schedule as presented.

Discussion: Lori Fisher explained the water & sewer fees increased by 3%. The current CPI is upwards of 7%. Next year we plan to do a water & sewer rate study where Michigan Rural Water comes in and does an in-depth analysis of where we need to be. Discussion followed on getting this fee schedule in line with the fiscal year instead of the calendar year. Lori Fisher answered questions on the accrual fees being charged all year in lieu of having their account suspended when they have their water turned off for the season. Fisher explained we may have to come back and revisit the garbage fees as Emterra is trying to charge post covid pandemic price increase.

Roll Call:

Ayes – Gresock, Morris, Adams, Muoio, Klaas, Kaatz

Nays – DeCoster

Motion carried

N. ARPA FUNDS – Lori Fisher explained we received approximately \$117,000.00 in ARPA funds. The state has broadened where these funds can be spent. We have to have the funds earmarked by December 2024 and spent by 2025. I have included in the packet some of the needs that have been identified by departments. We need to be thinking about the best way to allocate these funds. Discussion followed.

O. ETHICS STATEMENT – Lori Fisher explained we changed this from a policy to a statement and change some verbiage. Motion by Morris, seconded by Gresock, to approve the ethics statement as presented.

Roll Call:

Ayes – Morris, Gresock, Adams, Muoio, Klaas DeCoster, Kaatz

Nays – None

Motion carried

P. BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT UPDATE – DeCoster is in contact with MDOT regarding curb painting. DPW did some edging. This should make the sidewalks easier to maintain.

MOBILE HOME PARK

Q. MOBILE HOME PARK DEPOSIT REFUNDS – Motion by Gresock, seconded by Adams, to approve the deposit refund in the amount of \$100.00 to Brian Pylon (Lot #68).

Roll Call:

Ayes – Gresock, Adams, Muoio, Morris, Klaas DeCoster, Kaatz

Nays – None

Motion carried

FINANCIAL REPORTS – Motion by Morris, seconded by Klaas, to approve the check register in the amount of \$72,480.61 check numbers 38184 through 38245 and financial reports as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes- Morris, Klaas, DeCoster, Muoio, Adams, Gresock, Kaatz

Nays- None

Motion carried

Motion by Klaas, seconded by Adams, to approve the sewer construction check register in the amount of \$53,915.00 check numbers 6000, 6550, and 6551 as presented.

Roll Call

Ayes – Klaas, Adams, Decoster, Morris, Muoio, Gresock, Kaatz

Nays – None

Motion carried

REPORTS – No comments

CORRESPONDENCE- No comments

PUBLIC COMMENT –

- David Resovsky (5203 Main St. Lot #48) – commented on a 30-day notice letter going out to the Mobile Home Park residents regarding the fee schedule increase.

COUNCIL PERSON COMMENTS

- Morris – In the employment contacts we moved to the longevity bonus in lieu of Christmas bonus. As a reminder, we need to remember our firefighters as well this year.
- DeCoster – The Croswell Lexington High School is putting on a play this weekend.
- Kaatz – The Lexington Tree Lighting is this weekend. We have a number of changes this year.
- Gresock – Commented on Santa being replaced this year.

ADJOURNMENT

Kaatz adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Vicki Scott, Village Clerk

I, Vicki Scott, (Village Clerk), do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of the minutes approved by the Village of Lexington Village Council at a regular meeting held on the 18th day of December, 2023.

Clerk: _____

Dated: _____

Approved