

APPROVED 08/03/2020
SPECIAL QUARTERLY ROUNDTABLE
MINUTES

JULY 20, 2020

THE SPECIAL QUARTERLY ROUNDTABLE OF THE RICHMOND CITY COUNCIL WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:43 P.M., ON MONDAY, JULY 20, 2020, BY MAYOR RIX.

ROLL CALL

Present: Allen, Greene, LaFore, Misteravich, Reindel, Rix, Warn

Absent: None

Others: City Manager Moore, City Clerk Stagl

Visitors: DPS Director Goetzinger, Police Chief Teske

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Motion by **Warn**, seconded by **Greene**, to adopt the Agenda as presented.

All yeas

Motion passes

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Discussion of Items of General Concern

Goals and Objectives

Issue 1. Promoting Industrial and Commercial Growth.

City Manager Moore informed Council that not too much progress has been made due to COVID 19. Some departments were closed and other departments were on half-staff.

Issue 2. Traffic congestion.

Council discussed some of the problem intersections in the City: Main and Gleason and the Main and Forest intersections. Some suggestions offered were to remove some of

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parking along Main Street, or consider having 'right turn only' signs posted.

Greene stated that the no parking signs by the Church at Forest and Division were removed when sidewalk was replaced and never put back up.

Discussion on the radar trailer that had been deployed this spring and summer. Councilors agreed that it is effective in reducing traffic speed when in place, but when it is removed the traffic speed again increases. Questioned the possibility of placing permanent radar trailer in certain locations.

Chief Teske indicated that permanent radar trailer may become ineffective over time – people become desensitized.

Issue 3. Streetscape.

City Manager Moore informed Council that the Streetscape Committee meeting discussed adding a direction sign to light poles for community facilities. One of the signs would be placed at Churchill Street directing people to the Richmond Community Theatre. We have also received a request from St. Augustine Parish for a direction sign at St. Michael's Cemetery. City Manager Moore questioned if Council was in agreement with providing a sign for St. Michael's Cemetery.

Council approved of the request. City Manager Moore will provide Council with a mock-up of the sign.

Issue 4. Trails to Trails.

City Manager Moore will speak with Mark Brochu regarding the trail project in St. Clair County.

Council discussed the missing signs along the Macomb/Orchard Trail. Also there were several areas along the trail that were overgrown.

Issue 5. Orientation and Training.

City Manager Moore informed Council that due to COVID-19, all in-house training has been placed on hold.

At the August meeting, the Planning Commission will be reviewing their by-laws.

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Issue 6. Code Enforcement.

City Manager Moore informed Council that the Building Clerk, Police Chief and City Manager continue to handle code enforcement.

Discussion on the old high school property. What is Council's desire for this property? Does Council want to discuss a purchase price for this property or a long term lease for use of this property?

Some disagreement amongst Council as to what they would like to see happen with this property.

Rix stated that he did not feel the property was up to City standards and was not sure he would want the City to purchase this property.

Other Councilors thought this property could be developed as a neighborhood park and would like to have a plan in place for this property.

Council was willing to meet to discuss this property further and to determine a potential purchase price they would offer.

Council also discussed that we needed to determine what could be done with the 21 acres that the City owned in Richmond Township.

7. Technology.

City Manager Moore informed Council that funds were in the budget to replace some computers.

Greene suggested that we have an assessment in place so we know what and when computers are to be replaced.

Some discussion on the possibility of leasing computers.

Leaf Pick-Up

Council was presented with cost estimates for the purchase of a leaf vacuum and for the cost of DPW wages.

DPW Goetzinger informed Council that he felt the only options for Council to consider would be for the City to purchase the equipment and DPW would pick-up the leaves or to continue leaf collection as is.

Some discussion on whether TIFA would be able to subsidize the cost of the leaf

vacuum.

It was suggested to do a community survey to find out how the residents feel.

Some Councilors did feel that the City has some responsibility to help with leaf collections, since the City has planted numerous trees throughout the years.

Some other suggestions offered were:

- Lease the equipment for a year to see how it affects the DPW work force.
- Contact communities that currently vacuum up leaves to see if we could contract them to pick-up the City's leaves.

Council directed the Administration to prepare a survey for survey monkey - wait until November 1st.

Council recessed at 9:00 pm.

Council reconvened at 9:05 pm.

Fireworks

City Manager Moore informed Council that Michigan changed their fireworks laws in 2011 and again amended them in 2019. The City of Richmond's fireworks ordinance never removed or amended our existing ordinance that predates the 2011 changes made by the State. The City's ordinance should be changed to provide clear direction to the administration, Police and the public on how we want fireworks handled.

The City's Dispatch and City Hall have received a lot of complaint calls on fireworks.

Examples of ordinances, which strictly limit the days to those specifically mentioned in the 2019 amendment adopted by the State of Michigan, were provided to Council.

Council discussed allowing fireworks for special events. The special events would be required to submit a request to Council for review and approval.

Council directed Administration to prepare a new Fireworks Ordinance which would follow the State Fireworks Ordinance. Council also requested that language be included which would allow fireworks for special events, by permit. The permit request would be submitted to Council for review and approval.

Volunteer of the Year Award

Council was reminded that we need to select a "Volunteer of the Year".

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Council agreed to consider potential candidates and bring their recommendations back.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

City Manager Moore informed Council that a retirement party was being planned for Fred McCallumore for Thursday, July 30th from Noon – 3:00 pm

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by **Misteravich**, seconded by **Greene**, to adjourn the Special Quarterly Roundtable Meeting at 9:26 p.m.

All yeas

Motion carried

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Stagl
City Clerk