

BOARDMAN CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MAY 3, 2022

Mayor Keefer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call for attendance was taken.

Councilors Present: Paul Beagle, Isaac Williams, Brenda Profitt, and Paul Keefer (In Person), Leslie Pierson, and Katy Norton (Via Zoom)

Councilors Absent: Roy Drago, Jr.

Staff: Karen Pettigrew – City Manager, Rick Stokoe – Chief of Police / Assistant City Manager, Rolf Prag – Special Projects Coordinator, Marta Barajas – Finance Director, Jenn Rollins – City Recorder / HR (In Person), and Carla McLane – Planning Official (Via Zoom)

Audience: Jonathan Tallman, Kelly Doherty, Randy Baker (In Person), Marisol Pacheco, Fernando Rodriguez, Ana Madrigal, Bonnie Young, Cesar Vargas, Kevin N., Jesus, Jasmin Lopez, Lety, and Alejandra Garcia Coria (via Zoom)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

City Council Regular Meeting – April 5, 2022

Councilor Beagle made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 5, 2022 City Council Regular Meeting as presented; Councilor Williams seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Pierson – Yes; Beagle – Yes; Norton – Yes; Williams – Yes; Profitt – Yes; Keefer – Yes; Drago – Absent.

The motion passed 6-0 with one council member absent.

PRE-ARRANGED PRESENTATION

Award for Citizen Caught Doing Good Things

Mayor Keefer presented the award for Citizen Caught Doing Good things to Rebekah Williams in recognition of her volunteer work cleaning up debris from local parks on her own time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jonathan Tallman

Mr. Tallman asked to speak regarding the East Side of the Loop Road Project. Mr. Tallman stated that he didn't feel that there has been any communication regarding the issues he has regarding the size of the road, and when it will be closed. Mr. Tallman continued to state he felt that the Mayor doesn't care about the project and he wants an open dialogue regarding these issues. Mr. Tallman also stated he feels the City Manager doesn't follow procedure and protocol.

Kelly Doherty

Ms. Doherty stated that the county has been taking water samples in Boardman and nitrate levels are high. Ms. Doherty made a claim that the high levels are being caused by the sewer ponds that are leaking. Further, Ms. Doherty stated that levels in the range of 2.4 to 5.9 ppm are in the drinking water collector wells and that the community needs to address these issues as the high nitrate levels cause cancer cases and miscarriages on the road she lives on.

City Manager Karen Pettigrew responded that nitrate levels in the city's water are tested monthly and are turned into the DEQ and the city's drinking water levels are at an acceptable level.

Mayor Keefer acknowledged the high school students attending the meeting online as part of their civics course; he welcomed them and thanked them for attending tonight's meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Barajas stated that while she did not have a Financial Report for tonight's meeting, she did have some reminders for the budget meetings that will be coming up. The City of Boardman's budget meeting will be held on May 17, 2022, and May 24, 2022 will be reserved as a follow up meeting date in the event that not all issues are resolved in the first meeting. Finance Director Barajas also noted that on May 20, 2022 the OCDC Open House will be held in the new building for the Head Start Program.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Karen Pettigrew stated the budget committee needed to have another member appointed, and a meeting would be held via Zoom on May 5, 2022 in order to accomplish this. Finance Director Barajas stated she had received one letter of interest from Emerald Lantis for this position, and if they could achieve a quorum at the meeting on the 5th, the council would be able to appoint her to the budget committee.

POLICE REPORT

Police Chief Stokoe presented the police report to the council members and stated the citations in the report are low as Office Manager Parrish has been ill and was not able to update the report. Total incidents on the report have had big jumps on the numbers in the last month or two. A press release for the active shooter incident has been created and distributed to the press, and the individuals responsible for the incident are being criminally charged.

Councilor Beagle had a question regarding the total incidents that have been increasing; he wanted to know if that is a seasonal change, or a change from the community returning to "normal" after Covid restrictions. Chief Stokoe replied that all of those could be reasons for the increase in calls and incidents in the last couple of months.

Mayor Keefer asked if there is any guidance regarding how to handle citizens racing down city streets. Chief Stokoe replied that if there is any way to identify the individuals so that it will make it easier for the police to identify them to track them down. Councilor Williams asked if it was a possibility to install cameras or some sort of surveillance system to identify these citizens. Chief Stokoe replied that he will look into options for the councilors to review.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

City Manager Pettigrew presented the building department report to the City Council on behalf of the Building Official; she stated the department is staying busy, the City of Boardman is growing and asked if there were any questions regarding the report from the councilors. There were no questions.

PUBLIC WORKS

City Manager Pettigrew presented the public works department report to the City Council on behalf of the Public Works Director. Councilor Profitt asked if there was a possibility of the city installing electronic meters that could be read electronically instead of manually; City Manager Pettigrew responded that the City of Boardman will be spending AARPA monies to update the metering system in the next year. Mayor Keefer asked if the city knew how much was spent on the free dump month in April; City Manager Pettigrew responded that the city hasn't received the bill yet so the final number wasn't available, but that the city has issued 135 vouchers to citizens. Mayor Keefer asked if the city could continue with the free dump month in July and increase the events from twice a year to three times a year; City Manager Pettigrew responded that she agreed and would hold a third event in July again this year.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Pettigrew notified the councilors that Ed Glenn has passed away, and he will be missed. Ms. Pettigrew also stated that the Teamster contract was waiting for the union to ratify it and once that was completed, she would bring it before the council to approve.

City Manager Pettigrew also noted that the change order on Laurel Lane was \$73,000 so far and she anticipated that the number would increase due to delays on the project. She continued to note that the small city allotment of \$100,000 was intended for a SE Front Street project, but ODOT let the city move the money to be used on the Laurel Lane project to assist with the cost of the project, and the city will use its own capital monies on the SE Front Street project.

City Manager Pettigrew also reported that someone had abandoned an RV trailer on NW Boardman Avenue, and it has been removed at the tax payer's expense. The city followed the process required to remove it from city streets.

Mayor Keefer asked what the permits on Laurel Lane were for. Chief Stokoe replied that the former public works director for the county allowed the closure, and the city went through the process to obtain permits from ODOT to close the road possibly next Monday. Mayor Keefer asked the city to disseminate the information regarding the closures to affected parties.

City Manager Pettigrew also mentioned that the fire department had their groundbreaking ceremony recently, and that the school district has decided to allow the city an easement for the safe walk to school path that is being considered for Columbia Avenue.

Councilor Beagle asked if the crosswalk would have flashing signs installed; City Manager Pettigrew responded that yes, they would be installed.

City Manager Pettigrew also noted that she would be reviewing the contract with Verizon who has equipment installed on top of the city's water tower, and hoped to re-negotiate for a better price for the city.

COUNCILORS

Councilor Williams asked to address the council regarding professionalism while running the meetings in conjunction with the public; he asked to have a little more formality from the council during their monthly meetings.

Mayor Keefer asked the public who made comments to recognize that there can't always be discussion and immediate answers to their questions, but that if they request to have answers provided during the next meeting, he will work on that.

Randy Baker asked what the difference was in participating in city council meetings as a person who resides inside city limits vs a person who lives outside official city limits. Mayor Keefer replied that he was welcome to make comment during the public comment section of the City Council Meetings, but the city may not be able to resolve issues brought up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.


Paul Keefer – Mayor
Jenn Rollins – City Recorder