

**POLSON CITY COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA  
CITY HALL COMMISSION CHAMBERS  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2010, 7:00 P.M.**

**ATTENDANCE:** City Commissioners: Judy Preston, John Campbell, Mike Lies, Elsa Duford, and Fred Funke present. Mayor DeVries presiding. City Manager Todd Crossett absent. City Attorney James Raymond present. Others present: Treasurer Bonnie Manicke, Police Chief Doug Chase, Assistant Police Chief John Stevens, Lou Marchello, Todd Coutts, Don Smith, Charlene Lefthand, Corrine Irvine, Ken Avison, Jules Clavadetscher, Lita Fonda, and Rory Horning.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor DeVries called the meeting to order and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA:** Commissioner Funke moved to approve the agenda as proposed, seconded by Commissioner John Campbell. The motion carried unanimously.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**A. CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES October 18, 2010**

**B. OCTOBER 15-31 CLAIMS**

Commissioner Lies moved to approve agenda items A-B with corrections, seconded by Commissioner Campbell. The motion carried unanimously.

**CITY MANAGER COMMENTS:** Mayor DeVries explained that due to City Manager Todd Crossett's absence Bonnie Manicke will be giving the City Manager Comments. Bonnie began with an update on the Streetscape project. The finishing touches were being done such as stripping the street and pulling underground wires for the lampposts. There will be a celebration on Friday, November 5, 2010 from 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. in celebration of the project completion. The public was invited and encouraged to attend. There would be food, games, and prizes given. The stop signs that are erected on Main St. are being analyzed for what will work and what is determined to be best for pedestrian traffic as well as street traffic.

The General Fund reserve from June 30, 2010 (roughly \$400,000) would not be quite enough to float the General Fund through the first half of the fiscal year until the first tax payments for FY 2010 are received in December. When the October cash report comes out the City General Fund will be in the red. City Manager Todd Crossett is asking for as many cost cuts to be done as possible to try and keep within the budget.

**APPOINTMENT FOR WARD 1 VACANCY:** Three letters of interest were received for the position; Lou Marchello, Todd Coutts, and Don Smith. Lou Marchello withdrew his name from consideration in order to place his support with Todd Coutts. Each candidate addressed the council with a brief introduction and explanation as to why they should be appointed. Todd Coutts explained that he had served on the City of Polson Board of Adjustments, has a son enrolled in Cherry Valley School, and would take the position seriously. Don Smith City resident of Polson for 57 years. He opened a business in Polson in 1978; served on the School Board 4 years and would bring experience to the table. **Commissioner Funke motioned to approve Don Smith. Commissioner Lies seconds. Vote Results: Commissioners Funke, Lies**

**and Mayor DeVries-For, Commissioners Duford, Preston, and Campbell-Against Motion died due to lack of majority. Commissioner Preston makes a motion to approve Todd Coutts. Commissioner Duford seconds. The motion died due to lack of majority. Vote Results: Commissioners Preston, Duford, and Campbell-For, Commissioners Funke, Lies, and Mayor DeVries-against.** Mayor DeVries consulted with City Attorney James Raymond on proper procedure since there was a deadlock. Mr. Raymond suggested a recess so that he could research the answer. Mayor DeVries called for a brief recess. Once the meeting reconvened **Commissioner Preston motioned to appoint Don Smith. Commissioner Funke seconded. The motion carried unanimously to appoint Don Smith.** Don Smith was sworn in by Mayor DeVries and Mr. Smith took his seat with the Commissioners.

**HANDICAPPED PARKING & ACCESS:** There was a discussion by Corrine Irvine and her daughter Charlene Lefthand. Corrine worked with Helping Hands. Charlene addressed the City Commissioners, with the assistance of a computer, to make her petition for safer handicap parking spaces and to increase the number of parking spaces. Charlene had experienced several close calls of being hit while trying to navigate from the handicap parking spaces to the curb access. Since she is confined to a wheelchair Charlene is not always visible to motorists due to the fact that her chair sits low. Corrine requests that in the future when designs are being created, to please keep the handicap in mind. Mayor DeVries thanked Corrine and Charlene for coming to the meeting. Mayor DeVries also asked that the ladies please submit feedback regarding the re-design of Main St. Corrine stated that they would certainly let the Mayor know.

**APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL HIRING OF POLICE OFFICER THROUGH C.O.PS. GRANT:** City Police Chief Doug Chase spoke to the commissioners about the Department of Justice grant that had been given to the City of Polson in order to hire an additional officer. The grant would pay the salary for 3 years and the City would have to pay for the 4<sup>th</sup> year. The grant required the City to keep a minimum of 12 officers and the officer hired through the grant would be the 13<sup>th</sup> officer. There was a current reserve officer that is a candidate for the position. Assistant Police Chief John Stevens fielded questions from the commissioners regarding how the department could justify the hiring of an additional officer with the budget issues and the condition of having to maintain a minimum of 12 officers within the department. Assistant Chief Stevens noted the rise in violence in Polson and the need for additional patrol officers. Currently the City of Polson does not have 24 hour coverage. With domestic violence and weapons on the increase the additional officer was a necessity. Commissioner Smith asked if the funding was already built in. Assistant Chief Stevens answered that it would need to be built into the budget. Commissioner Campbell asked if it would be possible to use the levy to assist in paying the fourth year wages. Asst. Chief Stevens responded by saying that it would not be possible to take funds from the levy. The levy money is set aside for other expenditures. Mayor DeVries asked if a vote is needed this evening. Asst. Chief Stevens stated that no, according to the letter the department has 90 days from the receipt of the letter to respond. Mayor DeVries suggested tabling the vote until City Manager Todd Crossett is present to respond to the financial questions. After more questions about the future and how to possibly work the 4<sup>th</sup> year salary into the police department budget, **Commissioner Funke motioned to table the topic until the next meeting. Commissioner Preston seconded. The motion carried unanimously to table until next meeting.**

**SEPTEMBER 2010 CASH REPORT:** City Treasurer Bonnie Manicke reported that the General Fund has \$17,302.00 in the current balance. There was no infusion of funds so the October report will be a negative balance. There was cash in the bank and the City anticipates being back in the black soon. Mayor DeVries pointed out that the outstanding property taxes that are due to be paid in December may be delayed due to the Department of Revenue computer problems of getting the tax statements mailed out. The monies paid to the City from property taxes would be received later than usual. **Commissioner Lies made the motion to approve the September 2010 Cash Report. Commissioner Funke seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.**

**PRA RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COMMISSION REGARDING A) SHARING FEES FOR CPA AT COUNTY TO PREPARE TIF ACCOUNTING B) REGARDING USING TIF FUNDS TO REDUCE SID:** Jules Clavadetscher reported on the results of the last PRA meeting of October 21, 2010. There were votes taken on 2 issues at that meeting; 1). To assist County for fees to CPA-a 1 time payment-this passed. 2) Suggestion of using TIF funds to reduce SID-it was voted that TIF funds were not to be used to lower the SID. Commissioner Preston questioned the reason why the TIF funds would not be available. Jules stated that the PRA felt 1). Public funds have already been used for half of the project. 2). Once tax TIF funds are spent there is zero gain. Jules went on to explain that the Streetscape project is only 5 blocks out of 100. 3). Using public monies for private property. Jules stated that there would be future projects that the PRA will be bringing before the commissioners.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON MATTERS OF SIGNIFICANT INTEREST TO THE PUBLIC NOT ON THE AGENDA:** Ken Avison issued an invitation to the City Commissioners and the City of Polson to attend the celebration of the re-opening of Main St. The party would be Friday, November 5, 2010 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 5:30 p.m. There would be food, entertainment, and prizes. The grand prize would be a trip for two to Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL. There will also be an opportunity to recognize some individuals like the PRA, City Commissioners, and LHC for their part in the project.

Lita Fonda suggested that the Commission include 1<sup>st</sup> St. East & Hwy. 93 analysis when studying the Stop signs on Main St. Mayor DeVries asked Lita to make her request known to the MDOT since that is the department conducting the Highway 93 Corridor transportation study. Lita later corrected her request to be 1<sup>st</sup> St. West & Hwy. 93 not 1<sup>st</sup> St. East.

Rory Horning-began his comments by congratulating Don Smith on his appointment as a City Commissioner. Rory expressed his concerns of the contracting of monies, rather than contract to outsiders, he suggested going with contractors in our area. In observing the Main St. project, Rory saw a lot of out of town license plates. He asked that we look at the way the contracts are written. Rory also wanted to thank the PRA for speaking up with regards to the TIF funds which are there for private properties.

**Mayor Devries adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.**

---

Mayor Pat DeVries

---

Attest: Cora Pritt, City Administrative Assistant