

Council Proceeding's  
Regular Meeting  
July 3, 2024

The Regular Council Meeting for the City of Rockwood was called to order by Mayor Troy A. Cox in the Council Chambers located at 32409 Fort St. at 7:00 PM

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Mayor Cox, Council Members Bennett, Cramton, Grzywacz, Joaquin, Mercure, and Wasner

Absent: None

City Officials

Present: Police Chief Krause, Fire Chief Mercure, Administrator Trush, Treasurer McCoy, DPW Director Boron, and City Clerk Oney

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**M-143-24** Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve this evening's agenda as presented

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION** (Items not on Agenda)

Joi Reddick- Community Engagement and Outreach Manager for Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency

Joi discussed the available resources that Wayne County offers for low-income families that need assistance with their water bill and weatherization for their homes. There will be postcards as well as a WRAP flyer and a General Information Flyer that will be left at City Hall for any resident seeking assistance.

## **PUBLIC DISCUSSION** (Items on Agenda)

Tom Mercure  
21710 Washington

Mr. Mercure wanted to speak about the contract for consolidating dispatch. He asked every council member if they visited both departments that are in the running for consolidating with. He also asked if Council Member Joaquin should abstain due to his wife working for Gibraltar. Mr. Mercure also stated that he hopes the City Council is not making their decision based on cost.

Council Member Joaquin stated that he spoke with both the mayor and the attorney in length and was advised on the direction he could take.

Council Member Wasner asked Mr. Mercure if he understood that this issue was already voted on.

Mr. Mercure stated that he did not, and he could not find anything about it on our website.

Mayor Cox stated that the main goal is sustainability. We do not have anybody to work dispatch, and we can't get anybody to come here and work. We are paying police officers overtime, Lieutenant wages in a lot of cases. Mayor Cox stated that he does not want to get rid of dispatch and no one on council wants to get rid of dispatch. This was not an easy decision. It is not about price; it is about sustainability.

Mr. Mercure asked why the Gibraltar Presentation was not publicized like Brownstown was

Mr. Mercure also asked what would be happening with the jail. If a drunk driver or something is arrested, where will they be held.

Mayor Cox stated that Gibraltar has agreed to house our prisoners, Brownstown would not offer that. Gibraltar will house our prisoners for up to 72 hours.

Mr. Mercure stated that he does agree that it would be better for a car to run to Gibraltar rather than Brownstown. He also wanted to thank the mayor and council members for their thoughts and efforts on this, he knows that it is a tough decision to make.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that she appreciates Mr. Mercure coming to the meeting and voicing his concerns and being involved in the community.

## **ACTION AGENDA**

- M-144-24** Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve the action agenda as presented
- A. Council Meeting Minutes for June 19, 2024
  - B. Accounts Payable

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

## **REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS/DEPARTMENTS**

Police Department:

Police Chief Krause discussed the Request to advertise – Records Clerk, Request to pay Live Scan SMA, Request the approval of payment – Core Technology, and Request to pay annual LEIN connection fee.

- M-145-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve Chief Krause to advertise for the position of Police Records Clerk.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

- M-146-24** Motion by Mercure/Wasner to approve the payment to ID Networks for the Service Maintenance Agreement fee of \$2,995.00 from the equipment rental fund.

Council member Joaquin asked if this was already listed under the rental fund.

Chief Krause stated that it is listed under the equipment rental/technology fund. This is something that we pay every year and we have been lucky enough to have kept it under \$3,000.00 for as long as we have. They keep trying to raise the price and he keeps fighting them to keep it down.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-147-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve the fourth installment payment for the Equature Recording System in the amount of \$4,997.00 to be funded from the equipment rental fund

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-148-24** Motion by Mercure/Cramton to approve the payment of \$500.00 to Core Technology for LEIN connection fee from the equipment rental fund.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

Chief Krause stated that later tonight the council will be voting on whether to approve an interlocal agreement with the City of Gibraltar for dispatch services. This marks the end of era for Rockwood to employ its own dispatchers. As far back as he can find, Rockwood has always employed their own emergency dispatchers and he would like to take this opportunity to express a most heartfelt thanks to all the dispatchers who have come and gone from the city and dedicated themselves to the City of Rockwood over the years. He especially wanted to thank Cathy Kraus, Dave Beehler, and Keri Neil who for the past couple of years have shown immense dedication to the City of Rockwood by working excessive hours, giving up their time off and rearranging their personal lifestyle to keep the police desk covered. We were truly blessed to have them work here and they will be greatly missed.

Mayor Cox added that himself, as a resident, and every other resident appreciates the dispatching job that they have done. He also stated that Cathy, Dave, and Keri worked a ton of hours for this city and for helping us out with the dispatch situation. He would like to personally thank them for all their hard work.

Council Member Joaquin wanted to thank Lieutenant Mercure and Officer Baugh for their actions on I-75, closing it down for a potential jumper. Thank you for having a department that is able to do something like that.

Chief Krause added that Lieutenant Mercure was working at the desk that day and they needed additional units up there, so he sent him and stayed to work at the desk. Everyone is working together to get through this interim.

Fire Department:

Fire Chief Mercure had no formal report.

Fire Chief Mercure stated that he just wanted to give a PSA that sparklers are still very hot after they burn out, watch your kids when they are using them and make sure they do not grab the wrong end. Also, pay attention to fireworks when you are setting them off. The rain helped with the grass, but garages, sheds and houses are still very flammable.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer McCoy discussed the Budget Amendment – FY24 – Drug Forfeiture Fund

**M-149-24** Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve the budget amendment to Drug Forfeiture Funds in the amount of \$4,675.20.

Council Member Joaquin if this was needed to balance the budget.

Chief Krause explained that the Drug Forfeiture Fund cannot be budgeted for the future because we do not know if we will get them or not. When we do get them, they go through a process with the county then we receive our portion of them. We then can spend them under very strict guidelines on what we can use them on. So therefore, once they are spent, we have to do a budget amendment because we could not budget for funds we did not know that we would ever have. This will happen every year.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Director Boron discussed the purchase approval – Kennedy Industries, and Resignation/Hiring approval

**M-150-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve the purchase of FLYGT pump repair kit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant in the amount of \$2,338.00 to come out of the 2020 bond proceeds.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-151-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve the hire of DPW Laborer position at the contract rate.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

Mayor Cox wanted to thank Aaron Diaz for his work with the city.

### **CONSIDERATION ITEMS**

None

### **CLOSED SESSION**

**M-152-24** Motion by Wasner/Bennett to go in to closed session at 7:35 PM to discuss contract negotiations.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-153-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to come out of closed session at 8:30 PM.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Trush discussed the Budget Amendment – FY25 – Senior Van

**M-154-24** Motion by Wasner/Joaquin to approve budget amendment 25-1 as presented.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if the old senior van has been sold already.

Administrator Trush stated no, we are anticipating \$3,000 from the sale.

Council Member Grzywacz asked what the process was for selling the van.

Administrator Trush stated that it must be in an open forum. There is a website for municipal auctions so we would list it there to get national attention.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

### **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mayor Cox requested a motion to excuse the attorney.

**M-155-24** Motion by Wasner/Cramton to excuse Attorney Pelland from this evening's meeting.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Cox discussed the Approval of Veterans Day Holiday, Dispatch Consolidation Agreement, and Approval of DPW Director Contract

**M-156-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve Veteran's Day as a Holiday on the City Calendar.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that this approval would include the closing of City Hall and adding this day to all city employee contracts

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-157-24** Motion by Wasner/Cramton to approve the interlocal agreement with the City of Gibraltar for dispatch services.

Council Member Grzywacz stated that this was a tough decision for her to make. Before she became a Council Member, she understood that there was a problem with dispatch. Of course she had no idea at that time what was involved. She was forced to look at numbers and do some research and compare, we have been going through this process since May and it was not a light decision at all.

Mayor Cox stated that this was not a light decision for any of us. He has personally been trying for 7 months to find ways to keep dispatch. We have researched every avenue and all the Council Members have asked great questions, seen the numbers, and did some research themselves and have done everything we can to keep dispatch here.

Council Member Wasner stated that he has lived here for 42 years. The dispatchers have always had a personal touch in the community. They saved his son's life and helped with other things as well. He was totally against this until the numbers came out and unfortunately it had to come to a conclusion. He appreciates everything the dispatchers have done for this city, and he wishes them all the best of luck.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-158-24**

Motion by Wasner/Joaquin to approve \$67,000 to a professional service line item for dispatch consolidation with the City of Gibraltar

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-159-24**

Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve the DPW Director Robert Boron's contract renewal

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

Council Member Joaquin wanted to clarify for the residents that the projected budget that was approved was \$195,000.00 for dispatcher wages. We just moved \$67,000 to a different line item since it is no longer wages. The remaining amount will be used for the transition and will be brought to the council for a vote before it is used. This money is not just going to disappear. There will be accountability through this whole process.

**OLD BUSINESS**

Council Member Grzywacz asked if there was any follow up information about moving the city limit sign on Old Fort St. at the flashing light.

Mayor Cox stated that he has talked with DPW Director Boron, and they are going to make that happen.



Council Member Grzywacz asked if there was a timeline for that.

Mayor Cox stated that it will take place in the next couple of weeks.

Council Member Grzywacz asked if we are just going to move it back or take it out completely.

Director Boron stated that it has not been decided yet.

Mayor Cox stated that there is cement around it also. We need to make sure that when it is moved it can be seen by people coming into the city and it is not in the way.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Grzywacz wanted to thank Ethan, our summertime worker, for going around and watering all the flowers and helping keep Rockwood beautiful.

Mayor Cox stated that he met with Debbie Dingell, U.S. Rep. for Michigan, and Assad Turfe, Deputy Wayne County Executive on Monday and expressed some needs of the city, monetary and other things. She stated that she would write some letters and see what she can do. Mayor Cox stated that he also brought up the 911 tax with Mr. Turfe and told him that we would like to raise that. There is a hold up in Detroit on that.

Mayor Cox stated that he will be meeting with Wayne County Commissioner, Alex Garza and he will express are needs for the city with him as well.

Mayor Cox wanted to thank all of the DPW workers (Bobby, Mike, Aaron, and Ethan) for helping pass out the water brochures to all the residents.

Mayor Cox wanted to read a notice from the City Assessor

“The July Board of Review will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. The December Board of Review will be on December 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 am. The July and December Board of Review can approve Poverty Exemptions as well as make corrections for clerical errors and mutual mistakes of facts. If homeowners are having a financial hardship, they can complete the poverty exemption form which is available on the City’s website or at City Hall and then make an appointment to present the application and additional documentation to the Board of Review. Any questions can be directed to the City Assessor, Kimberly Comer, by email or by leaving a message with the city office.”

Council Member Wasner asked what the hours would be

Mayor Cox stated that they will be there at 9 am. In the past, no one has shown up so she will just play it by ear. He will try to get a more definite time.

Mayor Cox stated that tax bills went out and they can be paid at City Hall, online, or at the First Merchants Bank in Flat Rock.

Mayor Cox stated that the city's annual audit will start on July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mayor Cox stated that he is hoping to have approval on the HUD money by the end of this month. He also asked Debbie Dingell about this, she assured him that she would write a letter so we can get this work done on the roads.

Mayor Cox stated that some Council Members toured the Gibraltar Dispatch, he wants to thank them for taking the time to do that. They will also be touring the Wastewater Treatment plant soon.

Mayor Cox also stated that you can pay your water bill in person at City Hall, online, or put it in the Dropbox at the City Hall door.

Mayor Cox stated that the Rotary Club bought us a new volleyball net for Mercure Park, he would like to thank them for that.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**M-160-24** Motion by Wasner/Bennett to adjourn this evening's Council Meeting at 8:44 pm

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

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**City Clerk, Colleen E. Oney**

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**Mayor, Troy A. Cox**