

Council Proceedings  
Regular Meeting  
July 17, 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 Captain K. Baumia, Administrator Trush, DPW Director Boron, Attorney Pelland, and City Clerk Oney

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**M-161-24** Motion by Wasner/Joaquin to approve this evening's agenda as presented.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

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

Heather Smiley  
Riverview, MI  
Candidate for U.S. Congress

Mrs. Smiley wanted to come and introduce herself. She will be our representative for U.S. Congress if she is elected. She stated that she recently retired from Ford Motor Company with 32 years of business experience with responsibilities from both local and global. As a businessperson she wants to save money, make smart decisions, and for operations to run

well. She stated that she worked with data and analytics, we all know that if you have data, you can spin it to tell a story one way or another. One of the key reasons that she has decided to run for office is because she sees the direction the country is headed in. She has been going to all of the municipality's meetings and one thing they all have in common is that they need more funding. She would like to have the communities be able to just keep the tax dollars and be able to work it into their budget instead of sending it off and getting a little back. She also stated that she knows that inflation is hurting our budget. Her platform focuses on protecting civil rights, fiscal responsibility around the economy, and public safety, not only at the municipal level but at the federal level as well. You can find more information about Mrs. Smiley at [smileyforcongress.com](http://smileyforcongress.com), there are various links available there and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact her.

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

None

### **ACTION AGENDA**

**M-162-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve the action agenda items

- A) Council Minutes – July 3, 2024
- B) Accounts Payable

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

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

Police Department:

Police Chief Krause discussed the June Monthly Report, Request to purchase - State Surplus Tires, Request for approval to pay Michael Bates Chevrolet, and BA25-2 – New Police Training Mandate funded by the State.

**M-163-24** Motion by Wasner/Bennett to receive and file the Police Department Monthly Report for June 2024, dated July 2, 2024

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-164-24** Motion by Wasner/Joaquin to approve the payment of \$612.00 to the State of Michigan for surplus tires

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-165-24** Motion by Mercure/Wasner to approve the payment to Michael Bates Chevrolet in the amount of \$540.55 to be funded from the repair and maintenance account.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-166-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve the budget amendment of \$3,500.00 and to add a separate line item in the budget as required by the State.

Council Member Grzywacz thanked the chief for all the information

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

Fire Department:

Captain K. Baumia discussed the June Monthly Report, and Request for approval – Annual ESO Contract

**M-167-24** Motion by Wasner/Bennett to receive and file the Fire Department Monthly Report for June 2024

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-168-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve the annual ESO contract and to pay the renewal fee of \$1,295.00

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

Treasurer's Report:

None

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

Director Boron discussed the Request for approval – Dotson Electric Quote, and Request to Purchase – Gear Box Cover

**M-169-24** Motion by Wasner/Mercure to approve the quote from Dotson Electric for services in the amount of \$3,350.00

Council Member Grzywacz stated that the memo says that we received 51 LED lights and Director Boron stated that we received 300 LED lights, she wants to know if all 300 lights are for the Community Center.

Director Boron stated that these lights are for the interior of the Community Center.

Council Member Joaquin asked if this would facilitate all 300 lights or just 51 lights.

Director Boron stated that it is 51 units and there are four 4 ft. lights per unit.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-170-24** Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve the quote from Met – L – Tec for the stainless-steel gear box cover in the amount of \$4,150.00 funded from the 2020 bond proceeds.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

Director Boron wanted to thank everyone that took the time to come out and tour the WWTP

## **CONSIDERATION ITEMS**

None

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Administrator Trush just wanted to give an update on the trash removal complaint. She stated that there were 10 calls for the month of June 2024 as follows

Garbage – 3

Yard Waste – 4

Recycle – 0

3 calls were of missed garbage before their street had been cleared.

Council Member Grzywacz wanted to thank Administrator Trush for swiftly and seamlessly implementing this process

## **ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

None

## **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Cox discussed the Dispatch Consolidation Update, New City Hall/Police Department Hours, Approval of items discussed in closed session on July 3, 2024, Reading of Obituary- In Memory of Russell L. VanWasshenova, and Request to waive – Community Center Rental Fee

Mayor Cox stated that they met with Gibraltar Police Chief, Gibraltar Fire Chief and the IT personnel and they have a live test date scheduled for July 22, 2024. He was just informed today that the phone lines have already been run for the 911 transfers. We transferred our weather siren over to Flat Rock and they will be handling that now. Gross Ile has agreed to handle our 911 overflow calls. We are set to have a smooth transition.

Council Member Joaquin asked about the technology here, video call box, updating the sign on the drop box etc.

Mayor Cox stated that those are things that we have talked about implementing. We also have our IT guy, Jake, pricing out cameras for the front lobby and side door of City Hall and those will be able to be viewed by Gibraltar as well.

## **M-171-24**

Motion by Wasner/Bennett to approve the new City Hall/Police Department Hours starting August 5, 2024.

Mayor Cox stated that the new hours of operations are as follows:

City Hall: Monday – Thursday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Police Department: Monday – Wednesday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, Thursday 8:00 am – 8:00 PM

These adjustments are necessary due to the consolidation of dispatch services with the City of Gibraltar.

We will be communicating these new hours to the public through various channels such as the City's website, the City's Facebook page, as well as posted on the door of City Hall to minimize any inconvenience.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any concerns

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

**M-172-24**

Motion by Mercure/Wasner to approve items 1-4 on the July 3, 2024, closed session agenda.

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

Mayor Cox announced the passing of former Police Chief Russell Leon VanWasshenova.

Russell Leon VanWasshenova, age 68 of South Rockwood, passed away July 6, 2024. Born in Monroe, Russell was the son of Harold and Betty (LeFevé) Van Wasshenova. A graduate of Airport High School, he continued his education at Washtenaw Community College. Russell married the love of his life, Emily McNabb, in 1982. He dedicated his career to Law Enforcement, working for the Village of South Rockwood and then for the City of Rockwood, retiring with the rank of Chief of Police. Russell also was one of the founders of the Downriver Rescue Dive and Recovery Team as well as having developed software for Police Departments. He enjoyed scuba diving, hunting and snowmobiling, but his most treasured times were those spent with his family.

Russell leaves to cherish his memory, Emily, his wife of the past 42 years; 4 children: Jessica (David) Millerwise, Russell (Shawna) VanWasshenova, Jillian (Ben) Shearer and Sarah (Scott) Ferrier; as well as 15 grandchildren and 2 siblings: Harold VanWasshenova and Mary Jo (Greg) Hounshell. Sadly, he was preceded in death by his parents and 2 siblings: Janet Dusseau and Theresa Serpetti.

A Funeral Mass will be held at a later date.

Mayor Cox went on to say that Russell started his career in 1979 and was promoted to Chief of Police for the City of Rockwood in 1999 and he retired in 2010. Mayor Cox wanted to thank Russell for his dedicated service to the community.

<b>M-173-24</b>	Motion by Wasner/Mercure to waive the City of Rockwood Community Center rental fee for the luncheon in honor of retired Police Chief Russell VanWassehnova
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Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Cox stated that he met with Commissioner Alex Garza last week. They talked about getting some more money from parks and recreation to possibly doing a playscape in Swan Creek Park. They also talked about maybe doing some pickle ball courts in Mercure Park and resurfacing what we have over there. Mayor Cox wrote up a proposal and gave it to him. We will see what happens.

Mayor Cox stated that he is praying for the release date of the HUD Funds for the roads to be on July 24, 2024. The FEDS keep calling for little things here and there and Administrator Trush has been sending everything over.

Mayor Cox stated that the audit starts on July 22, 2024. Please be patient with Administrator Trush during this time as she will be very busy.

Mayor Cox stated that he just received an update from Director Boron that they will be laying an inch more of asphalt on the bike path in Mercure Park. We have been waiting on this for a long time.

Council Member Joaquin asked if the park would be closed for this.

Director Boron stated that it will not be.

Mayor Cox stated that Director Boron looked at the City Welcome Sign and removed one of the advertisement signs that are on it, and you can see right through it now. Mayor Cox does not think we need to move the sign at all now.

Mayor Cox stated that he also addressed the water ring issue that one of the residents was complaining about. He spoke with other community department heads and no one else seems to be having this problem. He is waiting on a call back from GLWA. Another thing to take into consideration is that the pipes are 10 years older now and the water running through it may be washing some minerals out.

Council Member Mercure stated that she also did some research and she read also that it could be minerals flushing through the pipes. She also stated that she did not know this but, you should clean the inside of your toilet tank periodically and that should help.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**M-174-24**                      Motion by Wasner/Bennett to adjourn this evening's Council Meeting at 7:22 PM

Ayes are unanimous.

**Motion Carried**

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City Clerk, Colleen E. Oney

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Mayor, Troy A. Cox