

January 16, 2016

A special meeting of the City Council was held on Saturday, January 16, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall. Mayor Donker presided.

Councilmen present: Thomas Adams, Steve Arnosky, Diane Brown Wilhelm, Maureen Donker, Marty Wazbinski

Councilmen absent: None

CITY COUNCIL PLANNING SESSION

City Engineer Brian McManus provided an overview of road projects funded by each of two existing countywide road millages. He also discussed the voter approval cycle for both of them.

Mr. McManus then outlined prior work done projecting traffic growth along the Eastman Avenue, Joe Mann Boulevard, and Jefferson Avenue corridors, the road improvements recommended to accommodate the growth, and road projects likely necessary in the next several years.

Assistant City Manager David Keenan provided an overview of the City's finances, including expenditure estimates and revenue projections, as well as fiscal challenges faced during FY 2015-16.

Director of Human Resources Carol Stone outlined the City's pension and post-employment benefits liabilities. Mr. Keenan discussed financial performance of the associated pension and health care plan funding.

At 11:25 a.m. Council adjourned to a closed session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy.

At 11:56 a.m. Council returned to open session at which time Ms. Mary Draves, Dow Global Remediation and Michigan Dioxin Initiative Director and Mr. Steve Lucas, Senior Remediation Leader, Dow Chemical Company, provided an update on efforts addressing historic dioxin deposition in the city and the final steps needed to bring the resolution effort to a close.

Director of Community Affairs Selina Tisdale discussed public expectations for electronic communications, current and proposed strategies to engage multiple communications channels, and recommendations for enhanced citizen communications via dedicated social media platforms. Mr. Keenan outlined the potential to enhance public transparency of financial transactions via similar platforms.

City Attorney James Branson and Ms. Tisdale gave a presentation regarding terms of office for members of Council and the potential to move municipal elections to an even-year cycle.

Mr. Keenan outlined anticipated financial performance of the organization for the remainder of this fiscal year and for FY 2016-17.

Mayor Donker led Council in a conversation regarding Council expectations with respect to the FY 2016-17 budget. Council discussed, in preparation of the FY 2016-17 budget, an increase of operating millage between 0.25 and 0.5 mills, sustained public services, improving unreserved fund balance if possible and conducting a joint session with the Midland County Board of Commissioners.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Jon Lynch, Deputy City Clerk