

City of Northville
CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
January 23, 2012

Mayor Christopher Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Northville City Hall Council Chambers, 215 West Main Street, Northville, Michigan.

Present: Mayor Christopher Johnson, Mayor Pro Tem James Allen, Councilmembers Nancy Darga, Michele Fecht, and Ryan McKindles

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Patrick Sullivan, Finance Director/Treasurer Sandi Wiktorowski, Director of Public Works James Gallogly, Fire Chief James Allen, Police Chief Gary Goss, Housing Director Sherry Necelis, Interim Parks and Recreation Director Joanna Vaghy, DDA Executive Director Lori Ward, City Clerk Dianne Massa, Northville Youth Assistance Director Sue Campbell, reporter from the Northville Record, and one citizen

CITIZENS COMMENTS None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion Darga, seconded by Allen to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

FY 2012-2013 GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PRIORITIES

The City Manager reviewed the FY 2011-2012 City Council Goals, Objectives and Priorities. It was noted that the City continues to provide a comparable level of service despite the cuts made. Long-term focus will need to address the retiree health care funding liability, pension liability, and rising health care costs.

CITY STAFF GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

City Staff goals, objectives, and priorities reports were included as part of the City Council meeting packet. As the City Council had previously received and reviewed City Staff's goals and objectives, City Council determined that Department presentations were not necessary. Instead, it was requested that each Department respond to questions from City Council, which were summarized as follows:

Building Department

None

City Clerk and Elections

Comments pertained to the recent implementation of the Electronic Poll Book and increased efforts to promote public awareness. It was suggested the Election goals include continuing public awareness efforts when appropriate.

Downtown Development Authority

It was requested that the DDA add “improvements to the ambience lighting in the downtown” to their goals and objectives. Discussion ensued pertaining to the status of the downtown walkway project. A proposal for project inspector services will be on the February 6, 2012 City Council agenda.

Finance and Administrative Services

Brief discussion pertained to identify theft prevention efforts. In response to a question, it was explained that efforts to begin accepting online payments for water and taxes are being hindered due to the cumbersome process to insure compliance with the Payment Card Industry Security Standards Council. As such, this effort has been moved to a lower priority.

Fire Department

A comment suggested that the Northville Fire Station consider upgrading the station kitchen/lounge area. Brief discussion pertained to January 1st commencement of the new Fire Department partnership with the City of Plymouth.

Housing Commission

In response to a question it was stated that, at this time, there are no vacancies at Allen Terrace.

Parks and Recreation

Discussion ensued pertaining to the need to apply for Rouge funding to assist in preserving the wall at Fish Hatchery Park and plans to partner with the school district to apply for a grant to receive funding for refurbishing the tennis courts. It was noted that the Hillside lease expires in 2016 and the Senior Center lease expires in 2019.

Police Department

Discussion ensued pertaining to the Police Department’s continuing efforts to use available technology to assist the Department in operating on a lower staffing level. It was also noted that the Police Department will be replacing one officer that is retiring. All applicants hold a Bachelor’s Degree.

Public Works

Brief discussion ensued pertaining to the GIS system data collection, plans to increase recycling services in the downtown, proposed 2013 projects to improve the Eight Mile Road / North Center Street intersection, South Center Street from Cady Street to Seven Mile Road, the Seven Mile Road / Sheldon intersection, and Eight Mile Road from Taft to Beck; the need for professional guidance in working with the Wayne County regulations to have directional signage installed to guide visitors to downtown Northville, and the availability of compost to residents at the City Yards.

Youth Assistance

None.

CITY COUNCIL GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PRIORITIES FOR FY 2012-2013

Discussion brought out the following goals, objectives, and priorities, which were given a priority designation, and were not ranked in any order. The goals were broadly described as follows and the City Manager was directed to summarize the proposed FY2012-2013 City Council goals, objectives, and priorities and place them on a future agenda for City Council review and adoption.

High Priority

Long-Term Fiscal and Financial Stability: Continuation of the long-term fiscal and financial stability efforts as outlined and summarized by the City Manager in the report to City Council dated January 23, 2012. This includes continuing significant measures to stabilize the budget through the reduction of expenditures, stabilization of revenues, continued implementation of the Citizen Budget Committee recommendations, and continuing efforts to make the City compliant with the State's Economic Vitality and Incentive Program revenue sharing payments.

City Council also requested that long-term efforts to address pension costs, post-retirement healthcare funding liability, and rising health care costs be included in this goal/objective.

Medium Priority

Water and Sewer System Improvements: Continue efforts to detect water loss through leak detection surveys, remain current with the commitment to MDEQ to clean 50% of the City's sanitary sewer system each year, continued inspection of the City's storm water inlets, replacement of the watermain on S. Rogers Street to provide better fire fighting ability in the southwest area of the City, possible implementation of the recommendations from Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment pertaining to the May 25, 2011 sanitary sewer backups on Allen Drive/Novi Street, and continuing negotiations for a long-term sanitary sewer contract with Wayne County.

Implementation of the Downtown Strategic Plan: Continue to implement the Downtown Strategic Plan and its key strategies to improve the physical and economic environment and organizational structure of the downtown and continued progress by the DDA subcommittees responsible for implementation of the Plan.

Street, Sidewalk, and Bike Path Improvement Connectivity: Continue the annual crack sealing program and the annual street and sidewalk program approved in 1997. Commence with two projects approved by the Wayne County Federal Aid Committee to allocate federal funds for improvements to Rogers Street (Seven Mile Road to W. Main Street) and Main Street (Hutton to Rogers). Continue to pursue planning and funding to expand and connect our pedestrian facilities.

Lower Priority

Retaining the Retail Operation of the Northville Post Office within the Central Business District: Continue to work with the United States Postal Service (USPS) to address the needs of the post office while preserving the economic benefits of a post office (particularly the retail function) within the Central Business District.

Development and Redevelopment Issues: Work to continue quality development and redevelopment of the McDonald Ford property and other areas in Cadytown. Continue working with the Planning Commission on a North Center Street Overlay District and ordinance standards for conditional zoning approvals, which will add clarity and quality to future redevelopments.

Mill Pond Improvements/Watershed Enhancements: Continue to monitor funding opportunities and communications with upstream communities on remediation efforts. Explore funding by the Rouge Remedial Action Plan to address the erosion and stabilization of the river banks. Continue efforts for erosion enforcement and bank stabilization in watershed areas.

Cemetery Build-Out: Continue working to develop the remaining portion of Rural Hill Cemetery within available resources. Clearing (making more space available on a gradual basis) the Phase II area of the cemetery has been a gradual effort undertaken by the Department of Public Works.

Projects On Hold None identified

Projects to be Closed Out

Development and Implementation of “Follow Up” Process for Board/Commission Decisions and Establish Committee to Review Inspection Process. It was determined this project is complete and should be closed out.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor and Council: None

Staff: None

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment: 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Massa, CMC
City Clerk

Approved as submitted: 02/06/2012

Christopher J. Johnson
Mayor