

April 20, 2020

Gladwin, Michigan

The Regular Meeting, **via Tele Conference with Go To Meeting**, of the Gladwin City Council was called to order by Mayor Darlene Jungman at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Bodnar, Caffrey, Crawford, Darlington, Gardner, Kile, Smith, Winarski

Absent:

Staff Present: Christopher Shannon, Marietta Andrist, Bernadette Weaver, Julie Shearer, Angela Bigham, Karen SeKrenes, Eric Killian

Also Present: Unknown, callers were only known by a number when calling in

Mayor Jungman led the Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Sarah Kile gave the invocation

Motion by Council Member Caffrey, seconded by Council Member Gardner to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting on April 6, 2020. City Clerk Marietta Andrist stated a few corrections were given and the minutes would reflect the changes. Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bodnar, Caffrey, Crawford, Darlington, Gardner, Kile, Smith, Winarski

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Motion by Council Member Bodnar, seconded by Council Member Darlington to approve warrant #20-029 in the amount of \$21,913.71, which is the corrected amount after voiding check # 49228 to the Gladwin County Equalization in the amount of \$963.85 for the 2019 Winter Tax Bill per Julie Shearer Interim Treasurer, and payroll for the period ending 4/5/2020 in the amount of \$52,745.18

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bodnar, Caffrey, Crawford, Darlington, Gardner, Kile, Smith, Winarski

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Hearing of Delegations: None

Establish Agenda. Motion by Council Member Caffrey, seconded by Council Member Gardner to approve the agenda. Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bodnar, Caffrey, Crawford, Darlington, Gardner, Kile, Smith, Winarski

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried

Consent Agenda. Motion by Council Member Winarski, seconded by Council Member Darlington to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Communications: i.) Consumer Case No. U-20734 Meetings: None Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bodnar, Caffrey, Crawford, Darlington, Gardner, Kile, Smith, Winarski

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried.

Public Comment: None

Old Business: None

New Business: a.) Communication from EDC Director Bob Balzer. Bob Balzer updated the Council on activities for local businesses and how dollars from the CARES ACT was dispersed. Gladwin County received \$30,000.00. Applications were vetted by a scoring system and reviewed by community members, business owners, Chemical Bank and Tom Brokaw from the Community Foundation. A total of 87 applications were received and 36 of those received funding. The average dollars businesses received was between \$1000-\$2000. Bob Balzer also stated the USDA grant for the City of Gladwin was submitted last week and the amount applied for was \$99,000.00. The money would go towards light poles, the speaker system and replacing the four (4) entrance signs into the City. The notification of the award of the grant should be sometime in June.

b.) Purchase of Police Patrol Vehicle. The City received a grant from the USDA in the amount of \$27,800 to go towards the purchase of a new police patrol vehicle. The City needs to make up the difference, which is a total of \$23,320.00. Motion by Council Member Gardner, seconded by Council Member Caffrey to approve the purchase of the patrol vehicle. Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Bodnar, Caffrey, Crawford, Darlington, Gardner, Kile, Smith, Winarski

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried.

c.) Hazard Compensation. Information Only, no vote required. City Administrator Christopher Shannon stated the Police Department is status quo, they are doing their jobs, and staying as safe as possible. An update on Officer Nate Day, who was potentially exposed to COVID-19. The results showed a negative test. Chief of Police Eric Killian spoke and stated the police department staff is wearing their personal protection equipment (PPE), keeping their distance whenever possible and not entering homes when it can be avoided.

d.) Water Rates/ Deferrals / Shutoffs. City Administrator Christopher Shannon made the Council aware of on-going conversation with Council Member Kile in regards to helping the City's residents with utility costs. City Administrator Christopher Shannon took a comprehensive look, along with looking at the list serve for administrators and the consensus was no other communities were adjusting water rates. The water rates are tied to the bond and there is an asset management plan. Currently late fees are waived and many businesses are temporarily closed and they are not using water as they would if they were open. Discussion on delaying delinquent utilities until the 2020 summer tax bill followed. Council Member Kile stated this was a good start, but was not enough. The City needs to be the first in Michigan to step up and help the community, a resolution is the first step and the Council needs to keep this conversation going. Would like to see a committee formed and find a way to give back. Council Member Kile requested permission to present a resolution. City Administrator Christopher Shannon read the resolution. Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Caffrey, Crawford, Darlington, Gardner, Kile, Smith, Winarski

Nays: Bodnar

Absent: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF GLADWIN CITY COUNCIL TO APPROVE A TEMPORARY UTILITY BILL DEFERMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City of Gladwin City Council wishes to provide economic relief to utility customers in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, the City of Gladwin City Council wishes to waive late fees for late utility bill payments for a period of six months, covering normal due dates.

WHEREAS, the City of Gladwin City Council, wishes to hold off on transferring delinquent outstanding utility bills to the 2020 summer tax bills for amounts that first became delinquent after March 31, 2020;

WHEREAS, the City of Gladwin City Council wishes to resume transferring all remaining delinquent outstanding utility bills beginning with the 2021 summer tax bills; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby resolves to approve the Temporary Utility Bill Deferment Program as outlined above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk and City Administrator are hereby authorized to execute any additional paperwork required.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Council Member Kile and supported by Council Member Caffrey.

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the City Council of the City of Gladwin adopted the foregoing resolution at a regular meeting on the 20th day of April, 2020 by the following vote:

AYES: Caffrey, Crawford, Darlington, Gardner, Kile, Smith, Winarski

NAYS: Bodnar

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Dated: April 20, 2020

CERTIFICATION

I, Marietta Andrist, City Clerk of the City of Gladwin, do hereby certify that the foregoing is true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the City Council of the City of Gladwin at a regular meeting held on April 20, 2020.

Marietta Andrist, City Clerk

Gladwin, Michigan 48624

Discussion Followed. Mayor Darlene Jungman questioned whether the City could allow closed businesses to hold off paying taxes until December 1, 2020 and stated legal council sent email on this and it needs to be looked at. City Administrator Christopher Shannon asked Treasurer Angela Bigham to speak on this. Treasurer Angela Bigham stated she had watched a webinar from the Department of Treasury and the due date for taxes will remain as scheduled. Mayor Darlene Jungman thanked Treasurer Angela Bigham and welcomed her to the City. City Administrator Christopher Shannon stated the City could choose to not levy the 1% that is allowed for collecting the taxes for the school and then dispersing the monies. Council Member Kile asked if a motion was needed to reduce the 1%. City Administrator Christopher Shannon recommended the Council read the statement from the City's lawyer in regards to the water rates and stated it could be added to the next council agenda. Assessor Bernadette Weaver stated if the 1% was waive it would need to be in the form of a resolution.

e.) Budget Discussion. City Administrator Christopher Shannon stated a spreadsheet covering the general fund was included in the council packet for review, please look it over and call or email if you have questions. Council Member Kile asked about dollar amounts under sub headings institute transportation and opportunity training. Interim Treasurer Julie Shearer stated those are for conferences and training. Also asked if the City was losing a police officer. The dollar amount budgeted did not appear to cover the costs. Clarification was given that the liaison officer was not under the general fund account. Mayor Darlene Jungman asked if the blight officer was working, she has received calls of concern over blight. City Administrator Christopher Shannon responded and said he was working and to please be patient.

Mayor Comments-Commission/Committee Reports-Prayers and thanks for the negative test on the city's police officer. The county is currently at 9 cases of COVID-19 and 1 death, stay home whenever possible and wear your PPE when going out.

Council Member Comments-Commission/Committee. Reports-Council Member Gardner gave thank you to all the essential workers. Council Member Crawford gave thanks to the first responders, asked everyone to keep in mind the new sign design, and also reminded everyone to put the microphones on mute when not speaking to limit background noise. Council Member Darlington stated it was good to see everyone through the tele-conference and noted each time it gets better, also thanked City Administrator Christopher Shannon for all the behind the scene work and appreciates everything him and EDC Director Bob Balzer are doing. Council Member Winarski commented she agreed, and also to please remember to mute your microphones when not speaking. Also was especially proud of the Police Department and to remember to stay safe. Council Member Kile echoed the councils thank you's and commented the amazing group of people the city staff was, also welcomed Treasurer Angela Bigham to the City. Council Member Bodnar stated the police are doing a great job, along with the DPW staff and a special thanks to the grocery workers. Council Member Smith thanked the City employees, first responders and the City Hall staff. City Treasurer Bigham stated she was excited to join the team. Mayor Darlene Jungman stated the was the best meeting we have had.

Administration Reports/Comments. City Treasurer Bigham stated she was excited to join the team. Mayor Darlene Jungman stated the was the best meeting we have had. City Administrator Christopher Shannon asked Utility Billing Clerk Karen SeKrenes to give an update on current water situation in regards to billing. The City is not seeing an increase in water use, there are currently 60 who would have penalties; however, it is the normal group for being delinquent. Stated next month maybe different as businesses remain closed. Generally, the City sees an average of around one thousand (1000) a month in penalties. City Administrator Christopher Shannon stated they were not seeing things unusual yet. Council Member Darlington commented, thank you for working with Mid Michigan Health for testing of the police officer. City Administrator Christopher Shannon informed the council a portion of the City Park was open for hospital staff who want to stay away from their home while pandemic is still on going, the WWTP is still not on online, due to the pandemic and EGLE temporarily not working as normally scheduled, American flags were requested to be place downtown to help lift peoples spirits, and school is working on banners for the seniors, the solar array is completed, and the airport did approve the gap of six hundred (600) in funding for lighting, the LED lights upgrade at City Hall is completed and there was two (2) responses for mosquito control. City Administrator Christopher Shannon asked the council what they want, as far as information, that is beyond television, radio or social media in regards to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mayor Darlene Jungman commented and thanked everyone working with Emergency Manager Robert North, contacting everyone on Council and updating. People are scared. Also stated DeVere Dennings has made thirty-two (32) rooms available for doctors and nurses at the Rivertown Inn.

Motion by Council Member Darlington, seconded by Council Member Caffrey to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting ended at 6:13 p.m.