

**DIXON CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**Jessie E. McCully Memorial Library**

**200 South Pine Street**

**November 20, 2017**

**6:00 P.M.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

A quorum being present the council meeting of the Dixon City Council was called to order at 6:00pm Shawn Wethington, Mayor

**2. ROLL CALL:**

Shawn Wethington Paul Watson, Jimmy Doyle, Marilyn Timmons Shawn, Wayne Brandt, and Betty Thilges

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Invocation by Joe Timmons**

**5. Adopt the Agenda**

**Mayor Wethington to make a change to the agenda. He requested to postpone the nomination to fill Ward 1 seat. The Council approved the agenda as amended by the Mayor by a vote of 5 to 0**

**6. MAYOR REQUESTED TO**

Betty Thilges moved to adopt the agenda, Paul Watson seconded the motion approved by a vote of 5 to 0

<u>Betty Thilges</u>	aye
<u>Paul Watson</u>	aye
<u>Wayne Brandt</u>	aye
<u>Jimmy Doyle</u>	aye
<u>Marilyn Timmons</u>	aye

**• APPROVE AND RATIFY BILLS RECEIVED:**

Wayne Brandt moved to approve the bills. , Marilyn Timmons seconded the motion approved by a vote of 5 to 0

<u>Betty Thilges</u>	aye
<u>Paul Watson</u>	aye
<u>Wayne Brandt</u>	aye
<u>Jimmy Doyle</u>	aye
<u>Marilyn Timmons</u>	aye

- **APPROVE MINUTES:**

Jimmy Doyle made the motion to approve the minutes and seconded by Wayne Brandt the motion approved by a vote of 5 to 0

<u>Betty Thilges</u>	<u>aye</u>
<u>Paul Watson</u>	<u>aye</u>
<u>Wayne Brandt</u>	<u>aye</u>
<u>Jimmy Doyle</u>	<u>aye</u>
<u>Marilyn Timmons</u>	<u>aye</u>

- **Mayor decided to not seat anyone at this time.**

**Mayor will open the floor to discussion on Mobile Home Ordinance 535 up to the floor.**

**Betty McPherson stated that this ordinance is the way to improve the community. She also read a letter from Helen Beydler who was not present. Ms. Beydler commented that ordinance was a good ordinance; and let's not go backwards.**

**John Thilges stated that going back to a previous ordinance is a big mistake. The Municipal League can provide a template for a good ordinance; let's not go backwards.**

**Diane Shultz stated that she has lived in mobile homes in other areas and that they had standards which had to be complied with. Many of the trailers in this community are eyesores and surrounding properties are devaluated as a result.**

**Mark Parker stated that the City is struggling with improvement. He hopes this ordinance 535 is not repealed and if it is, we, (the City of Dixon) is going backwards.**

**Arnold Bassett stated his belief that people who live in trailers are being discriminated against. He owns property in town and recommends the council look at rundown houses. People need to work together instead of BUTTING heads.**

**Greg Lee owns property in town and stated that people need to have pride in their property; this ordinance 535 will make a difference.**

**Teresa Tibbets believes the city has gone downhill since this Council came into power. People need a hand up. Start helping them instead of putting people down by calling the Police Department. No one is working together.**

**Marsha Marihugh stated that she lives in a double wide trailer/mobile home and keep it up. She stated that she takes pride in her property. If people cannot afford to, the owner needs to take care of any and all defects, if it rental property. IF people know what the requirements are beforehand, then they will know what is required and what is expected. Dogs running loose is another problem. The City of Dixon needs to stick with this latest ordinance 535.**

**Pam Martin stated that she and her family have lived in various places and tries to leave the area better are better than what they moved into. Empty houses, trailers with broken windows are all around. If you don't take pride in your property, no one else wants to help. Landlords are responsible for ensuring certain standards are met.**

Mayor Wethington said he receive a questions wanting to know how a Homeowners Association would work here. There is one HOA, but in may not be active at this time. Some folks have deed restrictions which specify some of the actions they can and cannot take on their properties.

Arnold Bassett stated that he had put restrictions on some of his properties and deed must be enforced. He asked why they are not being enforced. Mayor Wethington stated that the city finds the rightful owner and send an abatement letter to that person. In most cases, these letters work well. Sometimes it is difficult to find the rightful owners of some properties. Then sometimes the properties are cleaned up once, but then it needs to be done again. Betty McPherson stated that abatement letters work if enforcement remains a constant. Marilyn Timmons asked Brian Stumpe, City Attorney, what deed restrictions are. Stumpe said that deed restrictions state what can and cannot be done on that property. Another citizen stated that there is a HOA in the Country Club area. There should be a governing board. Stumpe than stated that the HOA members must enforce their restrictions/rules; it is not the city's responsibility.

John Doyle, City Engineer, then stated that there are actually three HOA's in the city. Paul Watson said that people do want to better their quality of life. He feels the folks are being discriminated against. These people are on a fixed income and cannot make the improvement required by the Ordinance. Betty Thilges stated that if there is an ordinance, it must pertain to everyone, not just a few. We cannot repeal an ordinance because a few friends have trouble with compliance.

Paul Watson then moved to repeal Ordinance #535 because Ordinance #535 does not treat all people equally and wishes to repeal it.

The Attorney stated that this is a workshop and as such, repeal of the ordinance cannot be voted upon. This discussion will continue at the Council meeting on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### Old Business

- Betty Thilges requested to address the Council reference fall down, run down, and burned out houses.

Betty Thilges addressed the old, falling down, burned out houses in Dixon. One house and trailer specifically complained about at a previous meeting has been cleaned up Caroline Alexander's home.

Richland City Clerk received a grant to help clean up their city. Betty Thilges and other Council member have an appointment to meet with the Richland Clerk to get things started on a grant for our City. Meramec Region will help inspect for asbestos, etc., and USDA has grants and loans to help homeowners make repairs.

- Paul Watson requested to address the council in reference to City Park Bath Room, Walking track and the Mobile home ordinance 535.

Paul Watson suggested closing the bathroom in the park for the winter and open them back up in March. He then moved to close the bathrooms for the winter and reopen them in March. The motion was seconded by Betty Thilges and passed 5 to 0.

<u>Betty Thilges</u>	<u>aye</u>
<u>Paul Watson</u>	<u>aye</u>
<u>Wayne Brandt</u>	<u>aye</u>
<u>Jimmy Doyle</u>	<u>aye</u>
<u>Marilyn Timmons</u>	<u>aye</u>

Watson the stated that the walking trail needs attention: it needs to be resealed in the spring. The Mayor will ask Mr. Beal to obtain a cost estimate to improve/repair the walking trail. Light are broken and there is debris, limbs, and gravel on the trail. This will be discussed further throughout the winter.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Desri Robertson and Sonia Wade requested to address the council reference fund raiser.

Desri Robertson addressed the Council on helping families of individuals with addiction. Mr. Tim Ryan is a speaker who was once an addict, served time in prison, but got clean and since his release from prison has devoted himself to a program **Man in Recovery-from Dope to Hope**. He has helped many people, Desri included, with breaking the cycle of co-dependency. His fee to come and speak to the community is \$5K. Desri Robertson and Sonia Wade are beginning a fundraiser to bring Mr. Ryan to Dixon.

There was much discussion about Marc Mero who gave several programs at DHS this fall. Mr. Mero's program was well-received and there have been reports of many

turning their lives around. Folks from Iberia and Richland also attended Mr. Mero's presentation and contributed to his fee. Mero's program was presented free of charge to the public.

Mayor Wethington asked when Ms. Robertson was looking at bringing Mr. Ryan to Dixon and she said after February 14<sup>th</sup> and before Spring Break. Mayor Wethington then donated \$50 toward Mr. Ryan's fee and Mr. Stumpe matched that donation. Anyone who needs more information or would like to donate can contact Desri Robertson by Email at [desri-lynn10@gmail.com](mailto:desri-lynn10@gmail.com).

Robertson announced Monday November 27 that an account has been opened at the Maries County Bank in Dixon for the Tim Ryan Speaking Event and anyone wishing to make a donation to the fund can go in the bank and tell then you want to make a donation and it will be put in the Tim Ryan Event account.

- **SOR discussion about water rates**

**Water Rates**-John Doyle reiterated what had been reported to the citizens at an earlier meeting pertaining to an increase in water rates. He stated that there will be a \$4.61/month increase in water rates. We must raise rates in order to qualify for grants. DNR says we WILL upgrade the Treatment Plant to test for E-coli and other harmful substances. This is NOT a case of the City wanting to spend money; it is a DNR mandate.

- **Mayor will talk about MOP Insurance.**

Mayor Wethington next discussed the City's Insurance-vehicle, liability, etc. This is an annual review and renewal of insurance. After some discussion, Wayne Brandt moved to accept the bid for the City's Insurance. The motion was seconded by Paul Watson and passed by a vote of 5 to 0.

<u>Betty Thilges</u>	aye
<u>Paul Watson</u>	aye
<u>Wayne Brandt</u>	aye
<u>Jimmy Doyle</u>	aye
<u>Marilyn Timmons</u>	aye

- **Understanding (MOU) Agreement between Police Department and the Dixon R-1 School District School Resource Officer Program (SRO)**

Mayor Wethington then reported that in late October, the Dixon R-1 School District had hired a Director of School District had hired a Director of School Resource Officers (SRO), Mr. Heath Mentzer. A MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) has been written to specify the responsibilities of the School District, and the Dixon Police Department. No City Ordinance is required. The purpose of an SRO is to provide a safe, secure and healthy atmosphere for learning. Mayor Wethington read the MOU to those present to ensure they are aware of the duties and responsibilities of the DSRO and SRO's. The School District plans to hire two additional SRO's, one for each building. The SROs are commissioned Police Officers. Wayne Brandt moved to accept the MOU. The motion was seconded by Paul Watson and passed 5-0 by roll call vote.

CLOSED SESSION AS PER RSMO 610.021 FOR PERSONNEL AND LEGAL MATTERS

Betty Thilges then moved to adjourn the Open Session and go into Closed Session. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Timmons and passed 5-0. The meeting was moved into closed session at 8:30 p.m.

Betty Thilges        aye  
Paul Watson        aye  
Wayne Brandt       aye  
Jimmy Doyle       aye  
Marilyn Timmons   aye

Wayne Brandt then moved to adjourn the closed Session and go into Open Session. The motion was seconded by Jimmy Doyle and passed 5-0. The meeting was moved into closed session.

Betty Thilges        aye  
Paul Watson        aye  
Wayne Brandt       aye  
Jimmy Doyle       aye  
Marilyn Timmons   aye

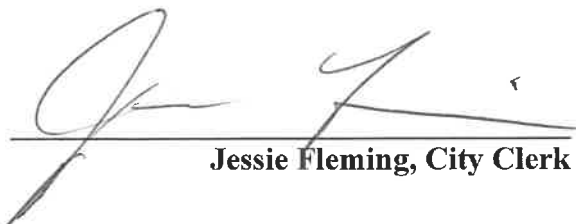
• **ADJOURNMENT:**

Paul Watson then moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jimmy Doyle and passed 5-0. .

FOR ACCOMMODATION DUE TO DISABILITY, PLEASE CALL 759-6115 TWO WEEK DAYS IN ADVANCE, BETWEEN 8 A.M. AND 4:30 P.M.

Minutes approved this 18 day of December, 2017.

  
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Shawn Wethington, Mayor

  
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Jessie Fleming, City Clerk