

City of Northville
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 19, 2016

Mayor Roth called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:30 p.m. in the City of Northville Municipal Building, City Council Chambers, 215 W. Main Street, Northville, Michigan, 48167.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Ken Roth, Mayor Pro Tem James Allen, Councilmembers Nancy Darga, Sam Ekong, and Marilyn Price

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Patrick Sullivan, City Clerk Dianne Massa, Police Chief Michael Carlson, representatives from Northville Sports L.L.C, representative from Northville Brewing Company, and two citizens

PRESENTATIONS

A. Citizens Comments

Matthew Mowers, 131 Rayson, referenced the January 4, 2016 City Council meeting minutes, in which City Council stated their plan to discuss the board and commission appointment process at a special meeting. Mowers voiced the need for more public knowledge of board/commission vacancies, term limits, more public awareness of the selection process, and public evaluations as commission members should be held to a standard of excellence. Other comments included inviting the public to the special meeting that would be held on the board/commission appointment process and a request that draft meeting minutes for boards/commissions be posted on the website.

City Council noted that there would not be a separate meeting on this issue. The January 4, 2016 meeting minutes referenced the City Council goals and objectives meeting held on January 11th. This was a posted public meeting. At that meeting, City Council discussed several goals and objectives. One of the goals discussed was the desire to refine the board and commission appointment process. Any additional discussion and refinement of the process would be part of the normal work of the City Council. Comments from City Council pertaining to board/commission term limits spoke of reluctance in term-limiting commissioners that bring years of expertise to their respective board/commission.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CONSENT AGENDA

Motion Allen, seconded by Ekong to adopt the agenda and consent agenda as presented:

- Approve City Council Minutes:
 - Regular Meeting of January 4, 2016
- Receive Bills List:
 - Checks #96980 to #97060
- Receive Board and Commission Minutes: None

Receive Departmental Reports:

- Youth Assistance: 1/16

Amendments to the 2015-16 Budget Through December 31, 2015 and Investment Report

Request for Public Hearing / Wayne County Community Development Block Grant Funds FY2017

Special Event Request / Relay for Life / May 21-22, 2016

Motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

A. Resolution in Opposition of Public Act 269 of 2015

The Governor signed into law, with immediate effect, Public Act 269 of 2015 (Senate Bill 571). Public Act 269 prohibits a public body, or a person acting for a public body, from using public funds or resources for the purpose of communicating any information to the electorate regarding a local ballot question that is to appear on the ballot, within 60 days of an election. This law places an immediate gag order on entities with ballot questions on the March 8 ballot and every election thereafter.

Existing laws, including the former language in Section 57, and decades of guidance from the Michigan Secretary of State, already prohibit the use of public funds to advocate for or against ballot issues; and, existing laws already provided for an allowance for elected and appointed officials to express their views without fear of violating the act.

City Council Questions, Comments, and Discussion:

It was noted that currently, there are efforts being made to repeal this bill, as well as efforts by advocates of PA 269 to simply amend the bill. PA 269 makes it difficult for the public to receive transparent and accurate information. Comments voiced the belief that this bill cannot be fixed by amendment. PA 269 is a restraint of free speech and should be repealed. The resolution opposing PA 269 would be sent to the Governor and State Legislature.

Motion Allen, seconded by Ekong to adopt the resolution expressing the City of Northville's opposition to Public Act 269. **Motion carried unanimously.**

NEW BUSINESS

A. Traffic Control Order 16-01 / Lot #3 Marquis Parking Lot

On May 19, 2015, the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Parking Committee met to discuss the three-hour parking restriction in City Lot # 3 (Marquis Lot) and the placement of a loading zone directly behind 134 N. Center Street. As part of the loading zone sign placement, a survey was conducted by the DDA to determine the length of restricted time needed for the loading zone. The survey found that the majority of the businesses needed less than 20 minutes for loading and unloading.

A sign survey of the lot was conducted and it was discovered that since the lot was redesigned in 2008, several changes were made to parking with no traffic control order supporting the changes. These parking changes are as follows (a map was provided to City Council for a visual reference of these locations):

- Four loading zone spaces directly behind 135 E. Main Street (Marquis Theater) that run parallel with the driveway (alley) between E. Dunlap and Hutton Streets.
- One loading zone directly behind 120 N. Center Street.

- One loading zone directly behind 117 and 121 E. Main Street.
- One loading zone directly behind 134 N. Center Street.
- Four handicapped spaces directly behind 149 E. Main Street
- Two handicapped spaces near the center of the lot directly behind 135 E. Main Street
- Two handicapped spaces in the southwest section of the lot, just north of the end island and directly behind 117 and 121 E. Main Street.

On December 10, 2015, the Parking Committee met to discuss these parking changes. As a result of these discussions, the following recommendations were made:

- Eliminate the loading zones signs from the four parking spaces directly behind 135 E. Main Street (Marquis Theater), making those three-hour, timed restricted, Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. This is a result of the loading zones not being used as intended by the buses dropping off children at the theater.
- For time consistency and as a result of the loading zone restriction survey, change the restricted time limit on all of the remaining loading zone parking to 15 minutes.
- Add the additional time restriction of “Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.” to the loading zone behind 120 and 134 N. Center Street.

Traffic Control Order 16-01 reflects all of the parking changes since the redesign of Lot #3, addresses the need to remove the bus loading zones and make them parking spaces for standard size vehicles, and accommodates loading and unloading for the businesses that surround Lot #3. There would be a budget impact for the cost of sign replacement and paint-striping of parking spaces.

City Council Questions, Comments, and Discussion: Discussion ensued pertaining to the bus loading zone and loading zone spaces being used for parking as the loading zone is not signed exclusively for bus use. If one space is used for parking, a bus cannot use this as a bus lane. In addition, only one bus at a time can use the lane to unload, which forces additional busses to block traffic. The tradeoff of creating 4 additional 3-hour parking spaces in the lot versus the inconvenience of a 15-minute traffic issue of busses blocking the lanes was discussed. Comments noted that bus drivers do what they are trained to do, which is to drop off children at the closest entry to avoid children having to cross vehicular traffic. Bus drivers will take children to where they believe it is the safest drop off space.

Further discussion pertained to concern that those spaces would be used by business owners and employees; the fact that the spaces are not used for loading and unloading, but for parking; and that complaints received are for business owners that use the loading zones to load/unload their personal vehicle and then leave the vehicle parked for several hours. No complaints were received pertaining to trucks using the loading zone for loading/unloading.

The Traffic Control Order would formalize the practice of people parking in these areas and would be consistent with other short-term parking in this area of the lot.

Motion Darga, seconded by Price to establish Traffic Control Order #16-01 as written and as a permanent order. **Motion carried unanimously.**

B. Transfer of Ownership of a Class C and SDM Liquor License / Northville Sports LLC

Northville Sports, L.L.C., d/b/a Northville Sports Den, located at 133 W. Main Street, Suite 102, owned by Maher Shihadeh and Gus Shukeireh, is requesting a transfer of ownership of the Class C and SDM

Liquor License owned by BacMar, L.L.C. The current license has a P.M. Sunday Sales Permit, Dance-Entertainment Permit, Outdoor Service (1 area), Specific Purpose Permit (food), and three bars. The applicants are requesting to cancel the Specific Purpose Permit (food), and add A.M. Sunday Sales Permit, Catering Permit, Extended Hours permit (Dance-Entertainment), as well as add space to the location.

The applicants completed the Liquor License Review Committee Application. They intend to operate primarily as a full-service restaurant with a full-service kitchen offering a full-service bar for 174 patrons. The premises will have sidewalk café service and outdoor seating service for approximately 60 patrons. They will offer patrons the opportunity to play video games and billiards during normal business hours. They will also provide live trivia from 7:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m., and karaoke from 9:00 p.m. until close. They will provide live entertainment with a DJ or band on Friday and/or Saturday from 9:00 p.m. until approximately 1:30 a.m. It is anticipated that the sales of food and sale of alcohol will be 55% and 45% respectively. The hours of operation will be Monday – Friday 11:00 a.m.– 2:00 a.m., Saturday 7:00 a.m.– 2:00 a.m., and Sunday 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m.

For 30 years, Mr. Shihadeh has owned and operated a menswear and tailoring business in Farmington Hills. Mr. Shukeireh owns several different food franchises and for the past two years, Boomers Bar & Grill in Allen Park. There have been no MLCC violations at Boomers.

As part of the background investigation, it was discovered that the applicants, as part of adding space to the location, knocked out the north wall and absorbed the neighboring suite (#110). This was done without a Building Permit. This information was turned over to the Building Department for follow-up and the appropriate permits were applied for and issued.

The applicants paid all fees and costs. Staff does not find a reason to object to the transfer request. The Liquor License Review Committee (LLRC) held a public hearing on this request. The LLRC unanimously recommended that City Council take no action to object to the transfer request.

City Council Questions, Comments, and Discussion: It was clarified that the hours of operation are the same as those approved for the previous owner.

Motion Darga, seconded by Allen to approve the resolution to transfer a Class C and SDM License with Outdoor Service permit, add AM Sunday Sales, Catering Permit, Extended Hours permit (Dance-Entertainment), as well as add space to the location by Northville Sports, LLC to be located at 133 W. Main Street, Suite #102. **Motion carried unanimously.**

C. Change in Plan of Operation for the North Center Brewing Company

On October 6, 2014, City Council approved the request of North Center Brewing Company, owned by Kevin DeGrood, and located at 410 N. Center Street, to obtain a Micro-Brewery License. At that time, North Center Brewing Company’s Plan of Operation indicated the following schedule:

Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	Closed
Wednesday:	5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Thursday:	5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Friday:	5:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.
Saturday:	12:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m.
Sunday:	12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

DeGrood revised the Plan of Operation, to add Tuesday from 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. as a new business day. A review of the history of the business and DeGrood found no negative contacts since being open for business in October 2014. Staff can find no reason to object to the addition of Tuesday hours to North Center Brewing Company’s Plan of Operation. The Liquor License Review Committee (LLRC) held a public hearing on this request. The LLRC unanimously recommended that City Council not object to the amended Plan of Operation.

City Council Comments, and Discussion: A comment from City Council noted that one resident spoke at the LLRC public hearing, and spoke in favor of the Tuesday hours. Additional comments from City Council noted that it was good to see that the neighborhood does not have any parking or traffic issues resulting from the micro-brewery operation.

Motion Allen, seconded by Price to approve the addition of Tuesday’s from 5:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. to North Center Brewing Company’s Plan of Operation. **Motion carried unanimously.**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS

A. Mayor and Council Communications

Darga encouraged people to attend the North American International Auto Show. Darga noted that President Obama would be attending the Auto Show on January 20th.

Allen noted that the Planning Commission was also meeting tonight to conduct public hearings on proposed text amendments to the zoning ordinance pertaining to arbors/trellis and building heights. Discussion items on tonight’s agenda include Cady Street Overlay parking, and implementation of DDA design guidelines for secondary streets.

Ekong noted that the Allen Terrace hallway paint and carpet project was almost complete.

B. Staff Communications None

C. Citizen Comments None

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adjournment: 8:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Massa, CMC
City Clerk

Ken Roth
Mayor

Approved as submitted: 2/1/2016