

CITY OF WYOMING, MICHIGAN
Minutes of the City Council Work Session
Monday, May 13, 2024

PRESENT: Councilmembers Arnoys, Brann, DeKryger, Hill, Postler, Mayor Vanderwood and Mayor Pro Tem Postema

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Erickson, Hofert, Martin, Shay, Smith, Stowell, VandenBerg, Waterman and Yenchar

1. Call to Order

Mayor Pro Tem Postema called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Student Recognition

None.

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

None.

4. Presentation By Evie Zois Sweeney, Muchmore, Harrington, Smalley & Associates

Shay introduced Evie Sweeney, noting her role as a lobbyist with Muchmore, Harrington, Smalley & Associates (MHSA) in keeping the city informed on legislative actions.

Sweeney noted the current heavy legislative focus on budget and proposed funding allocations, as well as how the election could influence legislative actions and schedules.

Shay asked whether resolutions supporting or opposing legislation were of value. Sweeney suggested it may depend on the issue, but generally an action by council is most impactful to those representing that council's region.

Smith described how Sweeney and MHSA work with city staff to provide insight or feedback on legislation or make connections with key legislators or stakeholders.

Council expressed appreciation to Sweeney for her presentation.

5. Tree Commission Discussion

Shay gave a brief history of the Tree Commission and noted the funding sources proposed at the time of the commission's creation. Donations and participation on the commission have dwindled and there is some question about the continuation of this commission. Shay noted responsibilities of the Tree Commission related to maintaining the Tree City USA status could be addressed by other city departments. Stowell noted current members are very committed. Martin noted how tree replacement is addressed in city parks. Staff is seeking council feedback.

Council discussed various options, including assigning tasks to city departments or changing the size and/or schedule of the commission. Council was supportive of exploring various changes to the commission, including reducing the number of members, a change in meeting schedule, and adding a council liaison. Staff will explore these opportunities.

6. Greater Wyoming Community Resources Alliance Discussion

Shay explained the origins of the alliance and recent discussions regarding the evolution of the purpose of the organization. Shay noted the spring carnival is the primary source of revenue. Board members have asked if the alliance should continue fundraising or if it should return to its original purpose of being a recipient of donations and providing youth scholarships for recreation programs. Board members have questioned if some of the alliance's services are already provided by other organizations.

Martin offered clarification on the history of fundraising through the spring carnival and the carnival owner's support of youth and youth scholarships for recreation programs.

Shay is not looking for definitive answers from council, but trying to understand if council had ideas or concerns before proposed changes are considered.

7. Any Other Matters

None.

8. Acknowledgement of Visitors/Public Comment (3-minute limit per person)

Jennifer Franson, 1542 37th Street SW, noted it is National Police Week and shared the importance of recognizing our police and supporting them in protecting our community.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk