

CITY OF SCOTTVILLE
COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA

1295th Regular Meeting, Monday, December 3, 2012, 5:30 PM

1. Call to Order at 5:30 PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call of Commissioners
4. Approval of 1293rd & 1294th Regular Meetings Plus Approval of the 39th Organizational Meeting
5. Approval of the Bills
6. Hearing of Citizens
(Comments Limited to 3 Minutes)
7. Communications
 - 1) Rural Fire Authority Board Opening
8. Reports
 - a) City Manager
 - b) City Attorney
 - c) Police Department
 - d) City Treasurer
 - e) Main Street Manager
9. Additions & Deletions to the Agenda
10. Old Business
 - 1) Personal Property Tax
 - 2) Resolution to Appoint Members to the Board of Review
11. New Business
 - 1) Approve Agreement with Marquette Rail for Santa Train
12. Hearing of Citizens
(Comments Limited to 3 Minutes)
13. Commission Reports & Comments
14. Adjournment

CITY OF SCOTTVILLE

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Baxter & City Commissioners

From: Amy S. Williams, City Manager

Date: November 29, 2012

RE: Pre-Meeting Notes for the Monday, December 3, 2012 Meeting; 5:30pm

COMMUNICATIONS

Rural Fire Authority Board Opening: The Mason County Rural Fire Authority has an At-large Board term expiring on December 31, 2012. The seat is currently held by Chuck Keller. The Authority is taking letters of interest from persons interested in serving on the board now through December 20th. Letters of interest should be mailed here to City Hall.

REPORTS CITY MANAGER

Updates:

~ During the week of December 10th H2O In Motion along with City Staff will be doing the Cross Connection inspections. Letters have been mailed to those businesses that will be inspected this year. Once the inspections have been completed a report will be filed with the DEQ to stay within our compliance guidelines.

~ At our last meeting in the Parks & Recreation Board Minutes it was noted that Board is recommending we no longer run the summer ball program. This item would have been back before you at budget time. Since that meeting there is quite a bit of talk out there about the program being terminated by the city and what can be done to save it. I have done articles with Mason County Press and the Ludington Daily News as well as a Radio Station interview on this topic. I can honestly say that this decision by the Parks & Rec Board was not taken lightly, discontinuing the program has been a consideration for several years, however, it was kept on in hopes it could be turned around or additional staff could be hired at some point. Unfortunately, neither has happened and the program has lost a significant amount of money each year since the School dropped it in our laps over 10 years ago.

It was the hope of the Board that some organization or a group of individuals step forward to take over the program similar to what AYSO (Soccer) does for that sport or for Pop Warner football. There isn't one person that wants to see the kids not play ball, however, as the city we cannot continue to run a program that puts a financial burden on

our budget, especially in lieu of the potential for Personal Property Taxes to be cut. We also need to realize that there is probably between 10 – 15% of the participants that actually live within our city limits, so our tax dollars are subsidizing the program for children who live elsewhere. We've made several cuts in our General Fund budget some to essential services and with the looming Personal Property Tax cuts coming I see more essential services being cut.

I believe the board is willing to work with a group to get the program back up and running, but it is going to take a commitment on the part of volunteers. I have had a few people contact me willing to form some type of non-profit or work with an existing National Little League foundation to keep the program running. Right now it looks like I will be calling a meeting with these individuals and the Parks Board in January.

CITY ATTORNEY

Tracy will be at the meeting to answer questions.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Barnett will be at Monday's meeting to answer questions.

CITY TREASURER

November financials will be ready for you at our December 17th meeting.

MAIN STREET MANAGER

Heather will not be at Monday's meeting as she will be attending a Main Street Training Event downstate that day.

OLD BUSINESS

Personal Property Tax: Lt. Governor Calley has proposed some changes to the Personal Property Tax (PPT) Law. For quite some time there has been a movement to do away with Personal Property Taxes and it appears the law is getting closer to being adopted. In the latest changes there is still no guarantee for replacement to cities. The MML is opposing the current PPT Elimination & Revenue Replacement Plan for several reasons.

As it is currently written starting in 2014 we would lose Personal Property Tax on those businesses with a taxable value of less than \$40,000, for us this would equate to a loss of \$5,600. Starting in 2016 those businesses with a taxable value greater than \$40,000 would start to be

eliminated based on the year their equipment was purchased. For us it would mean an additional loss of \$27,000.

Now there is some provision in the law that would allow for us to receive some money back as we operate a police department (Essential Service), but they are not clearing spelling out how much that would be, so this is the MML's concern.

I am enclosing a copy of all the correspondence that I've received to date and we are urging everyone to contact our legislators to oppose the plan as currently presented. The legislature is going into Lane Duck Session and many believe some form of this plan will be adopted during this session.

Resolution to Appoint Board of Review Members: We had one term expiring and we've also had a vacancy for almost a year now. Chuck Clark has agreed to stay on the Board of Review for another term and Joyce Clark has agreed to serve to fill the vacancy. I have prepared a Resolution making these appointments on Monday night that I am recommending you approve.

NEW BUSINESS

Approve Agreement with Marquette Rail for Santa Train: The Marquette Rail Company will once again be sponsoring the Santa Train. The train will stop here in Scottville between 3:15 and 3:30pm on Saturday, December 15th. They do require us to sign an agreement with them that provides some security measures (a copy has also been given to Chief Barnett). It is my recommendation that you approve the agreement on Monday night so that we can get this back to Marquette Rail in time for the event. A copy of the agreement and their schedule is attached for your review.