

**HUDSONVILLE CITY COMMISSION**  
**City Commission Minutes**

February 26, 2019

Mayor Northrup called a Work Session of the Hudsonville City Commission to order on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Present: Mayor Northrup, Commissioners Brandsen, Bolhuis, Holtrop, Leerar, City Manager Waterman, City Attorney Wendt and City Clerk VanSlyke.

Absent: Commissioners Raterink and Steigenga.

9154. Firework Ordinance.

The City Commission reviewed a handout that outlined the new changes to state law regarding consumer fireworks. The new amendments to the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act allows local municipalities to add additional restrictions on the use of consumer fireworks. To adopt any of the allowable restrictions the City Commission would need to amend the current fireworks ordinance which could including provisions regarding penalties. City Manager Waterman plans to bring a proposed ordinance amendment to the City Commissions for a determination at the April meeting.

9155. Motion by Holtrop, seconded by Leerar, to go into closed session to provide an update on the Hillcrest Ball Field litigation and sale.

Yea 5, Nay 0, motion carried.

9156. Motion by Holtrop, seconded by Leerar, to go back into open session.

Yea 5, Nay 0, motion carried.

9157. Pickle Ball Courts.

The Pickle Ball Club has expressed interest in having the city add pickle ball courts at Hughes Park. Waterman provided the City Commission with information on the growing interest in pickle ball and the cost of installing courts. The Parks and Recreation Committee had previously met and discussed a request for adding pickle ball courts at Hughes Park and were supportive of the idea. There were concerns that the Pickle Ball Club could potentially monopolize the courts, preventing resident's the ability to access the courts. It was suggested that Community Ed be involved in scheduling and have the courts available on a first come, first serve basis, like the ball diamonds. Funding options were discussed, including the use of funds from the sale of property, grants and donations.

9158. Update on Downtown Commercial Interests.

There are new commercial interests in our downtown and developers are asking for confidentiality, so names of interested parties are not currently being released. Waterman has been talking with one developer that is interested in purchasing some DDA property in the downtown and building a multistory, multiuse building and is interested in applying for a property tax abatement. The city has been working with several other businesses, including some that are interested in relocating or expanding in the near future.

9159. Other

Parking in the downtown has been a popular topic lately. As a result of public inquiry and incorrect use of downtown parking, there has been new signage installed in the downtown identifying public parking. There have also been maps and flyers made to direct people to the appropriate lots and when they are available for use by the public. Possible future parking areas in the downtown were also discussed.

Commissioner Leerar requested an update from the county regarding the recommended procedures in the event that individuals are campaigning in the curb lawn. Mayor Northrup requested that the county clerk be contacted regarding clarification on this issue and the corresponding resident complaint.

Waterman is continuing to work with the West Michigan Express, regarding public transportation. The West Michigan Express has recently done a survey of businesses and their employees along the Chicago Drive corridor to identify needs for public transit. They are still working on compiling this information but it will be passed along once it's available.

Waterman stated that the bid documents for the new playground equipment have been approved by the state.

Commissioner Brandsen suggested looking into adding electric charging stations in the downtown.

**ADJOURNMENT**

9160. Motion by Holtrop, seconded by Leerar, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

All aye, motion carried.

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Diana VanSlyke  
Hudsonville City Clerk

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Mayor Northrup