

CITY OF COLOMA
Regular Commission Meeting
December 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order at Coloma City Hall at 7:30 pm by Mayor Hammond.
Present: Balkin, Freitag, Hicks, Churchill, Smith, Mayor Hammond, Clerk Clements
Commissioner Clements arrived at 7:31 PM

Visitors: Todd Bohle, Chana Kniebes, Dave Vollrath, Bill Smith, Samantha Smith (Tri-City Record), Denise Donahoe, Scott Franko (Surf Internet). Harold Bragg.

Pledge: Commissioner Hicks led the Pledge of Allegiance to the USA Flag. Pledge.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Freitag to approve the agenda new business Oblique Imagery. **Yes: Balkin, Freitag, Hicks, Churchill, Smith, Mayor Hammond. No: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.** Agenda Approval.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Hicks motioned, seconded by Commissioner Freitag to approve the Regular Commission Meeting minutes from November 27, 2023 with the change of MBC to MEC in 3 references in the minutes. **Yes: Balkin, Clements, Freitag, Hicks, Churchill, Smith, Mayor Hammond. No: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.** Minutes Approval.

Comments from Citizens and Visitors: Dave Vollrath shared briefly the county program being offered for Aerial Image Capturing and the city will have access to an online parcel viewer. Dave Vollrath also shared that MEC will not be covering areas that are considered served. Rural areas are more considered regarding the MEC broadband. Vollrath share that our current sheriff, Paul Bailey is retiring at the end of the year, and his replacement will be sworn in until the election next year. Our parks director, Brian Bailey passed away last week after many years of service with the Berrien County Parks. Dave Vollrath, Berrien County update.

Chana Kniebes shared the Business Recognition event tomorrow at the Friendly. Chana Kniebes

Special Recognition: Mayor Hammond shared there was a 3-day event at the Historical Society with the judging of the decorated trees and kids' gingerbread decorating activity. Thank you to Jen and Rachel for a wonderful job decorating the city tree and decorating city hall. Thank you Tony for the Santa and train at the event. Thank you to Public Works for decorating downtown with lights and banners. Holiday Festivities Recognition

Unfinished Business: Mayor Hammond reminded everyone there is no meeting on Christmas Day, December 25.

Reminder No
Commissioner
Meeting
December 25.

Commissioners and Mayor Hammond discussed how Surf Internet would impact public works and city residents. Commissioner Balkin asked how it would impact Public Works. Scott Franko said they would meet with the city for preconstruction meetings. It would include a metro act and permits along with a detailed construction plan before any construction would happen. **Commissioner Clements motioned to proceed with discussions to allow Surf Internet to offer services to city residents and businesses, supported by Commissioner Freitag. Yes: Balkin, Clements, Freitag, Churchill, Mayor Hammond. No: None. Abstain: Hicks, Smith.**

**Surf Internet
MOTION
APPROVAL.**

New Business: Commissioner Freitag motioned, supported by Commissioner Hicks to acquire Oblique Imagery through the participating program with Berrien County. Yes: Balkin, Clements, Freitag, Hicks, Churchill, Smith, Mayor Hammond. No: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

**Oblique
Imagery
MOTION
APPROVAL.**

Mayor Hammond shared she talked to our city attorney regarding short term rentals and recommended we should tie into our existing rental ordinances, like considering them having to be registered. Other communities are concerned about home safety that are being rented out on a weekly basis. Mayor Hammond encouraged anyone having issues with short-term rentals to inform authorities if there are any issues. Mayor Hammond recommended meeting with our city attorney after the first of the year with the commissioners. Samantha Smith did share her past experience with short-term rentals in South Haven. Commissioner Clements commented that it is important to know who owns the property, who to contact when needed and form.

Short-term
rental update.

Commissioner Clements motioned to proceed with meeting with Jessica Fette after the first of the year to discuss next steps, supported by Commissioner Smith. Yes: Balkin, Clements, Freitag, Hicks, Churchill, Smith, Mayor Hammond. No: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

**Short-term
rental
meeting
MOTION
APPROVAL.**

Finance/Insurance: Commissioner Smith shared the Treasurer's Report in the commissioner's packet for review.

Treasurer's
Report.

Public Works: Commissioner Freitag shared a brief update from public works.

Public Works.

Police: Commissioner Clements motioned to approve the October City Police Activity report as presented, supported by Commissioner Freitag.
Yes: Balkin, Clements, Freitag, Hicks, Churchill, Smith, Mayor Hammond. No: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

**POLICE
REPORT
MOTION
APPROVAL.**

Clements commented about the parking tickets and commissioners discussed the parking ordinance about not parking overnight on the streets as posted as well as the traffic issues with the afterschool pick up line. Commissioner Balkin thanked the police for enforcing the traffic laws but for living on the street, it is still difficult to access her driveway and still sees traffic violations.

Clerk: None.

Ordinance: None.

Fire Board: None.

Communications: None.

Correspondence: None.

Adjournment: Motion by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adjourn at 8:16 PM. Voice vote. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjournment.

Kelly Clements, Clerk

Marsha Hammond, Mayor