

CALL TO ORDER

IN SPECIAL SESSION Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. at the Marshall Regional Law Enforcement Center, 714 Old US 27 N, Marshall, MI 49068, the Marshall City Council was called to order by Mayor Caron.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called:

Present: Council Members: Mayor Caron, Gates, Rice, Traver, Underhill, and Wolfersberger.

Also Present: City Manager Tarkiewicz and Clerk Nelson

Absent: Council Member Schwartz.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Caron led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Closure of Michigan Avenue for Downtown Bazaar/Marketplace:

Mayor Caron asked for comment from those in attendance regarding this issue at this time.

Caryn Drenth, 602 Laura Lane, commented she is the owner of two businesses in town and the Retailers Group is willing to come up with a compromise for the bazaar and plan for two events the months of June and July as opposed to the originally requested 4 events. If all goes well, they would come back at a later date for a possible August event. The time frame would stay the same 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Jason LaForge of 144 W. Michigan Avenue supports the downtown but his front door is the main access for his business and the closing of Michigan Avenue he would lose all of his parking and would be forced to close the bakery on the days of the events.

Sue Damron of 115 S. Eagle commented this year has been a roller coaster and the closing of streets makes it very difficult for Schuler's. The business brings in thousands of people each year and would like a guarantee that the intersection

of Michigan Avenue and Eagle Street would remain open.

Kristin Holbrook of 150 W. Michigan Avenue stated she was caught off guard with the closure and feels that 6 lanes is a lot of space to fill and doesn't want to see vendors come to town and compete with the already existing businesses in the downtown. She will support the event but feels there needs to be more planning for the event to be successful for everyone.

Catherine Yates, Chair of the DDA/LDFA Board, commented that this type of event is usually vetted out at the DDA Board. She inquired if there was a way to only close two lanes on Michigan Avenue so businesses could keep deliveries and businesses open and hopes there is a way to make the event work for everyone.

Michael Lounds commented the intention of the event was to help everyone out with the bad year we experienced and to get the community out and bring everyone together. He apologized for any negative impact but hopes the everyone will give it a try.

Kathy Miller of 540 Cosmopolitan commended Caryn for all of the work on this project and the Farmers Market has been doing their share to help out the downtown by offering Market bucks to encourage downtown spending.

Warner Ball stated he was on the committee planning the event and the idea came from a need to do something for the community and businesses. The need for all of the lanes to be closed is for safety and thanks everyone for their feedback on the issue.

Nathan Grabowski of 147 W. Michigan Avenue feels everyone has legitimate concerns wants to see the event succeed and feels that if there is an August event having it coincide with the Hospitality Classic is a good idea.

Moved Traver, supported Rice, to amend the action previously approved by Council and allow approval for the Downtown Bazaar/Marketplace and closure of Michigan Avenue on June 26, 2021 and July 31, 2021 from 11:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. On a roll call vote – ayes: Gates, Rice, Traver, Underhill, and Wolfersberger; nays: Mayor Caron. **MOTION CARRIED.**

B. Review of Marshall House Sale Proposals:

City Council reviewed the top five offers for the sale of Marshall House and consensus of the members is to schedule interviews for the top three offers that were submitted. Interviews will be in person and scheduled and posted in the near future.

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Monday, May 10, 2021

C. FY 2022 Budget Discussion:

Interim Finance Director Karen Lancaster presented a 5-year Budget outlook for the General Fund. Council had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the FY 2022 Budget.

Joe Caron, Mayor

Trisha Nelson, Clerk