

**CASEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
March 14, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER

The March 14, 2016 Public Hearing of the Caseville City Council was called to Order by Mayor Patricia Des Jardins at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Caseville City/Township Hall, 6767 Main, in Caseville Michigan. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council Members Michelle Beltz, Clint Braun, Debra Estep, Jerald Ignash, Darin Sprague and Mayor Patricia Des Jardins.; Not Present: Todd Talaski (out of town)

Others present: Jamie Learman, Clerk; David Quinn, DPW Supervisor; Kyle Romzek, Police Chief; and Jacqueline Finneren, Treasurer.

STATEMENT OF PUBLIC HEARING BUSINESS

Mayor Des Jardins read the purpose of the public hearing as published in the Huron Daily Tribune on March 1, 2016:

“To obtain public input on a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant application for a Recreational Project at Pointe Park to increase handicap access and lighting.

Comments and input are sought from the public, in particular those individuals who are disabled or who assist handicapped persons.”

The Public Hearing was set by Council during its’s February 8, 2016 meeting for comments from area residents regarding the upgrade and development of the harbor breakwater area known as Pointe Park in the City of Caseville.

A Notice of the Public Hearing was published in the Huron Daily Tribune on March 1, 2016.

CORRESPONDENCE

A Letter of Support of the project was received from the Chamber of Commerce. It was filed with other similar letters received by Clerk Jamie Learman.

Mayor Des Jardins turned the Public Hearing over to Clint Braun, Chairperson of the Parks and Recreation Committee. Braun explained the scope of the basic project.

A seawall would be installed along the river with a 10” wide sidewalk alongside the seawall. Benches and a kayak river access would be incorporated into the design.

An ADA compliant sidewalk would be constructed from the breakwater to the beach. The chemical toilets would remain in their current location, but be upgraded to comply with ADA requirements.

The lights in the parking lot and along the breakwater will be installed. Current lights are solar powered, the new lights will be hardwired and positioned to afford uniform illumination.

The parking will be resurfaced with asphalt.

The total project cost is projected to be \$400,000 with \$296,000 to be covered by a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant. The City will be responsible for \$104,000 which will consist of private donations, city in-kind labor and materials and funds from various fundraisers conducted by the City.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clyde Campbell questioned the plans for the restrooms, the location of the proposed sidewalk and lighting in the parking lot. (The restrooms will be ADA compliant but upgraded from their current condition. They will remain in the same location between the parking lot and entrance to the breakwater.)

Lou Johnson asked about the sidewalk to the beach. His concern was if it would reach the water's edge. (DPW Supervisor Quinn said the plans were not to go into the water but stop short of the high water mark to assure ADA compliance.) Discussion continued regarding the area and the natural contour of the area and possibility of water pooling after rainstorms.

Campbell asked if the seawall was going to be used as a day launch for boating as another commercial enterprise. (He was told it is a recreational plan not commercial and not a part of the project's plan.)

The kayak launch will be from the concrete pad originally planned as a handicap access area.

Mike Smith asked about the elevation of the seawall and its availability for river watching. He noted a lot of people like to sit in their vehicles and watch the river traffic. The previous boardwalk obstructed the view and limited access to the riverbank for fishing. (The seawall will be flush with the parking lot.)

Howard May asked about the type of benches to be installed. His concern was that high backs on the benches or signage would block the view. (The sidewalk and benches are planned to enhance not obstruct the view.)

Campbell asked about the proposed lights in the parking lot. (The new lights will be hard wired, not solar and placed to ensure coverage of the whole area.) Discussion about the lights included the type of lights and positioning of the lights.

Johnson said a fish cleaning station would be useful for the people fishing off the breakwater. He noted the current practice of cleaning fish and leaving the remains on the sidewalk.

Joann VanderMeulen asked if the project was dependent on receiving the grant. (Yes it is.)

Johnson asked who maintains the area now. (The DPW)

Campbell said there are trees growing out of the breakwater structure which should be removed.

Council member Debra Estep thanked Dan Tighe for his time and efforts to date on this project. He has been working with the Parks and Recreation Committee to bring a concept into being for a park in this area.

MOTION, Carried, by Estep, second from Sprague to close the Public Hearing. Vote: 5-0.

Jamie Learman, Clerk

Patricia Des Jardins, Mayor