

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
MARCH 10, 2021  
5:00 PM

PRESENT: Mayor Sandra Magiera  
Council Members: John Hill, Kylee Johnson, Barry Smith,  
Paul Myers, Janet Koch  
City Comptroller: Kathleen Sarver  
City Clerk: Tracy Chamberlain  
Eric Hice, Tina Hice, Tina Becker  
City IT Manager: Scott Collins

Mayor Magiera called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

At this time Mr. Hice discussed the mission program they would like to pursue in the City of Salamanca to assist immigrants that need to establish housing. The Hamburg Wesleyan Church and other Buffalo ministries are looking to branch out of the Buffalo area. Jericho Road in Buffalo checks the health and physical fitness of the individuals in the program. There is concern about the riffraff undesirable people that this might bring. Mr. Hice explained that the individuals are usually doctors, lawyers, teachers and mechanics.

The Hice's Church is on Center Street in Salamanca and they currently live in Little Valley but would like to move to the City of Salamanca. They are asking to possibly use the apartment on the second floor of 18 Main Street, above the Senior Center, as transitional housing. The apartment needs repairs before someone could stay there. Mr. Hice proposed to do the repairs while his family is living in the apartment. Then they would purchase a house in the City, renovate it and move there. The mission could then do something similar with the immigrants being housed in the apartment while working on renovating houses that are assumed for them. The Hice's would be willing to oversee the property like a landlord.

Mayor Magiera stated that in the past most people owned their homes and now the City seems to have mostly rental properties. She hopes that if houses are renovated others might take pride in their homes.

Council Member Koch arrived to the meeting at this time.

Council Member Hill noted he would be in favor of the program but is also concerned with the riffraff. He asked how this would be funded. Mr. Hice stated that the Buffalo area ministry would handle the funding with support of groups, grants and individuals that want to help. He also noted that the ministry plans to hold a workday event in the City in April. Mr. Hice is looking for a list of available properties needing renovations and what the City would like from them if they rent the apartment.

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Council Member Koch noted she has walked through the apartment and it needs a lot of work. She stated that the BPU requires that the apartment needs to have separate electric and water meters from the Senior Center. The electric is separated; however, the water meter will need to be. She also stated she is not in favor of bringing individuals in that are rehabilitating from mental illness or drugs and alcohol issues.

Resident Tina Becker stated that Mr. and Mrs. Hice have done a lot for the community and she feels this program would be a great benefit to the community. Mr. Hice stated they would like to see this happen but know it will take time.

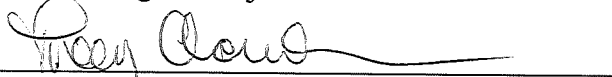
It was decided to have the Council discuss what they would like to see happen. Mayor Magiera thanked them for coming and explaining the program.

There was some discussion with City IT Manager Scott Collins regarding the request to possibly provide laptops/tablets for the Council Members. He stated that a computer software program could be purchased for government documentation sharing. Mayor Magiera noted she did not like how everything stopped due to the pandemic shut-down. She would like to be able to continue business if it happens again. Mr. Collins suggested the Council obtain a City issued device to keep their City work separate, for safety reasons. He noted that if there is a FOIL request for information or a law suit the devices being used, even if personal, could be taken for research. He also stated the Council needs to be sure and have quality internet service and training will need to be done. Council Member Koch stated she is in favor of this project however this was not included in the new budget that was approved. It was asked that Mr. Collins prepare an estimate of what the cost would be.

Mayor Magiera asked about cyber security and Mr. Collins explained the programs that are in place for City devices. He suggested possibly having a meeting to help staff with identifying email spam.

Clerk Chamberlain stated that there are issues with the City's webpage. Southern Tier West can convert it to a web-based services for \$405.00 and then a fee of \$305.00 per year to maintain it. Mr. Collins stated moving it to the web-based system may help with security issues. He will check with STW to be sure it is a system that the City should convert to before the Council makes a decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.



Tracy Chamberlain, City Clerk

DATED: March 17, 2021