



**CITY OF ALLEGAN
SPECIAL MEETING
JOINT ALLEGAN CITY COUNCIL AND THE
ALLEGAN DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**Thursday, January 15, 2015 6:00 PM
Allegan District Library - The Carnegie Room
331 Hubbard Street
Allegan MI 49010**

MINUTES

Call to Order Trustee Michael Kiella called the special meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Roll Call

Present: Councilmembers: Stacie Gratz, Nancy Ingalsbee, Betty McDaniel, Rachel McKenzie, Mike Zeter, Mayor Deb Leverage

Library Board: Chris Antkoviak, Keith Behm, Michael Kiella, Marty McLeod, Jason Watts

Absent: Councilmember Charles Tripp, Board President Carole Browne

Others

Present: City Manager Rob Hillard, Deputy City Clerk Lori K. Vander Clay, Youth Services Librarian Sharon Crotser-Toy, Library Director Lindsey Dorfman

Pledge

Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilmember McKenzie

Verification of Posting

Trustee Jason Watts affirmed to the properly posted agenda on behalf of the Allegan District Library.

Verification of Quorum

A quorum of the library board was verified.

Old Business

1. Library Building

Trustee Michael Kiella gave an overview of the establishment of the Allegan District Library and its partnership with the city. He also talked about the improvements/renovations to the building that are under discussion among the board to allow greater access and expanded growth of the library facility in keeping with its mission. He asked the City Council if an agreement could be reached in principal, for an ownership transfer of the building to the Allegan District Library and, if so, under what conditions and considerations from the Council.

Mayor Deb Leverage asked why the City couldn't continue to own the building during renovations.

Trustee Jason Watts explained that the library would be in a better position to acquire bonding – which may be necessary -- if they own the building. He also described the confusion over city and library boundaries among many members of the public. Clarity is preferred, particularly when the public is being asked to support funding.

Councilmember Betty McDaniel stated the importance of the building's accessibility to all members of the public.

Councilmember Nancy Ingalsbee shared that she and Councilmember Tripp have no objection to the transfer of ownership, provided it remain a Carnegie Library.

Councilmember Betty McDaniel would like to see uses for the lower level and improved parking conditions.

Trustee Jason Watts explained that under the terms of the recent MSHDA grant that was obtained to renovate the roof, the Carnegie portion of the building cannot be renovated or remodeled.

Trustee Michael Kiella offered assurances that the Carnegie Library facility and location are valued by all, with mutual agreement from board and council members.

Councilmember Ingalsbee shared her belief that both entities can successfully work together.

Per President Carol Browne from Trustee Michael Kiella, the District Library would like to reaffirm an agreement in principal with the City of Allegan for the transfer of the real estate to the Allegan District Library.

City Manager Rob Hillard stated that the City is willing to work with the Library Trustees and the next step would be to have an agreement drafted by the City Attorney.

Councilmember Ingalsbee stated that she and Councilmember Tripp will require that, as a stipulation, should the library move out of the building, the building will revert back to the City of Allegan, at no cost to the City. She also shared that Councilmember Tripp would like to have a public vote regarding the property transfer.

Councilmember Betty McDaniel stated that the City Council is elected to make many decisions. This particular decision would require a public hearing prior to any Council adoption.

Councilmember Michael Zeter voiced the concern that losing an asset might impact the City's financial status. Manager Hillard assured the Council it would have no measurable impact.

Trustee Chris Antkoviak stated that the plan to renovate/remodel the building will likely include property expansion. Manager Hillard offered that additional procedural requirements will need to be met for any land transfer.

Councilmember Betty McDaniel would like City Council to move forward with an agreement.

Councilmember Rachel McKenzie would like to review the existing lease agreement and discuss at the next City Council meeting.

City Manager Rob Hillard stated that City Council will be provided with the existing lease agreement.

2. Next Steps

Through discussion, Councilmembers clarified the immediate process to move forward with the facility transfer: Council will do the necessary research prior to their meeting on the 26th, which will include this item on the agenda for a vote. The results will be conveyed to the library board by Manager Rob Hillard. If ok'd, then lawyers for both entities can craft an agreement.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Lori K. Vander Clay
Deputy City Clerk**

**Sharon Crotser-Toy
Librarian, Allegan District Library**