The city continues to make progress stabilizing and upgrading our wastewater treatment plant, which accounts for the most substantial investment in that facility and its technology in almost 30 years.

Another issue I've talked about in the past is the need to identify long-term, sustainable funding sources for roads and infrastructure projects. Staff has already been working diligently on this question, and Council will begin to tackle that issue in earnest early next month.

Two weeks ago, a meeting including City Council, the Saline Chamber of Commerce Board, and the Saline Main Street Board allowed for robust discussion of economic development and business retention and attraction. One of the most exciting things to come out of that meeting was a new Chamber-sponsored workgroup to explore new approaches to crowdfunding, an exciting tool that is working well in communities across the region.

Later this month, we will hold the next luncheon and forum with some of our larger industrial businesses to offer the city's assistance, and to better understand their needs. One of the main topics of discussion will be Personal Property Tax reform, an initiative I strongly support. The current PPT is an antiquated approach, and eliminating it will make our business community more competitive.

The Code and Ordinance Review Task Force continues to work hard to strengthen some policies, but also simplify and remove regulations that may be overly burdensome to businesses and citizens. If business owners or residents have thoughts or suggestions for the Task Force, they can email members at CRTaskForce@cityofsaline.org.

As a city, and as a Council, we continue to strive to engage openly and effectively with the people we represent. I strongly encourage residents to reach out to me, my Council colleagues, and staff whenever they have a problem or question. A very useful tool is our "See, Click, Fix" app, which can be downloaded for free to your phone, allowing you to report problems to city government instantly.

14-142

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROPOSAL 1 ON THE AUGUST 5, 2014 BALLOT

WHEREAS, *local governments in Michigan have struggled with unstable funding needed to provide services; and*

WHEREAS, *small businesses and manufacturers power our economy and are the largest contributor to job growth in Michigan; and*

WHEREAS, *no other state in our region taxes business equipment the way Michigan does – and most other states do not tax it at all, which makes Michigan significantly less competitive when it comes to job creation and business investment; and*

WHEREAS, *Michigan communities have struggled for years to pay for essential services like police, fire and other critical programs; and*

WHEREAS, *after a bipartisan process of policy development, the Michigan Legislature has voted to reform the antiquated Personal Property Tax to help increase Michigan's competitiveness and remove an onerous tax that will allow more business investment and create more jobs while providing a stable revenue source for local communities; and*

WHEREAS, *Proposal 1 will make Michigan more competitive, which will help local communities to attract more businesses and talent and create local jobs; and*

WHEREAS, *this change is supported by the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Michigan Community College Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, the Small Business Association of Michigan, Michigan Sherriff's Association, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Businesses and the Michigan Manufacturers Association, among other.*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Brian D. Marl, Mayor of the City of Saline, on behalf of the Saline City Council and the citizens of Saline, hereby express strong support for Proposal 1 on the August 5, 2014 ballot.*

_____

Brian Marl, Mayor
City of Saline

From: "Bourbonais, Lori (MDOS)" <bourbonaisl@michigan.gov>
Subject: **Michigan Campaign Finance Act prhobition on the use of public funds to support or oppose a ballot question**
Date: July 7, 2014 3:38:55 PM GMT-04:00
To: "leebourgoin@comcast.net" <leebourgoin@comcast.net>
2 Attachments, 340 KB

Mr. Bourgoin,

It is my understanding that you have concerns regarding the ability of the Saline council to disseminate information regarding a ballot question without running afoul of the Michigan Campaign Finance Act (MCFA) (1976 PA 388, MCL 169.201 *et seq*.).

Section 57 of the MCFA prohibits a public body or a person acting on behalf of a public body from using, or authorizing the use of, public funds, office space, computer hardware or software, property, supplies, *etc.* to make a contribution or expenditure. MCL 169.257(1). The words "contribution" and "expenditure" are generally defined, in pertinent part, to include anything of ascertainable monetary value that is used to influence the passage or defeat of a ballot question.

One exception to the prohibition in section 57 is "[t]he production or dissemination of factual information concerning issues relevant to the function of the public body." MCL 169.257(1)(b).

When determining whether a communication published by a public body constitutes a contribution or expenditure and may fall under the prohibition in section 57 of the MCFA, the Department applies the "express advocacy test" (does the communication contain words such as "vote for," "vote against," "support," "defeat," or equivalent words or phrases).

I have attached a letter sent to the Traverse City Public Schools (TCAPS) by the Department regarding the determination it made in response to a complaint (which alleged a section 57 violation) filed against TCAPS. Also, here are two links to Interpretive Statements issued by the Department regarding section 57 that I believe will be helpful to you:

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/sos/Murley_2005_428421_7.pdf

http://www.michigan.gov/documents/2004_126239_7.pdf

I have also attached a pdf of section 57.

If after reviewing this material you still have questions, I would be happy to discuss this further with you. My direct line is 517-241-0395.

Lori Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

mcl-169-257.pdf (10.0 KB) Gillman Disp....pdf (330 KB)

NEW BUSINESS:

14-141 **S. LEWIS STREET MILLING AND RESURFACING FROM US-12 TO W. HENRY ST.**

MOVED Roth SECONDED Sibo-Koenig

To acknowledge receipt of the June 30, 2014 memo from City Supt/Engineer Roubal; to ***authorize*** the City Manager to execute the quotation of $17,063 from Cadillac Asphalt for the S. Lewis Street Milling and Resurfacing Project.

YEAS: Marl, Roth, Girbach, Sibo-Koenig, Bourgoin
ABSTAIN: Rhoads
ABSENT: TerHaar
MOTION CARRIED

14-142 **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROPOSAL 1 ON THE AUGUST 5, 2014 BALLOT**

MOVED Girbach SECONDED Roth

To ***postpone*** the Resolution in support of Proposal 1, urging residents to vote YES on Proposal 1 on the August 5, 2014, ballot.

YEAS: Marl, Roth, Girbach, Sibo-Koenig, Rhoads
NAYS: Bourgoin
ABSENT: TerHaar
MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION:

- Council Member Girbach reported on the Historic District and the need for a meeting with the City Attorney to discuss the language in the Historic District review process.
- Mayor Marl reported that the Celtic Festival is this weekend and encouraged everyone to get involved or attend.
- Council Member Bourgoin reported on the Saline Area Social Services is facing a serious deficit.
- Clerk Royal discussed the Resolution to set compensation and how Council would like it published and worded.

14-135 **RESOLUTION TO SET COMPENSATION**

MOVED Girbach SECONDED Marl

To publish the salaries of appointed officials with an asterisk to denote merit pay.

CARRIED UNANIMOUS
ABSENT: TerHaar

- DPW Director Fordice reported on the Recycling Program and ways to return or request carts.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

J. Hess addressed City Council regarding the recycling bins not fitting into garages and the desire to have the small bins as an option for residents to use.

M. Hess addressed City Council regarding the percentage of benefits employees receive in addition to salaries.

Commissioner Ping informed City Council that the County received a Triple A Bond rating. Informed Council about grants that are available this year and how the process will be different for next year. The County is discussing a County-wide road millage.

From: Lee Bourgoin <leebourgoin@comcast.net>
Subject: **Fwd: Michigan Campaign Finance Act prhobition on the use of public funds to support or oppose a ballot question**
Date: July 7, 2014 9:40:31 PM GMT-04:00
To: Brian Marl <briandmarl@gmail.com>
Cc: Council City of Saline <CityCouncil@cityofsaline.org>, Todd Campbell <tcampbell@cityofsaline.org>, Terri Royal <troyal@cityofsaline.org>
2 Attachments, 340 KB

Hi Brian,

Below is the copy of the page I had printed out for you, and after the meeting I found the page had slipped down off the seat of my car. I had not followed up with her (see her phone number just above her signature line) because I did not return home until almost meeting time. But this is similar to what I was told by phone when I had called in the afternoon.

By forwarding this, you should now be able to open the attachments. The way that I understand this is even having staff time plus the paper/printing to place the item on the agenda and even having staff type the resolution up for consideration breaks the law. My plain reading of this is that voting the resolution in support of Proposal 1 would again break the law.

By copying staff on this, we should be able to get an interpretation from our attorneys by the next meeting.

My email to you at 9:58AM on Thursday 7/3/14 was prior to receiving the packet. I said that with a legal properly worded information release from Michigan Municipal League, on the initial agenda we could consider discussing the wording and postpone any action that can legally be taken until the next meeting to have two meetings to let the public know information. I stated we should exercise caution.

Lee Bourgoin

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Bourbonais, Lori (MDOS)" <bourbonaisl@michigan.gov>
Date: July 7, 2014 3:38:55 PM GMT-04:00
To: "leebourgoin@comcast.net" <leebourgoin@comcast.net>
Subject: **Michigan Campaign Finance Act prhobition on the use of public funds to support or oppose a ballot question**

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Lori Bourbonais
Bureau of Elections
Michigan Department of State

mcl-169-257.pdf (10.0 KB)

Gillman Disp....pdf (330 KB)

AUGUST 5, 2014 :: MICHIGAN STATEWIDE

BALLOT PROPOSAL

Dear Neighbor:

On Tuesday, Aug. 5, we'll get the opportunity to vote on a statewide ballot proposal and play a significant role in helping direct Michigan tax policy.

This mailer contains the actual language that will appear on the ballot to help familiarize you with the proposal. Please note that the language of the proposal is provided exactly as approved by the State Board of Canvassers, though it may not be presented in the same format.

Please review this newsletter and also seek out further information if desired. It's important for all of us to stay informed about any ballot proposal under consideration. As always, don't hesitate to call or write my office if I can help in any way.

Sincerely,

GRETCHEN DRISKELL
State Representative, House District 52
(855) 627-5052 :: gretchendriskell@house.mi.gov
driskell.housedems.com

P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO. 1200

Our Friends At
447 Saline River Dr
Saline MI 48176-1181

Received 7/14/14

PROPOSAL 14-1

A REFERENDUM ON PUBLIC ACT 80 OF 2014 WHICH ALLOCATES USE TAX REVENUE FOR VARIOUS LOCAL PURPOSES

APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF AMENDATORY ACT TO REDUCE STATE USE TAX AND REPLACE WITH A LOCAL COMMUNITY STABILIZATION SHARE TO MODERNIZE THE TAX SYSTEM TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES GROW AND CREATE JOBS

The amendatory act adopted by the Legislature would:

1. Reduce the state use tax and replace with a local community stabilization share of the tax for the purpose of modernizing the tax system to help small businesses grow and create jobs in Michigan.
2. Require Local Community Stabilization Authority to provide revenue to local governments dedicated for local purposes, including police safety, fire protection, and ambulance emergency services.
3. Increase portion of state use tax dedicated for aid to local school districts.
4. Prohibit Authority from increasing taxes.
5. Prohibit total use tax rate from exceeding existing constitutional 6% limitation.

Should this law be approved? ☐ YES ☐ NO

14-142

SALINE

Memorandum

To: Mayor Marl and City Council

From: Todd J. Campbell, City Manager

Date: July 16, 2014

Re: Resolution Supporting Proposal 1 on the August 5, 2014 Ballot

Per City Council's request, City staff has reviewed the question of whether or not the Saline City Council may legally adopt a resolution supporting the passage of Proposal 1 on the August 5, 2014 ballot with City Attorney Scott Smith. Mr. Smith has opined that City Council may legally adopt a resolution supporting the approval of Proposal 1 on the August 5, 2014 ballot; either the resolution offered by Mayor Marl or the resolution offered by the Michigan Municipal League (MML). Many communities around the state have adopted the resolution supporting Proposal 1; either by endorsing the MML resolution or something similar (MML has a list of communities that have passed a resolution supporting Proposal 1 on its website). Additionally, the MML has also included a clarifying statement on its website - "Go here for a sample resolution. It's important to note that it is legal for local government bodies to approve resolutions in support of ballot issues as long as no public tax dollars are expended. So resolutions are OK." City Attorney Smith added that as long as the City Council is not expending tax dollars to promote Proposal 1 by purchasing television ads, printing of brochures and the like; it is perfectly legal for the City Council to adopt a resolution supporting the approval of the proposal. Please contact me with any questions any of you may have.

Please see Mayor Marl's original resolution of support and the MML's resolution of support for City Council's consideration.

Mayor Marl's Original Resolution

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROPOSAL 1 ON THE AUGUST 5, 2014 BALLOT

WHEREAS, *local governments in Michigan have struggled with unstable funding needed to provide services; and*

WHEREAS, *small businesses and manufacturers power our economy and are the largest contributor to job growth in Michigan; and*

WHEREAS, *no other state in our region taxes business equipment the way Michigan does – and most other states do not tax it at all, which makes Michigan significantly less competitive when it comes to job creation and business investment; and*

WHEREAS, *Michigan communities have struggled for years to pay for essential services like police, fire and other critical programs; and*

WHEREAS, *after a bipartisan process of policy development, the Michigan Legislature has voted to reform the antiquated Personal Property Tax to help increase Michigan's competitiveness and remove an onerous tax that will allow more business investment and create more jobs while providing a stable revenue source for local communities; and*

WHEREAS, *Proposal 1 will make Michigan more competitive, which will help local communities to attract more businesses and talent and create local jobs; and*

WHEREAS, *this change is supported by the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Michigan Community College Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, the Small Business Association of Michigan, Michigan Sherriff's Association, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, National Federation of Independent Businesses and the Michigan Manufacturers Association, among other.*

NOW, THEREFORE, *I, Brian D. Marl, Mayor of the City of Saline, on behalf of the Saline City Council and the citizens of Saline, hereby express strong support for Proposal 1 on the August 5, 2014 ballot.*

_____

Brian Marl, Mayor
City of Saline

MML'S Resolution

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROPSOAL 1 ON THE AUGUST 5, 2014 BALLOT

At a regular meeting of the Saline City Council held in the Saline City Council Chambers, on the 21st of July,

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by _____ and seconded by _____:

WHEREAS, local governments in Michigan have struggled with unstable funding needed to provide services; and

WHEREAS, Michigan businesses have struggled with an uncompetitive tax on business; and

WHEREAS, small businesses and manufacturers power our economy and are the largest contributor to job growth in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, no other state in our region taxes business equipment the way Michigan does – and most of those states don't tax it at all, which makes Michigan significantly less competitive when it comes to job creation and business investment; and

WHEREAS, Michigan communities have struggled for years to pay for essential services like police, fire, ambulances, schools and jails; and

WHEREAS, Michigan communities have relied on this shrinking source of Personal Property Tax revenue to provide other community services as well, including roads, transportation and libraries; and

WHEREAS, with bipartisan support the Michigan Legislature has voted to reform the antiquated personal property tax to help increase Michigan's competitiveness with other states and remove an onerous tax that will allow more business investment and create more jobs while providing a stable revenue source for local communities; and

WHEREAS, this is not a constitutional amendment but the state constitution requires Michigan voters to approve certain changes in local taxes; and

WHEREAS, local governments have struggled with unstable funding needed to provide services and business have struggled with an uncompetitive tax on equipment for years; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 1 on the August 5, 2014 ballot, will make Michigan more competitive, which will help local communities to attract more businesses and talent and create local jobs; and

WHEREAS, Proposal 1 is supported by the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Michigan Association of Police Organizations, Michigan Community College Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, the Small Business Association of Michigan, Michigan Sheriffs Association, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Independent Businesses and the Michigan Manufacturers Association, among others; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Saline City Council hereby expresses its strong support for Proposal 1 to eliminate the unfair double tax and strengthen our communities. We urge our [residents/members] to vote YES on Proposal 1 on the August 5, 2014, ballot.

DATE:

_____

Brian D. Marl, Mayor

MOVED Rhoads SECONDED Girbach
To approve the consent agenda as ***amended.*** (Moved item C-14-143 to New Business)

CARRIED UNANIMOUS

(Council Member Bourgoin left at 8:17 p.m.)

OLD BUSINESS:

14-142 RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROPOSAL 1 ON THE AUGUST 5, 2014 BALLOT

MOVED Rhoads SECONDED Sibo-Koenig
To ***approve*** the Resolution in support of Proposal 1, urging residents to vote YES on Proposal 1 on the August 5, 2014, ballot.

CARRIED UNANIMOUS
ABSENT: BOURGOIN

NEW BUSINESS:

14-143 207 MONROE STREET PROPERTY LISTING AGREEMENT

MOVED Roth SECONDED TerHaar
To ***acknowledge*** receipt of the July 14, 2014 memo from City Manager Campbell; to ***approve*** the 207 Monroe Street Property listing agreement amendment with the Charles Reinhart Company.

YEAS: 5
NAYS: 1(GIRBACH)
ABSENT: BOURGOIN

14-149 BID FOR REC CENTER WEIGHT ROOM EQUIPMENT
SCRUGGS

MOVED Rhoads SECONDED Sibo-Koenig
To acknowledge receipt of the July 16, 2014 memo from Parks & Rec Director Scruggs; to ***approve*** the contractual agreement with All Pro for a planned replacement program for three years at a cost of $76,510 and to ***authorize*** the mayor to sign the agreement.

CARRIED UNANIMOUS
ABSENT: BOURGOIN

14-150 COMMUNITY EVENT APPLICATION – SALINE AREA SCHOOLS PEP RALLY
STAFF

MOVED Girbach SECONDED Roth
To acknowledge receipt of the June 27, 2014 letter from Saline Area Schools Superintendent Graden; to ***approve*** the application for a Community Event for pep rally to be held on August 28th from 6 to 8 p.m. located between Michigan Avenue and Henry Street on S. Ann Arbor Street.

CARRIED UNANIMOUS
ABSENT: BOURGOIN

14-151 COMMUNITY EVENT APPLICATION – WAIVER OF SHOWMOBILE RENTAL FEES
FORDICE

MOVED Girbach SECONDED Rhoads
To acknowledge receipt of the June 24, 2014 letter from Saline Community Fair President, Kevin Ernst and the July 10, 2014 memo from DPW Director Fordice; to ***approve*** the request to waive the showmobile rental fees above and beyond the delivery/return charge.

CARRIED UNANIMOUS
ABSENT: BOURGOIN

14-153 HARRIS STREET SOIL BORINGS BID PROPOSAL

The CITY of SALINE
Office of the Mayor
100 North Harris Street, Saline, MI 48176-1642
Phone 734.429.4907 Fax 734.429.0528
www.cityofsaline.org www.besaline.com

June 30, 2014

Lee Bourgoin
447 Saline River Drive
Saline, MI 48176

RE: Lunch Discussion Forum

Dear ~~Mr. Bourgoin~~: Lee

What time? 10 AM – 2 30 P.M

You (and/or an associate) are invited to be our guest for lunch on July 25, 2014 at Saline City Hall, located at 100 North Sarris Street.

The City of Saline is providing this forum, which should last about 90 minutes, allowing the leadership of our industrial and high technology firms the opportunity to communicate directly with each other. We are very interested in hearing which topics currently matter most to our local firms.

Our main topic of conversation will be, but not limited to, Personal Property Tax Reform. We also plan to briefly remind local firms of the public resources already available to them, and make ourselves available to follow-up as needed after this discussion forum. We will have government officials who can help with recruitment, job training resources, tax abatement, expediting government procedures, etc. An agenda will be provided prior to the meeting.

Please RSVP by July 18th to Kathy Corfman at 734-944-4146 or kcorfman@cityofsaline.org, informing us of the person(s) attending from your firm.

Sincerely,

Brian Marl
Mayor
City of Saline