



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - Proposed
July 24, 2023

The City Council met for Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
City Hall
102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dean at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Mayor Dean, Mayor Pro Tem Stanton and Councilmembers Baldwin, Leo, Gardner, Lewis, Muncey.

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Heise, Director of Planning, Zoning & Project Management Cummins, Department of Public Works Superintendent Herbert, Clerk Wolters and City Attorney Witte.

Mayor's Comments:

City Manager Heise and Director of Planning, Zoning & Project Coordinator are joining via zoom tonight and can certainly be utilized for discussions. Oval Beach is doing really well, ahead of \$90K against plan. Citizen letters have been received regarding the Fourth of July expenditures. The City of Saugatuck Independence Day event was the biggest and best celebration of American Democracy that this small town has seen in many years. He is grateful to the volunteers, city staff and public safety officials for making the day safe for all in the wake of the firework tragedies in our neighboring communities. the City's efforts to sustain our community's independent state traditions, in an era of declining volunteerism and shrinking outside funding has not been without some criticism. With that in mind, the city's legal counsel is going forwards forwarded City resident concerns regarding the city of saugatuck Independence Day event. And we'll report back to the council if any actions were taken outside of the city's authority regarding decision making or spending authority.

Attorney Jake Witte noted that they are in the process of reviewing the meeting minutes, the videos, vendor contracts in addition to the procedural requirements that are set forth in the purchase and contract provisions of the city charter.

City Manager Comments:

His report is on page seven for any questions. He is super proud of the DPW, it's been a busy summer and have not received any complaints about restrooms, trash or beach operations.

Agenda Changes: Add Dean Kapenga as guest speaker.

Motion by Lewis, second by Baldwin to add Dean Kapenga as guest speaker. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Guest Speakers: Dean Kapenga, Allegan County Commissioner:

- County has 85 dual body cameras for officers.
- 13 dams are being threatened to take out- made a resolution to ask consumers to meet with them regarding this subject.
- Moving forward with the county house, it's a \$10 million project.
- Holtec is taking over the Palisades nuclear plant, transition still in progress.
- Hired a company to look at a design to assist more people with getting water.

Public Comment on Agenda Item Only: None.

Consent Agenda:

A. Regular City Council Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2023.

Motion by Lewis, second by Stanton to approve consent agenda. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

City Manager, Director of Planning & Zoning, Treasurer, DPW Superintendent, Engineer and Police submitted status reports of current activities since the last Council meeting on July 10, 2023, for their respective departments.

Director of Planning, Zoning and Project Management Cummins: highlighted the following community engagement opportunities; Short term rental town hall meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at the high school. There has been pop up tables around town with to give people the opportunity to voice their opinion regarding the waterfront development surveys.

DPW Superintendent Herbert: He met with the Saugatuck Township Manager and the Allegan County Road Commission to see what might be able to be done about the accidents recently at North Street Blue Star Highway. Decision is to add a reflective strip to the stop sign on the post and also brush clearing.

Boards, Commissions & Committees:

Fire District Administration Board, Dan Fox: presented a power point presentation discussing the following:

- Motor vehicle accidents at up 28% for this month.
- Fire Department will purchase AED at a lower rate and make them available at that same lower rate for anyone within the Fire District.
- Current 2023 incidents by areas.
- 2011-2023 Marine Responses.
- 2023 Incidents by NFIRS Type.
- Saugatuck Township Fire Department website has resources for reducing accidental falls.
- Reviewed the Southwest Michigan Public Safety Drone Association Summer Kickoff that happened on July 12th.
- 2022-2023 Drone Responses report.
- Accidents at Blue Star Intersections between 1999-2023.

Interurban Board, Councilmember Muncey:

- The meeting was on July 18th.
- They received notice about the \$250,000, they will receive the funds in June 2024.
- An extra \$37,000 was given to their budget from state operating assistance.
- Ridership had a 30% increase for the month of June.
- During Councilmember Muncey's five years of service to the Interurban Board, they have acquired new propane buses, new fuel options and a new logo.

KLSWA, Barry Johnson: None.

Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, Mayor Pro-Tem Stanton: Next meeting will be in August.

Zoning Board of Appeals: None

Historic District Commission, Councilmember Lewis: Next meeting will be August 3rd.

Planning Commission, Chair Councilmember Gardner:

- A meeting was held last Thursday.
- Site plan review for 149 Griffith Street.
- Public engagement for the survey for the waterfront moratorium was held in the following places: In front of City Hall, Oxbow, in front of the Post Office, SCA Farmer Market,

Short Term Rental Task Force, Mayor Dean via Councilmember Stanton:

- Survey is available online and a paper copy at City Hall.
- The Town Hall Meeting is tomorrow at 6:30 at Saugatuck High School.

Parks and Public Works Committee, Councilmember Baldwin:

- The meeting is tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.

Tri-Community Non-Motorized Trail Study Committee, Councilmember Leo:

- Next Tri-Community meeting is next month.

Tri-Community Recycling Ad-Hoc Committee, Councilmember Lewis:

- Household Hazardous Waste Day is September 26th and will also include Styrofoam collection.

Request for Payment: None.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

A. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$598,125.17.

Motion by Lewis, second by Stanton to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$598,125.17. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Ordinances: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:**Resolution 230724-A- Investment Services:**

Motion by Muncey, second by Gardner to pass Resolution 230724-A, investment services. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

HDC Reappointment:

Motion by Lewis, second by Stanton to reappoint John Cannarsa to the Historic District Commission with a term ending August 1, 2026. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Special Event- Art in the Park Saugatuck:

Motion by Stanton, Second by Baldwin to approve the Art in the Park Saugatuck to take place on September 16th, 2023, organized by the Artist Entrepreneurs. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Special Event- Labor Day Bridge Walk:

Motion by Lewis, second by Stanton to approve the Labor Day Bridge Walk to take place on September 4th, 2023, organized by the SPS Community Recreation. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Special Event- Sidewalk & Studio Sale:

Motion by Muncey, second by Gardner to approve the sidewalk in studio to take place on August 17th, 2023, organized by SDABA contingent on a current liability insurance form is provided. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Right of Way Signage- SCA:

Motion by Stanton, second by Muncey to approve the request to install a sandwich board for all Tuesday and Friday market days until September 2023. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Right of Way Signage- First Congregational Church:

No vote, applicant canceled the event and does not need the signage approval.

Five-Year Parks and Rec Plan:

Move to accept proposal from Viridis Design Group to update the joint 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan, cost to be equally shared by Saugatuck Township, the City of Saugatuck, Douglas, and Saugatuck Public Schools in the amount of \$3,875.00. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Bill Hess, resident: The taxpayers expected fireworks on Fourth of July. The City got enough donated for fireworks. There was no exception for a laser light show or out of town DJ.

Phyllis Yff, Interurban Director: Excited about getting the grant which will add almost 50% to their office. Would be nice to have a Blue Star committee like the M89/M40 committee.

Dan Fox, resident: Applauded the Council for beginning a deep dive look at the taxpayer Fourth of July and full disclosure. Questioned the \$300 donation by Frank Walsh that performed services for the City. \$2,000 by Fahey Law firm, the City's exclusive law firm.

Correspondence: Bob Genetski.

Council Comments:

- **Councilmember Lewis:**

Marsha Casper received a new kidney; she was a long-standing member of the Planning Commission. This weekend is Venetian, and they have already pre-sold 600 tickets.

- Councilmember Gardner:
His experience is if the bills on the accounts payable list, it's an agenda item for public comment. Asked City Manager Heise to look into West Michigan wireless, various citizens are asking. Rev. Stoppel's letter regarding temporary signage, he would like discussion or progress on it. Many concerned citizens regarding Fourth of July spending. Would like to know the scope of the attorneys' review, suggest looking at an independent auditor to audit Fourth of July.
- Councilmember Muncey:
Noted he works at a flower shop, a property rental group, a radio show and stands outside conversing with residents often. Supports Gardner with hiring an independent audit. An audit would help find out what the City could do better next year. Looking forward to Venetian Festival.
- Councilmember Stanton:
Encouraged everyone to attend the community open house for the short-term rental committee. Thanked everyone involved with the Venetian Festival.
- Councilmember Baldwin:
Everything that was done with the Fourth of July fireworks has been done on TV in front of everyone and any short falls the City will cover it. Don't need to spend anymore time on the Fourth of July subject. Venetian is this weekend, thank you to all the other planners and volunteers. Going to Music in the Park to sell Venetian tickets on Wednesday.
- Councilmember Leo:
It's been a great summer and a very productive meeting. Looking forward to the Venetian Festival.
- Mayor Dean:
West Michigan will be under an air quality alert tomorrow. The climate is changing, and many people are turning away from fireworks. He's proud of the Council for having the discussion and came to the consensus to try to make fireworks and lasers work. The City came up with a budget short fall but demonstrated the capability to respond to change and try new things. The City pulled off a safe event and from what he heard; the people he spoke to enjoyed it.

Adjournment:

Motion by Lewis, second by Leo to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Dean adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk