

**Minutes Saugatuck City Council Meeting  
Saugatuck, Michigan, November 9, 2020**

The City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom/audio conference technology due to COVID-19 restrictions currently in place.

1. **Call to Order** by Mayor Trester at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Attendance:**

Present: Bekken, Johnson, Leo, Lewis, Peterson, Verplank & Trester

Others Present: Interim City Manager Doyle Homan, Clerk Wilkinson, Zoning Administrator Osman, Finance Director/Treasurer Peter Stanislawski

3. **Election of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tempore:** Council Member Lewis nominated Council Member Bekken for the office of Mayor. There were no other nominations. Upon roll call the vote was unanimous for Mark Bekken for the Office of Mayor.

Mayor Bekken took control of the meeting.

Council Member Leo nominated Council Member Lewis for the office of Mayor Pro Tem. There were no other nominations. Upon roll call the yeas were: Leo, Bekken, Johnson, Peterson, Trester, Lewis. Voting nay was: Verplank

4. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Peterson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trester, to approve the October 26, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Upon roll call the motion carried to approve the October 26, 2020 minutes as presented.

5. **Mayor's Comments:** Mayor Bekken thanked Council Member Trester for his dedication, hard work, and leadership while serving as Mayor for the prior three years.

Mayor Bekken stated that he was honored to be elected as Mayor. He said the election is over; it is time to do the people's work in a respectful and professional manner, the taxpayers and people who elected us expect and deserve nothing less.

Mayor Pro Tem Lewis thanked Mayor Bekken for agreeing to serve and said she was honored to serve alongside him. She stated that his experience and wisdom will help guide the city through the process of choosing the next city manager.

6. **City Manager's Report:** Interim City Manager Doyle Homan spoke about the spike in COVID 19 cases in the County. She also told council that Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water Manager Daryl VanDyke is loaning us an employee so that we have the manpower for leaf pick-up.

7. **Agenda Changes:** None

8. **Guest Speakers:** Lieutenant Brett Ensfield, Allegan County Sheriff's Department, reviewed the statistical data comprising the departments' Calls for Service. He explained the differences between Priority 1, 2 and 3 calls.

**9. Public Comment:** Jon Helmrich, Saugatuck Township Board, was pleased that the Council is considering allowing Saugatuck Township to join the Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority.

**10. Request for Payment:** A motion was made by Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lewis, to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$44,473.72. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**11. Introductions of Ordinances:** None

**12. Public Hearings:** None

**13. Unfinished Business:** None

**14. New Business:**

**A. Ordinance Amendment, Chapter 154—Section 035(D) Front Yard Set Back:** Motion by Trester, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Johnson, to amend Chapter 154—Section 035(D) of the City of Saugatuck Code of Ordinances. Zoning Administrator Osman explained this amendment removed the description of Manchester Plat from the Peninsula South Zone District. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**B. Ordinance Amendment, Chapter 154—Section 143 Fence Height for Corner Lots:** Motion by Trester, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lewis, to amend Chapter 154—Section 143 of the City of Saugatuck Code of Ordinances. Zoning Administrator Osman explained this amendment gives parity to side street residences to enclose their full back yard with a 6' fence. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**C. Ordinance Amendment, Chapter 154—Section 174(C) Lifting Non-Conforming Structure out of the Flood Plain:** Motion by Lewis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trester to amend Chapter 154—Section 035(D) of the City of Saugatuck Code of Ordinances. Zoning Administrator Osman explained this ordinance amendment recommended by the Planning Commission allowed non-conforming property destroyed by flooding the same rights as non-conforming property that burned to the ground; the building may be rebuilt/lifted out of the flood plan if kept to the same footprint. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**D. Ordinance Amendment, Chapter 154, Section 154.005/024/039/040/041 Land Usage: Zoning Code:** Motion by Verplank, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peterson to amend Chapter 154—Sections 005/024/039/040 and 041 of the City of Saugatuck Code of Ordinances. Zoning Administrator Osman explained this amendment updated and modernized the permitted uses in the commercial zone district—the definition of motion picture establishments was updated to include live performances, restaurants require special land use approval across all districts, and other minor changes as shown. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**E. Resolution Adopting MERS as Employee 457 Deferred Compensation Plan Administrators:** Motion by Verplank, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lewis to approve the attached Resolutions establishing the Michigan Employees Retirement System (MERRS) for Employees 457 Deferred Compensation Plan and Authorizing the positions of City Manager and City Treasurer to sign current and future documents related thereto. City Treasurer Stanislawski briefly explained the history of the 457 Plan and the proposed change of plan administrator. He also reviewed the meeting with employees explaining the proposed changes and stated employees were enthusiastic with switching to the MERS Plan. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**F. Saugatuck Township Intent to Consider Joining the Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority.** Motion by Trester, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peterson , to approve waiving the entry fee for Saugatuck Township to join the Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority in consideration of their in-kind contributions, participation in harbor activities, the financial contribution to the DNR Waterway Grant, and their financial contribution to cover legal fees associated with joining the KLHA. Interim City Manager Doyle Homan explained that the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Douglas and the City of Saugatuck forming the Harbor Authority would also have to be amended before Saugatuck Township would be able to join. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**G. Correction of Lisa DeSoto Legal Description:** Motion by Verplank, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peterson, to approve the attached Agreement regarding real property to exchange parcels of land between the City of Saugatuck and Amey E. DeSoto, as shown in the attached exhibits, and to put Amey E. DeSoto's name on the easement that gives ingress/egress to her property. Zoning Administrator Osman explained that Ms. DeSoto owns a piece of dirt that her house is not on. Her house is on city owned land. This land swap corrects the legal description made almost 90 years ago. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**15. Consent Agenda:** None

**16. Public Comment:**

Jon Helmrich, Saugatuck Township Board, thanked the City Council for their support for Saugatuck Township to join the Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority.

Jane Underwood, resident, asked if the City of Saugatuck has ever considered mulching leaves and said that would be the ultimate recycling effort.

David Setzke, City of Douglas resident, congratulated the candidates running for election, the candidates winning election, and he thanked Council Members moving off the City Council. He looks forward to working with the City Council to enhance the vibrancy of the business community and challenged the Council to rethink that Saugatuck can be a year-round community of prospering businesses and still retain its charm.

**17. Communications: Fire Chief Greg Janik Incident Date Report** (*accepted as information*)

**18. Boards, Commissions & Committee Reports:** Council received the report from the Fish Shanty Restoration Committee.

**19. Council Comments:**

Council Member Trester thanked everyone for the support he received during his three years as Mayor and stated he looked forward to working with the new council members.

Council Member Lewis thanked Council Members Trester and Peterson for their service as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem. She thanked Council Members Johnson and Verplank for giving up so much of their time and efforts serving the City. She welcomed the new council members.

Council Member Leo thanked Council Members Johnson and Verplank for their years of

service and stated that she looked forward to seeing them in the community and working with them on other issues.

Mayor Bekken thanked Council Members Johnson and Verplank for their years of service and noted projects that were completed under their leadership.

Council Member Verplank thanked City Council. She stated that it has been an interesting and educational fourteen years serving on the City Council.

Council Member Johnson thanked City Council and said he enjoyed serving twenty years on Council, as well as years of service on the Planning Commission and the Kalamazoo Lake Sewer and Water Authority. He congratulated new Council Members Scott Dean and Lauren Stanton and encouraged candidates Hoskins and Carrion to stay engaged in the City.

Council Member Peterson thanked Mayor Trester for his three years of service and congratulated Mayor Bekken on his election to Mayor. She congratulated new Council Members Dean and Stanton and thanked outgoing Council Members Johnson and Verplank for their service. She asked for feedback on when to turn Christmas lights on.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Johnson, 2nd by **Verplank**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Wilkinson  
Saugatuck City Clerk