



**CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
January 18, 2023**

The City Council met for a Workshop Meeting at 4:00 p.m.
City Hall
102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dean at 4:00 p.m.

2. Attendance:

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

Absent: Councilmember Lewis.

Others Present: City Manager Heise, Director of Planning, Zoning, & Project Management Cummins, DPW Superintendent Herbert, Clerk Wolters.

Motion by Stanton, second by Baldwin to accept the absence of Councilmember Lewis from tonight's meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried 6-0.

3. Agenda Changes: None.

4. Guest Speaker: None.

5. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only (Limit 3 minutes): None.

6. Discussion Items:

A. City Hall Exterior – Recommendation of Award:

We have reviewed the bids for the Saugatuck City Hall Exterior Painting & Restoration project and summarized the bids on the attached spreadsheet. A total of three (3) bids were received in the amount of \$133,479.95, \$239,303.00, & \$285,080.00. Director of Planning, Zoning, & Project Management Cummins explained the process for City Hall renovations. The Architect, David Gibbs of Fleis & Vandenbrink explained the difference in bids.

B. Historic District Commission Appointment:

Rosemary Johnson and William Donahue II were interviewed by Mayor Dean Chairperson Straker and Director of Planning, Zoning, & Project Management Cummins. William Donahue II was appointed as a Historic District Commission member with a term ending July 1, 2025.

C. Short Term Rental Discussion:

Mayor Dean discussed that short-term rentals were a concern for those in the community based off the Resident Survey Results. He noted that the journey begins with the Planning Commission meeting on 1/19/23 and at some point, the City Council and the Planning Commission will need to have a joint meeting.

Councilmember Gardner stated that the Planning Commission could take on the role of drafting a resolution for the Ad Hoc group to be considered at a Council Workshop in February. The resolution would have information such as the types of people that we would like to see on the committee as well as the terms of scope, duration, etc. Ultimately the council will be responsible for editing and adopting the resolution and choosing the individuals to form the group.

Councilmember Baldwin is concerned that the City doesn't have any regulations and is wary of doing anything that will prolong the process. She would consider it a failure if they didn't have something in front of the Council before Spring.

Councilmember Gardner says that he agrees that things need to be done quickly, however, it needs to be done thoughtfully. He does not think it is achievable to have something out by Spring that has been thoroughly thought out and will reflect the community's interest. They will discuss the timeline in the Planning Commission meeting, and it will be a part of the resolution. He notes the first step is identifying the issues. He suggests getting feedback from people in the community that have short term rentals, as well as those that live in the community and don't have short term rentals.

Councilmember Baldwin wanted to go on the record noting that the more time it takes to get something in place, the more people that will be grandfathered in.

Mayor Dean stated that they are all aware of the urgency of the issue. He wants to make sure that whatever they do is very intentional & deliberate and whatever they do medium- or long-term sticks and can withstand scrutiny.

Councilmember Leo suggests looking at Palm Springs STR policies as they have a nice model and they have already tried things that didn't work. They have been more of a laboratory for STR's.

Councilmember Muncey thinks that we can start by enforcing our already existing laws. He also noted that there have been times that they have requested help from law enforcement, and they haven't always been cooperative. He wants to make sure that they need to take the time to do it the right way and learn from other communities that have encountered issues or legal battles.

Mayor Dean briefly noted that because Saugatuck is a tourist town with a compressed season, there are challenges for the residents and the business owners. He is happy that they have a solid Planning Commission and is confident that they will have a very good Ad Hoc committee that will support them in this journey.

7. Public Comments (Limit 3 minutes): None.

8. Correspondence: None.

9. Council Comments:

- Councilmember Baldwin: She is looking forward to the meeting and is ready to go.

- Councilmember Muncey: Noted how fun the New Council Training was last Wednesday. He was fascinated by the walk through at DPW and that they showed them their equipment, how they acquired the equipment, discussed the process of their work and how that work is delegated. He really enjoyed the interaction with Mayor Dean and Chief Janik. He was impressed by Chief Janik's preparedness for the walk-through as he had folders for all of them that included their 2023 plans. They had a great time at KLSWA as well. He also added that he just turned in a copy of the annual MDOT grant to Clerk Wolters to file for the Board of Transportation.
- Councilmember Gardner: He encouraged the Councilmembers to look at the upcoming Planning Commission packet as it has good data on what short term rentals look like in the community. He noted the official posting has been put out in the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service, the Saugatuck Gap Filler Annex has been officially listed on the December 28th on the National Register of Historic Places. He also wanted to remind the City that there were two donations that were made for signage. There was \$1200 from a former resident Neal Lafort, as well as the \$1000 grant from the Rotary Department for a total of \$2200 to go towards the signage.
- Councilmember Leo: None.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Stanton: She has been receiving emails about restaurants getting ready to set up their outdoor seating areas. That means spring is around the corner and she looks forward to seeing those pop back up again.
- Mayor Dean: Complimented Director of Planning, Zoning, & Project Management Cummins on arranging the visits for council members with the various departments, boards, and commissions. He said it was well done. He asked City Manager Heise to reach out to the three communities that are also supported by the Fire District and the County regarding their area of Homeland Security to see if there is an interest in cooperating on acquiring vehicle barriers and if there is any opportunity for grant funding as it has been a major issue for Council with event planning and parades over the last year.

10. Adjourn (Voice call):

Motion by Stanton, second by Baldwin to adjourn, upon voice vote, motion carried 6-0, and Mayor Dean adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sara Williams
Deputy Clerk/DPW Administrative Assistant