



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 9, 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 Pro-Tem Stanton at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:

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

Absent: Mayor Dean.

Motion by Lewis, second by Baldwin to excuse Mayor Dean's absence. Via voice vote, motion carried 6-0.

Others Present: City Manager Heise, Director of Planning, Zoning & Project Management Cummins, Treasurer Stanislawski, Department of Public Works Assistant Supervisor Hardy, and Clerk Wolters.

Mayor's Comments: Mayor Pro-Tem comments: None.

City Manager Comments: City Manager report is on page seven.

Agenda Changes: None.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Item Only:

Vicky Cobb, resident: *Item 15B.*

- Past Wednesday Council meeting: a lot of questions asked and answered.
- Grant was received and money was set aside years ago for parks.
- There is a safety issue, and it needs to be addressed.

Glenna DeJong, resident: *Item 15B.*

- Member of PPW Committee and co-chair of Village Square Study Group.
- Excited to bring the playground proposal to City Council.
- Thanked the playground study group and the work done in the last nine months inking volunteers in the community.
- Contracted ODC for inspection.

- Four vendors were approached with quotes coming from two: Sinclair and Penchura. Recommendation is to move forward with Sinclair.
- \$112,000 grant approved to lower cost.

Kelly Roche, resident: *Item 15B.*

- Serves on Tri-Community Recycling Committee, Saugatuck Recreation Advisory Board, DSPTO and PPW Committee member holding co-chair of the Airport Study Group and co-chair of Village Square Study Group. Raising two children in the community.
- Thanked City Council for their confidence and support of the PPW committee with taking on this project. DPW Superintendent Herbert has been outstanding to work with and very supportive in showing up for the meetings and giving needed feedback.

Started this project in January, wanted something modern allowing wider age ranges, allowing for more abilities to enjoy the space and for locals and tourists.

- Pulled Saugatuck's rich history with the design.
- Funds have already been set aside for this project and hope Council votes yes.

Marsha Caspar, resident: *Item 15B.*

- Fully supports the project that was deemed a top priority by City Council.
- PPW did a very thorough review, there were many opportunities for public input.
- The current structure is at its end of life and no longer worth taking a risk with children.
- The typical cost of custom high-quality playground of Village Park size in \$200K-\$500K, with the grant the cost falls within that.
- Loves the idea of the historical design and asks for a yes vote.

Ruth Johnson, resident: *Item 15B.*

- Member of PPW Committee
- Thanked City Council for considering this project, it was well researched and is needed.
- Thanked Kelly and Glenna for their amazing job.

Kieth Charak, resident: *Item 15B.*

- PPW Committee member.
- Thanked Village Park study group's hard work.
- Thanked Kelly Roche for getting the grant.
- Superintendent Scott Herbert just a new baby girl.

Bill Hess, resident: *Item 15B.*

- Fully supports replacement of park equipment, it's sorely needed.
- His concerns:
 - The approval process and public notice.
 - Looked at the PPW packets online and nowhere was this project specifically discussed.
 - No renderings and believes the first time the public was aware was last Wednesday's Council meeting.
 - It is going a little quick.
 - \$1 million has been set away for parks, how much of this project will take up that.
 - How much will be left for Mt. Baldhead Park or other parks.

Dan Fox, resident: *Item 15B.*

- The playground proposal is well-constructed, he fully supports doing this.
- Suggests taking the approach that the Short-Term Rental Task Force's approach to public input.
- It would be well advised to take the last step and have a public input session.
- Look at possible advertising on the playground from local businesses to help support the cost.

Peg Sanford, resident: *Item 15B.*

- She is of the age that she has seen four or five park projects in the area.
- She was part of the Douglas community built with volunteers, teachers and children's help.
- Her concern is the "community build". She does not see where the community was brought in.
- Finding volunteers at the last minute will be difficult.
- Get the picture in the paper with the plan and let the community respond.
- Going to a committee meeting on Tuesdays at 10am is not a time for public input.

Holly Anderson, resident: *Item 15B.*

- Thanked for the props on the Short-Term Rental committee.
- The short-term rental was a highly controversial charged topic, this is a little apple to oranges comparison.
- If it hadn't been so exhaustive and if there hadn't been for bidders, she may have said to slow down.
- She is comfortable with an approval.

Consent Agenda:

A. Regular City Council Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2023.

Motion by Muncy, second by Baldwin to approve the regular city council meeting minutes from September 25, 2023. Upon roll call vote, motion carried 6.0.

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 September 25, 2023, for their respective departments.

Boards, Commissions & Committees:

Fire District Administration Board, Dan Fox:

- Have not had a meeting since the last reporting of the September 18th meeting.
- A single set of gear for a fire fighter is \$4,000-\$5,000.
 - Maximum service life of gear is 10 years.
 - A gentleman at Belfor restoration company in the U.P. has set up a program that collects old gear and disperses them to underfunded fire departments.

Interurban Board, Councilmember Muncey:

- Next meeting is October 17th.
- Ridership is 28% up from last year.
- Parking shuttle carried almost 1000 more than 2022.
- Created a committee to talk about expanding their hours, per requests for longer hours.
- Open:
 - Monday-Friday 7am-7pm.
 - Saturday and Sunday 9am-7pm.
- Hours change in November:
 - Monday-Friday 7am-6pm
 - Saturday and Sunday 9am-7pm.
- The Halloween shuttle will be free late-night rides until 2am.

KLSWA, Barry Johnson: None.

Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, Mayor Pro-Tem Stanton: None.

Zoning Board of Appeals: None.

Historic District Commission, Councilmember Lewis:

- Met on October 5th.
- They passed the Playground Proposal unanimously, councilmember Lewis abstained from vote due to the Council planned vote on October 9th.
- She noted whether it's historic preservation or even hardscape improvements, that folks are making them without the understanding that there is a process.
- It was recommended a reminder is sent out to the public regarding the process.

Planning Commission, Chair Councilmember Gardner:

- Next meeting on October 19th at 6pm and 7pm.

Parks and Public Works Committee, Councilmember Baldwin: None.

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

- Meeting regularly with C2AE and other communities to keep on track with grants.

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

- Successful Household Hazardous Waste Day on the 26th.
- It was three hours this year instead of four.
- A total of 160 vehicles.
 - 41 from City of Saugatuck.
 - 22 from Douglas.
 - 95 from Saugatuck Township.

Request for Payment: None.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

A. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$ \$217,199.15.

Motion by Gardner, second by Lewis to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$217,199.15. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

Introduction of Ordinances: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Oval Beach Update:

City manager Heise reviewed the sales of daily passes surpassed the two previous years. Compliments to the beach staff for a safe season. The City had administrative staff flex in to help manage the beach.

Replacement of Playground Equipment in Village Square:

Motion by Leo, second by Lewis to approve the playground equipment proposal submitted by Sinclair Playground Equipment in an amount not to exceed \$336,633.41. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

Early Voting Agreement Between City and Township:

Motion by Muncey, Second by Gardner to approve Resolution 231009-A adopting early voting site and municipal agreement between Saugatuck City and Saugatuck Township. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

Special Event- Halloween Festival:

Motion by Muncey, second by Lewis to approve the special event application for the Halloween festival sponsored by SDABA to be held on October 28th, 2023, contingent on safety removal by police, fire, and city staff. Via voice vote, motion carried 6-0.

Special Event-Tree Lighting Ceremony:

Motion by Muncey, Second by Lewis to approve the special event application for the tree lighting sponsored by SDABA to be held on November 24th, the day after Thanksgiving 2023 contingent on safety approval by police, fire, and city staff. Via voice vote, motion carried 6-0

Special Event Application- Annual Holiday Parade:

Motion by Leo, second by Lewis to approve the special event application for the Annual Holiday Parade sponsored by SDABA to be held on December 2, 2023. Via voice vote, motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment:

Glenna DeJong, *resident:*

- Thanked Council for unanimous vote.
- Thanked Councilmember Baldwin for her work.

Vicky Cobb, *resident:*

- Dialog was intriguing. As a voter, she would expect Council to make the decision.
- Thanked Council for not delaying the decision.

Marsha Caspar, *resident:*

- It is the job of the Council to make these decisions.
- It is the leader of the boards/committees to put together solid plan and that is what they did.
- As a previous project manager, she asks is it a Major or Minor change. This is a minor change, and the funds were there. Short-Term rental topic is a Major change.
- It's a replacement, no new land purchase.

Peg Sanford, *resident:*

- The public has a right to know, they haven't known.
- It's a fabulous project.
- Get all 900 residents involved.

Kieth Charak, *resident:*

- Thanks for passing the playground.
- He is on the Library Board, there is a fall fundraising event on October 24th at the Farmhouse Deli. It is a takeout that costs \$75 per person and \$30 goes to the Library for programs that the tax funds don't fund.

Correspondence: None.

Council Comments:

- Councilmember Baldwin:
Thank everyone for a job well done and getting PPW where it need to be with the project. Heartful gratitude to all.
- Councilmember Muncey:
Enjoys serving on board where we do have questions. The playground plan could have been communicated better, but it is a great plan. Make a Wish benefit will take place on October 21rst at The Dunes Resort and starts at 8 p.m. Event includes drag show at 9:30 p.m., silent auction and snacks for guests. The event draws between \$10,000- \$15,000 a year and selects a child from Allegan County.
- Councilmember Leo:
Gave a sincere thanks to the PPW committee. This is a major change where PPW went out into the community to work on a major project. What is seen here is an extremely thoughtful, competent problem-solving thorough solution. Four years ago, there was no process like this. The results that were given by the committee is not something that the City would have received from a City employee or even from the City Council. It's a superior product and thanked everyone again.
- Councilmember Garnder:
The ODC report has several recommendations that go beyond the playground equipment for signage and some other safety measures and hopes the PPW committee looks into those. The audio in the Council chamber needs to be fixed and made a priority. The comment heard tonight about that government moves slowly, he disagrees. He noted local government can move very quickly as they are given priorities and projects to work on. Compliments a citizen that made a comment about Councilmember Garnder being the question man, and he is proud of being the guy that asks question at meetings.
- Councilmember Lewis: Several months ago, Council had a lengthy discussion to delay upgrading the audio equipment until Clerk Wolters could find good and appropriate quotes. Thank everyone on the PPW Committee personally, Glenna, Kelly, Keith, Nancy and Ruth they have done a fantastic job. Thanked Helen for her leadership. She is looking forward to many projects coming forward from PPW Committee.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Stanton:
An exhausting effort, the passion is there, and everyone knew the City needed new playground equipment. Not only is it dangerous, it has to go away. Mayor Pro-Tem spends a lot of time with her grandsons there. The new playground will be the crown jewel of the town right in the middle. Residents, grandparents, and tourists will all use it. For it to move along quickly by spring, is needed. Thanked everyone so much for all their efforts.

Adjournment:

Motion by Lewis, second by Muncey to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Pro-Tem adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk