



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 9, 2024

The City Council met to have a Regular Council Meeting at City Hall.
102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stanton at 5:02 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

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

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Cummins, Attorney Chris Patterson and Clerk Wolters.

Mayor's Comments: Mayor Stanton expressed gratitude to the city staff for their impressive new infographics, which effectively update the public on major projects. She noted that with a full staff, Ryan now has more time to focus on these initiatives. The mayor encouraged everyone to share the infographics online. She also praised Ryan's city manager report, highlighting its comprehensive information and suggesting that it provides a great overview for the public.

City Manager Comments: City Manager Ryan Cummins thanked the staff for their hard work, particularly emphasizing the city clerk's preparations for the upcoming election, which include managing absentee ballots and testing voting equipment. He acknowledged the efforts of Jamie and Sarah in addressing public inquiries during this busy time. Scott and his team are preparing for the end of the summer season, monitoring environmental factors that may affect schedules. Nicole, the city treasurer, was commended for her diligence in improving processes and adapting to her role, while Luke, the Director of Planning and Zoning, has effectively managed complex zoning matters with support from the legal team. He welcomed the new DPW equipment maintenance operator Scott Morrow, who is enjoying his new role. He also announced a successful grant application, securing \$250,000 for the Maple Street project, and highlighted a generous \$10,000 donation from the Rotary Club for milfoil treatment efforts, thanking the community partners for their support.

Agenda Changes: None.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Item Only: None.

Consent Agenda:

- Regular Meeting Minutes- September 23, 2024.
- Special Meeting Minutes- September 26, 2024.
- Appointment of Keith Walker and Dave Ignasiak to the Tri-Community Wildlife Management Committee.

Motion by Muncey to approve the consent agenda, as stated including regular meeting minutes for September 23, 2024, special meeting minutes for September 26, 2024 and the appointment to the tri-community wildlife management committee of Keith Walker and Dave Ignasiak.

- Baldwin noted there was a date error in the special meeting minutes where it said that council member White talked about resigning on the 24th and resigned on the 25th that's backed up a date that should be the 23rd and 24th.

Motion by Muncey to make the motion to approve the consent agenda with changes just spoken by Baldwin.

- Attorney Patterson informed the council to pull the special meetings from the consent agenda for discussion as the consent agenda motion with no discussion.

Motion by Muncey to withdraw his motion to approve the consent agenda.

Motion by Baldwin to isolate from the consent agenda item B, special meeting minutes for September 26, 2024. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Muncey, second by Anderson to approve the consent agenda for the meeting as stated. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Baldwin, second by Muncey to approve special meeting minutes contingent upon correction of error of Mr. White announcing intent to resign on September 23 in actual resigning on September 24 versus what it is currently stated as.

- Clerk Wolters requested clarification and review as the special meeting minutes state that Councilmember White resigned from City Council on September 24, 2024.
- Councilmember Gardner noted that the mistake was in the council vacancy announcement under correspondence.

Motion by Baldwin, second by Muncey to approve special meeting minutes for September 26 as they stand. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

The City Manager, Treasurer, City Clerk, Director of Planning & Zoning, Department of Public Works and Engineer submitted status reports of current activities since the last regular council meeting on September 23, 2024, for their respective departments.

Boards, Commissions & Committees:

Fire District Administration Board: None.

Interurban Board, Councilmember Muncey:

- Numbers have returned to near pre-COVID levels.
- They are pleased to announce a free shuttle service for the Halloween parade on October 26th, operating from 7 PM until 1 AM. The shuttle will provide a continuous loop from the drugstore to downtown Douglas, facilitating transportation from Saugatuck to Douglas.
- The process of expanding the building is ongoing.
- The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 22nd.

KLSWA: None.

Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, City Manager Cummins:

- They did not have a quorum for their last meeting.
- The authority is looking to re-engage a former consultant and may submit a request for funding in the future to cover the costs associated with the firm.

Zoning Board of Appeals, City Manager Cummins:

- Next meeting is October 10th.

Historic District Commission, Councilmember Gardner:

- They did not have a quorum for the regularly scheduled meeting, and it has been rescheduled for October 16th.

Planning Commission, Councilmember Anderson:

- The next meeting is October 17th.

Parks and Public Works Committee, Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin: None.

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

- Waiting for grant proposal regarding the traffic signal, they should be hearing back soon.

Request for Payment: None.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

- A. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$109,780.29.

Motion by Dean, second by Muncey to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$109,780.29. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Ordinances: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: None.

Closed Session:

Motion by Baldwin, second by Anderson, to move into a closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 (e) and (h), to consult with legal counsel regarding trial or settlement strategy regarding the claim of appeal on appeal from the City of Saugatuck Historic District Commission filed by Maplewood Hotel, captioned Maplewood Hotel Corporation v City of Saugatuck and City of Saugatuck Historic District Commission Case No. 24-69059-AA. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Anderson, second by Baldwin, to move into a closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 (e) and (h), to discuss a confidential written legal opinion regarding the lawsuit filed against the City by Saugatuck Neighbors, captioned Saugatuck Neighbors v City of Saugatuck Case No. 24-69537-CZ Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Muncey, second by Baldwin, to move into a closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 (e) to consult with legal counsel regarding trial or settlement strategy regarding the ongoing lawsuits filed against the City by Dune Ridge, captioned Dune Ridge v City of Saugatuck (Case No. 21-64709-CZ) and Dune Ridge v City of Saugatuck (Case No. 22-65713-CK). Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

City Council entered closed session at 5:25 p.m.
City Council re-entered open session at 6:27 p.m.

Correspondence: None.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Anderson:

Thanked City Manager Cummins for highlighting the work of our staff and giving them the recognition they deserve. It's wonderful to see great team acknowledged, and it's clear they have an appreciative leader.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin: None.

Councilmember Gardner:

He asked how many applicants were received for the open council position. He emphasized the importance of adding several items to future agendas.

- The discussion on the manager's goals and objectives, which was briefly addressed after City Manager Cummins was hired but hasn't been fully pursued yet.
- The council should engage in a thorough discussion on strategic planning. Given the various initiatives underway, there is a need for a more robust strategic plan to guide the council's efforts.
- He raised concerns about ethical reviews in their last meeting, citing specific examples from his experience, but I feel this topic did not receive adequate attention. He believes it's crucial to update the city's ethical review processes.

He mentioned the chili cook-off happening Sunday from 1 to 5 PM at Wick's Park, music by the Rock Shop. He encourages everyone to attend.

Councilmember Dean: None.

Councilmember Muncey:

For the past 15 years, he has proudly assisted the Dunes Resort's Make-A-Wish benefit, and this year is scheduled for October 19. This event raises funds to grant wishes for children with terminal illnesses, typically generating between \$10,000 and \$15,000. He will be preparing sloppy joes for 100 people and cookies. The silent auction begins at 8 PM, followed by a drag show at 9:30 PM, with performers and bartenders donating their tips to the cause. Admission is just \$5, and he encourages everyone to join for a fun evening while supporting a meaningful cause. He thanked all the merchants who donated.

Adjournment:

Motion by Muncey, second by Baldwin to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stanton adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk