



## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

**November 27, 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 Stanton at 7:00 p.m.

### **Attendance:**

Present: Mayor Stanton, Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin and Councilmembers Anderson (via Zoom), Dean, Gardner, Muncey and White.

Absent: None.

*Motion by Baldwin, second by Dean to have Holly Anderson fully participate as a voting member and receive a special accommodation for her illness this evening. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.*

Others Present: City Manager Heise, Director of Planning, Zoning & Project Management Cummins, Treasurer Stanislawski, Department of Public Works Assistant Superintendent Herbert, Attorney Kyle O'Meara, Engineer Jon Moxey and Clerk Wolters.

### **Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Stanton welcomed Logan White, Holly Anderson and Russ Gardner as they were all sworn in earlier. She thanked DPW for their hard work with leaf cleanup also with the tree lighting at Coghlin and Wick's Park. The tree lighting ceremony was beautiful, thanked all the volunteers. Thanked April Gundy and Birdie Holley for stepping up at the last minute to organize the holiday parade.

**City Manager Comments:** City Manager noted his report is on page nine and alerted the Council of the strategic planning session planned for December 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **Agenda Changes:**

*Motion by Baldwin, second by Gardner to add Bob Genetski and Dean Kapenga as our guest speakers to our meeting this evening. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.*

### **Guest Speakers:**

Bob Genetski, Allegan County Clerk-

- Sign up for property fraud is now available through the Register of Deed's office.

- Thanked Clerk Wolters and team for a successful election on November 7<sup>th</sup>.
- 48<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court records are available online now.
- Presented the Council with the 2022 Annual Report from the Allegan County Clerk and Register of Deeds.
- Informed the Council that Proposal 2 is going to strain all of the Clerks and Election inspectors. He encouraged local bodies to strongly consider how they compensate them, giving they will now be working two full weekends before each election next year and throughout big election.

Dean Kapenga, Allegan County Commissioner, District 3-

- Celebrated receiving extra funds from the State and Feds for broadband for 1000 miles of fiber for between 11,000-12,000 residents.
- Looking how to educate adults and children on the Aquifer.
- They had MSU Extension come in, they assist with people they need help with their greenhouses.
- He is part of Community Action. Many people helped during Thanksgiving including Boars Head out of Holland to help Veterans and the poor.
- He met with the public service commission on the Calkins Dam. They are fighting it, it would have an economic impact on the value of about 1,000 residents' homes that live around the dam. It is only dam out of eleven that is actually making money.

**Public Comment on Agenda Item Only:** None.

**Consent Agenda:**

**A.** Regular City Council Meeting Minutes – November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023.  
*Motion by Dean, second by Muncey to approve the regular city council meeting minutes from November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.*

**Staff Reports:**

City Manager, Director of Planning & Zoning, Treasurer, DPW Superintendent and Engineer submitted status reports of current activities since the last Council meeting on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023, for their respective departments.

**Boards, Commissions & Committees:**

Fire District Administration Board, Dan Fox:

- The meeting was on November 20<sup>th</sup> and thanked Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin for attending.
- Some schools in the servicing area have not tested having emergency services to use their radios in their schools to talk to each other during an emergency. The STFD is trying to work their way through this, but it has urgency.
- A fire in an electric vehicle can take 30,000 gallons of water to extinguish. Most tankers are 7,500 to 10,000 gallons.
- The current full-time opening at the STFD has eleven candidates that applied.
- The potential Ordinance changes for Short-Term rentals could possibly impact the STFD if they increase the frequency of inspections required by the STFD.

Interurban Board, Councilmember Muncey:

- Working on the plans to expand the building.
- They have increased ridership.

- There is a meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>.
- They are possibly increasing their hours.
- Councilmember Muncey continues learning his new role as Treasurer.

KLSWA, Barry Johnson: None.

Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, Mayor Stanton:

- They are meeting in January.

Zoning Board of Appeals: None.

Historic District Commission: None.

Planning Commission, Chair Councilmember Gardner:

- Recap from November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting:
- The Planning Commission recommends approval of re-zoning for 120 Mary St., which is on the Council agenda tonight.
- They had a public meeting to amend the City's zoning code for waterfront districts. It was tabled until the December meeting.
- The Planning Commission has proposed a joint meeting with the City Council to discuss the Short-Term Rental Task Force recommendations on Short Term Rentals.

Parks and Public Works Committee, Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin:

- Next meeting is tomorrow morning.

Tri-Community Non-Motorized Trail Study Committee: None.

Tri-Community Recycling Ad-Hoc Committee: None.

**Request for Payment:** None.

**Approval of Accounts Payable:**

A. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$ \$135,761.94.

*Motion by Muncey, second by Dean to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$135,761.94. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.*

**Introduction of Ordinances:** None.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Organization Meeting- Appointment of Council Members:

Mayor Stanton appointed the following:

- Russ Gardner to Historic District Commission
- Holly Anderson to Planning Commission
- Scott Dean to Tri-Community Non-Motorized Trail Study Committee

*Motion by Baldwin, second by Muncey to appoint Russ Gardner to the Historic Commission, Holly Anderson to the Planning Commission and Scott Dean to the Tri-Community Trail Study Group. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.*

850 Park Street Erosion:

*Motion by Gardner, second by Muncey to approve the Storm Sewer and Erosion Mitigation Agreement between the City and Landowners for 850 and 856 Park Street, including authorization for Krohn Excavating and Kramer Services to complete the work at a cost not to exceed \$35,800.00, and authorize the City Manager to execute the Agreement and sign any contractor invoices/contracts to complete the work set forth in the Agreement. Via roll vote, motion carried unanimously.*

Bridge Street Repaving:

*Motion by Muncey, second by Gardner to approve the agreement between the City of Saugatuck and Saugatuck Township to share road construction costs for Bridge Street in the amount not to exceed \$70,000. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.*

615 Park St. Public Hearing on Waiver from Moratorium Request:

*Motion by Baldwin, second by Muncey to start the public hearing, Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.* The public meeting started at 7:53 p.m.

Drew Anthony, owner and representative from association gave the Council a brief chronological breakdown of the flooding that destroyed the entire bottom level of the condominium unit.

Public Comment was open at 7:59 p.m.

Cliff Pelloni noted that the footprint of the condos will not change and the interior and exterior will be restored to the original state.

Public Comment was closed at 8:01 p.m.

*Motion by Dean, second by White to close the public hearing on the waiver for moratorium request for 615 Park. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.* The public hearing ended at 8:02 p.m.

*Motion by Baldwin, second by Muncey Motion to grant 615 Park Street a waiver to the temporary moratorium established under Ordinances No. 230612-A and No. 230322-B, for the proposed site improvements, based on the following findings: The owners have demonstrated that they will suffer immediate and irreparable harm. Via roll call, motion carried unanimously.*

120 Mary Street Re-Zoning:

*Motion by Dean, second by Baldwin to approve Ordinance No. 231127-A, an amendment of Section 154.043 of the Code of the City of Saugatuck, Zoning Map, so as to rezone the land commonly described by tax identification number 03-57-300-053-50 and is located at 120 Mary Street lot that is currently zoned C-2 Water Street East to R-4 City Center Transitional Residential District. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.*

General Service Agreement with C2AE for Design and Construction of Blue Star Trail Multimodal Path:

*Motion by Baldwin, second by Dean to staff and legal counsel to review a general service contract with C2AE to facilitate the unique design aspects within the City of Saugatuck for the construction of the Blue Star Trail Multimodal Path. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.*

Special Event Application- Holiday Parade:

*Motion by Muncey, second by Dean to approve the special event application for the Annual Holiday Parade to be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.*

**Public Comment:**

Joey Andrews, State Representative, 38<sup>th</sup> House District-

- Next year is another budget cycle, any projects the City is looking at and would them to consider-send it their way.
- They were successful this last year getting a lot of investments into the district, most notably the \$150 million for the Palisades plant.
- Other notables wins for the year:
  - Repealing the Right-to-Work
  - Reinstating Prevailing Wage
  - Expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit
  - Repealing the Pension Tax
  - Repealing the Abortion Ban
  - Expanding the Elliott Larsen Civil Rights Act
  - Passing the Michigan My Healthy Climate Plan- Make Michigan one of the top five states in the country making the transition to 100% clean energy.
  - Passed the Reproductive Health Act
  - Working on a package for Sales and Used Tax Exemptions for hyper scale data centers
  - Working on Short-Term Rental package
- Noted how beautiful the drive into town was with the lights and Saugatuck is ahead of the curve on Christmas décor.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Council Comments:**

- Councilmember White: He is excited to be here. It was great reading through the packet, familiarizing himself with the issues and good to see things in action.
- Councilmember Muncey: They got great things done at the meeting and that is why he enjoys serving on Council. He reminded everyone that the Lakeshore Community Concert will be at the SCA on Friday night. The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual production of The Christmas Carol will debut on December 10th at 8pm. They will have two shows on Saturdays at 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. On Sundays the show will be at 7:00 p.m. and repeat that the next weekend.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Dean: He was pleased that Representative Andrews noticed the lights. It's a credit to Superintendent Herbert and his team.
- Councilmember Baldwin: The lights in town look incredible and reminded her how lucky she is to live here. She reminded everyone of the Holiday Parade and Ugly Sweater Pub Crawl on Saturday.
- Councilmember Gardner: He welcomed Councilmembers White and Anderson and looks forward to serving with them. He was happy with the number of people in attendance for the meeting. He thinks the City Council should have some discussion about the agenda for the upcoming Strategic Planning meeting and there should be more focus on the survey. One of the

strategic objectives should be sustainability. That is just one example for the Council to set some leadership for the community.

- Councilmember Anderson: Thanked everyone for letting her attend via Zoom. She thanked Clerk Wolters for administering her oath and Clerk Wolter's daughter for taking the picture. Her father was a Councilman in Boise, Idaho and wish he was alive to see it. She thanked Councilmember Garnder for the work he has done on Planning Commission, he was very a very effective commissioner. She is excited to welcome someone new to the Planning Commission. The City is gorgeous, so thanks to Scott and everyone who made it happen.
- Mayor Stanton: She noted her and Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin had the opportunity to meet with a group of parents interested in having a school resource officer in the school district. It was an informational meeting along in attendance was fire Chief Janik. She looks forward to when they present to the school board. Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin is available to discuss if anyone would like to know the details.

**Adjournment:**

*Motion by Muncey, second by Dean to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stanton adjourned at 8:40 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted

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Jamie Wolters, City Clerk