



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2024

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

Call to Order:

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

Attendance:

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

Absent: White.

Others Present: Interim City Manager/ Director of Planning, Zoning & Project Management Cummins, Treasurer Stanislawski, DPW Superintendent Herbert, Attorney Jake Witte and Clerk Wolters.

Agenda Changes:

Motion by Baldwin, second by Anderson to change line item eight to motion to move into a closed session pursuant to MCL one 5.268 II to consult with the city attorney regarding trial strategy regarding the lawsuit filed against the city by Maplewood hotel, caption Maplewood hotel Corporation versus City of Saugatuck and interim city manager Ryan comments. Case number 2468795 Dash CZ because discussing the pending litigation in open session may have a detrimental functional financial impact to the city. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment:

Tad DeGraff, resident: expressed support for the new park, concerned over changes to the park's design, including the removal of a large Christmas tree and the addition of two-story structures.

Dan Fox, resident: noted that the budget should include an executive summary by department.

Kelly Roche, resident: expressed heartbreak over the playground controversy.

Glenna DeJong, non-resident: encouraged council to be a "duck" ask what's good for kids and what's good for the community.

Discussion Items:

Draft of Proposed Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget:

Ryan Cummins, Interim City Manager/Zoning Director presented the proposed budget for 2024-2025:

- Budget Process
- Purpose and Development
- Guiding Principles
- Six Separate Funds
 - General Fund
 - \$5,828,000 balance
 - Oval beach fees discussed
 - Legal Fee breakdown
 - Projects
 - Major Streets
 - \$777,000 balance
 - Projects
 - Local Streets
 - \$2,000,000 balance
 - Projects
 - Debt Service
 - Water/Sewer
 - Water asset management plan discussed
 - Motor Pool
 - \$727,000 cash on hand
- City Staff Organization
 - 11 Full Time Staff
 - 5 Seasonal DPW Maintenance Staff
 - 25 Seasonal Oval Beach Staff
 - Contracted- City Attorney, Sheriff's Deputies, Engineer, Planner, Assessor
- City at a Glance
 - Census Population of 865
 - 1.47 Square Miles
 - 916 Housing Units
 - Median Age of Residents is 58
 - 330 Acres of Parks
 - Included \$34,000 for conceptual design work for Park Street
 - 11.5 Miles of Roads
 - Water Utilities
 - 298 curb stop valves
 - 138 fire hydrants
 - 302 system valves
 - 14.6 miles of main
 - Sanitary Sewer Utilities
 - 17 lift stations
 - 259 manholes
 - 4.8 miles of gravity/force main
 - Storm Sewer Utilities

- 84 manholes
- 68 catch basins
- 51 outfalls
- 6.7 miles of gravity main
- Breakdown of where each tax dollar goes
- Operating tax rate compared to other local jurisdictions
- Schedule individual follow-up meetings with City Council members as needed to answer any budget related questions.
- Prepare to present the final proposed budget at a public hearing before the end of June for adoption.

Public Comment:

Dan Fox, resident: suggested there be a clarity up front on any water surcharge that may be implemented in the future.

Gary Medler, resident: opposed of spending more money on another study on Park Street. Suggested on doing small portions of the street every year.

Motion by Dean, second by Baldwin to move into closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) to consult with the city attorney regarding trial strategy regarding the lawsuit filed against the city by maple wood hotel captioned Maplewood hotel Corporation versus City of Saugatuck and interim city manager Ryan comments case number four Dash 68795-CZ because discussing the pending litigation in open session may have a detrimental financial impact on the city. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

Council entered closed session at 5:51 p.m.

Council entered back into open session at 6:25 p.m.

Motion by Muncey, second by Garnder to allow our city attorney to execute the settlement agreement between Maplewood Hotel corporation and the City of Saugatuck as stated. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence:

- A. Bill Hess
- B. Barry Johnson
- C. Gary Medler
- D. Ken Trester

Council Comments:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin: None.
- Councilmember Anderson: They managed to work together and she’s happy for that.
- Councilmember Dean: None.
- Councilmember Gardner: Sometimes situations are difficult on all sides, and they were able to come up with compromise. It speaks well to the city staff, legal representation as well as the plaintiff to get them where they are.

- Councilmember Muncey: Thanked everyone for working together, they may not always agree but they find a happy medium.
- Councilmember White: Absent.

Adjournment:

Motion by Muncey, second by Dean to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk