



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
April 22, 2024

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.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

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

Absent: None.

Others Present: Interim City Manager & Director of Planning/Zoning & Project Management Cummins, Treasurer Stanislawski, Department of Public Works Superintendent Herbert, Oval Beach Manager Aramendi, Attorney Jake Witte and Clerk Wolters.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Stanton updated the Council with the City Manager search. To date there are 33 applicants. She had the opportunity to be on Michigan's Big Show starring Michael Patric Shiels, they spoke about Saugatuck being selected by USA Today readers as one of the best coastal small towns in America. There are a couple of new restaurants in town, two new bakeries and a few new boutique shops. It is exciting to see new businesses calling Saugatuck home. Asked everyone to keep in mind the businesses on Blue Star Highway that are affected by the construction. She met with the CVB about making signage in various locations to guide people around the construction to find businesses.

City Manager Comments:

The City and Township are working to be as responsive as they can to the folks that have raised concerns. The Sheriff's department are working hard to stay on top of Maple Street with increased patrols. The City is working on extra radar related signage, larger mile per hour signage and wayfinding for businesses. He appreciates everyone patience as the City works through this. Tallmadge Woods area, there is an offer to join the old growth forest network as recognizing Tallmadge Woods as an old growth forest. Tallmadge Woods partnered with Oxbow to hold an event the upcoming weekend to celebrate.

Agenda Changes: None.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Item Only:

Marta Peter, resident: Told Council to disregard her correspondence that was included in the packet. She spoke to DPW Superintendent Herbert, and he answered her questions.

Gary Medler, resident: Suggested Council reject the proposal to seek HDC approval for the additional features in Village Square Park.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Baldwin, second by Anderson to approve the consent agenda. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

Staff Reports:

Interim City Manager/Director of Planning & Zoning, Treasurer, DPW Superintendent, Police and Engineer submitted status reports of current activities since the last Council meeting on April 8th, 2024, for their respective departments.

DPW Superintendent Herbert added to his report the following:

- DPW took out the erosion control fencing out at Oval Beach.
- Noted that the new Oval Beach Manager Noah Aramendi was in attendance at the meeting.

Boards, Commissions & Committees:

Fire District Administration Board, Dan Fox:

Recap from April 15 Fire Board Meeting:

- Councilmember Baldwin was in attendance.
- Stats are in the Council packet.
- Calls are up and in one day there were 3 emergency calls within 70 minutes.
- Received cost recovery in the amount of \$3,400.
- Received grant from Michigan Treasury in the amount of \$8,400 for thermal imaging.
- The ambulance committee is still in good progress, no update.
- The Special Events committee is just getting started, no update.
- Monday the 17th of June at 5:00 p.m. will be the Fire budget meeting.

Interurban Board, Councilmember Muncey:

- The next meeting is April 24th.
- Reminded everyone that May will be a celebration for former director Phyllis Yff.

KLSWA, Barry Johnson: None.

Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, Councilmember White:

- Attended his first Harbor Authority meeting last week.
- It was a brief and updates to come on projects they are starting on.

Zoning Board of Appeals, Ryan Cummins:

- The have not met.

Historic District Commission, Councilmember Gardner:

- Next meeting May 2nd.

Planning Commission, Chair Councilmember Anderson:

- The meeting was last Thursday.
- Routine approvals.
- In May they are hoping to have some more data on short-term rentals.

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

- Welcomed the new member to the PPW Committee, Bryan Hoffman.
- Next meeting is tomorrow at 10am.

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

- The interim-city manager has a synopsis in his report included in the packet.
- There is new grant opportunity to assist with paying a significant portion of the traffic signal costs.

Request for Payment: None.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

- A. Accounts Payable in the amount of 176,049.62.

Motion by Baldwin, second by Anderson to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$176,049.62 as presented. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Ordinances: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Authorization to Apply for HDC Approval of Additional Features and Canoe Movement for the Village Square Playground:

Motion by Anderson, second by Dean to approve the Sinclair playground plans for Village Square Park as presented and to authorize the Interim City Manager to apply on behalf of the City to the Historic District Commission for approval of the additional features that are situated predominately outside the footprint of the previous playground and the movement of the canoe, and further authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the application form on behalf of the City as the owner. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Engineering Proposal for 2024 Asphalt Repairs:

Motion by Muncey, second by Baldwin to approve Fleis & Vandenbrink's proposal for engineering services in the amount of \$12,000 for asphalt resurfacing. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Oval Beach Fees:

Motion by Baldwin, second by Anderson to approve increasing Oval Beach parking pass fees to \$15 for a Daily Pass, \$75 for a Season Pass, and to amend City policy to set the "Taxpayer" Season Pass and City Employee Season Pass price at \$20. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Street Painting from ACE Parking Lot Striping:

Motion by Gardner, second by Dean to approve the proposal for pavement marking submitted by Ace Parking Lot Striping in the amount of \$33,545. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Contribution to Fireworks on July 5:

Motion by Muncey, second by Gardner to approve a \$3,000 contribution to the Saugatuck Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau for an Independence Day fireworks show on July 5. Via roll call vote, motion carried 5-2. Yes- Dean, Gardner, Muncey, Stanton, White. No- Anderson, Baldwin.

Milfoil Treatment for 2024:

Motion by Dean, second by Baldwin to approve a one-year agreement with Aquatic Doctors to treat Milfoil in the areas presented in the not to exceed amount of \$67,750. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Grant of Public Utility Easement:

Motion by Anderson, second by Baldwin to approve the grant of public utility easement by JLAF Holdings to the City of Saugatuck. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Joe Leonatti, resident: requested a response from council on the city ethics policy and why the proposal failed.

Mark Klungle, resident: Thanked council for doing a compromise with Catherine Simonson.

Emily Jipp, non-resident: Introduced herself as she is running for County circuit court judge.

Christine Pierce, resident: requested from council the status on the concession stand bids.

Correspondence:

- A. Anna Gregg
- B. Brian Elmore
- C. Brooke Yost
- D. Charlie Benson
- E. Christy Marvin
- F. Dan Harvey
- G. Doug Rodewald
- H. Ethan Barde
- I. Ingrid & Chris Benson
- J. James Yost
- K. Jennifer & Tisha Johnson
- L. Jessica Ruthsatz
- M. Judy Thiel
- N. Julie Barman
- O. Kara O'Connor

P. Lavinia Oancea
Q. Catherine Simon
R. Marta Petter
S. Richard Williams
T. Sara Aumaugher
U. Sarah Wellman
V. Scott & Julie Meivogel
W. Douglas Elementary School Student Council
X. Gary Medler

Council Comments:

- Councilmember Anderson: None.
- Councilmember Gardner:
There are a lot of signs in the right-of-way, we need to notify businesses that may be new of guidelines. He appreciates Marta Petter submitted a letter and spoke with DPW Superintendent Herbert to resolve the problem. Marta has been a great neighbor to City Hall. He would encourage the City to think about natural landscaping around City Hall using native plants, indigenous plants that are reflective of the dunes. He would like City Council to have a discussion about what characteristics and traits they would like to see in a City Manager.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin
Thanked the community for their patience while the City works through issues with the playground. Thanked the attorneys and Interim City Manager for their work on the subject.
- Councilmember Dean:
Wished everyone a happy earth day.
- Councilmember Muncey:
Friday at the Womens' Club from 10am – 11am, panelists will be having a Q&A about scamming.
- Councilmember White: None.

Adjournment:

Motion by Gardner, second by Baldwin to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stanton adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk