



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 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, Department of Public Works Superintendent Herbert, Attorney Jake Witte and Clerk Wolters.

Mayor's Comments:

Last weekend was a busy day in Saugatuck, with the various pride events, Jump into Summer at the SCA and a lot of people having a great time in town. The Red Dock was packed with locals. She acknowledged Treasurer Peter Stanislawski has submitted his resignation letter as he will be moving to Saugatuck Township. Ryan Cummins is working on temporary help and eventually interviewing candidates for that position. Encouraged everyone to take a minute to read the City Manager's report as it has updates on things that are going on in our community. The City Manager report is a great spot for a better understanding of where the City is on various topics. There are several openings on City boards, commission and committees and welcome residents to apply and get involved.

City Manager Comments:

Ryan Cummins appreciates the many years of service Treasurer Peter Stanislawski has given to the community. He has learned a lot from Peter since he has been with the City and the last few months as the interim City Manager. He thanked the Clerk and Deputy Clerk for stepping up to assist with some of the Treasurer related duties and at the next Council meeting will be a plan to handle some of the accounting pieces as well. He thanked the Mayor and all of those that attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Village Square Playground. It was great to see the kids speak and cutting the ribbon. There were many smiling faces.

Agenda Changes: None.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Item Only: None.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Special Meeting Minutes- May 22, 2024.
- B. Regular Meeting Minutes- May 29,2024.
- C. Approval of Change to Council Rules of Procedure to Add City Clerk as a Staff Report.
- D. Special Event- Movie in the Park.
- E. Special Event- Sidewalk Sales.
- F. Special Event- Chili Cookoff.
- G. Social District Request – Coppercraft Distillery, LLC.
- H. Oval Beach Pass Request – Hope College for Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area Research.
- I. Revocable License Agreement for Signage – Singapore Room.
- J. Revocable License Agreement for Seating in Right of Way – Malu.
 - Mayor Pro-Tem mentioned the sidewalk sales application states that the event is a City operated event which does not seem correct.

Motion by Anderson, second by Dean to approve the consent as presented. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

Interim City Manager/Director of Planning & Zoning, Treasurer, City Clerk, Police and Engineer submitted status reports of current activities since the last Council meeting on May 29th, 2024, for their respective departments.

DPW Superintendent Herbert was in person to give his report:

- Village Square Playground had a fantastic ribbon cutting ceremony.
- They are still working on the perimeter of the playground with irrigation and sod.
- Gave kudos to the Oval Beach manager and his fantastic job with the beach this summer.
- They are continuously filling potholes on Maple Street.
- Work on the landscaping at City hall is underway by the DPW crew.
- Assistant Supervisor Hardy has accepted another job and will be leaving the City.

Boards, Commissions & Committees:

Fire District Administration Board, Dan Fox:

- Next fire district meeting is June 17th at 4:00 p.m. for the regular meeting and June 17th at 5:00 p.m. for the fire budget.
- Average response time is still up due to the roundabout construction.
- This past Saturday there was a fire on the lakeshore and the servicing hydrant was too low. There are four levels of hydrant water flow and in an emergency, knowing the level of a given fire hydrant is critical. Assistance from the Fennville Fire Department tanker was there and collectively they created a water pond encased in canvas to pump from.
- June 1 started partnership with Life EMS.

Interurban Board, Councilmember Muncey:

- The new director is looking forward to her first meeting in one week and one day from today.
- Rider numbers are up almost to pre-COVID numbers.
- They are open until 7 p.m. during the week and 11 p.m. on the weekend.

KLSWA: None.

Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, Councilmember White: None.

Zoning Board of Appeals, Ryan Cummins:

- No meeting this month.

Historic District Commission, Councilmember Gardner:

- They met last Thursday.
- They approved the application from the City to shift the palette sign and installation of a traffic light at Lake Street/Blue Star Highway.
- 120 Mary presented a bunch of proposals and HDC approved with some changes to their plans.
- Approval for 215 Butler to replace their front door, and they will paint the structure to the side.
- They approved expanded outdoor seating on the sidewalks for Pumpernickels.
- They passed a resolution in support of House Bill 5430 for the expansion of the Michigan State Historic preservation tax credits established under Public Act 343.

Planning Commission, Chair Councilmember Anderson:

- The next meeting is June 20th, and the meeting will be focused on short-term rentals and CAPS.

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

- The next meeting is June 25th at 10 a.m.

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

- Nothing other than what councilmember Gardner noted about the HDC approval for the palette sign and traffic light at Lake Street/Bluestar Highway.

Request for Payment: None.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

A. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$191,645.91.

Motion by Dean, second by Baldwin to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$191,645.91. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Ordinances: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

Public Hearing:

Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

- The public meeting was opened at 7:29 p.m.
- No public comments. Public comments closed at 7:35 p.m.
- The Council discussed the budget.
- The public meeting was closed at 7:42 p.m.

New Business:

Resolution 240610-A- Adopt the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2024-2025:

Motion by Baldwin, second by Dean to approve Resolution No. 240610-A adopting general appropriation Act for fiscal year 2024-2025.. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Resolution 240610-B- Electing to Comply with Provisions of Public Act 152 of 2011 by Exercising the City's Right to Exempt Itself from the Requirements of the Act for the Current Year:

Motion by Muncey, second by Anderson to approve Resolution No. 240610-B electing to comply with provisions of Public Act 152 of 2011 by exercising the City's right to except itself from the requirements of the Act for the current year. Via roll call, motion carried unanimously.

Proposal for Planning of Maple Street Improvements:

Motion by Muncey, second by Dean to approve the Fleis & VandenBrink proposal for planning of Maple Street improvements in the amount of \$30,000. Via roll call, motion carried unanimously.

Agreement to Permit Temporary Access to Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area for Weather Research Activities:

Motion by Baldwin to deny the agreement to permit temporary access to Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area for weather research activities.

Motion by Baldwin to rescind her motion to deny and move to table to approve the agreement to permit temporary access to Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area for weather research activities.

Motion by Baldwin to withdraw her motion to deny and move to table to approve the agreement to permit temporary access to Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area for weather research activities.

Motion by Dean, second by Baldwin to deny the agreement to permit temporary access to Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area for weather research activities. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

City Manager Employment Agreement:

Motion by Baldwin, second by Anderson to approve the City Manager employment agreement as presented except to strike "(including core hours of ___ except when attending to City business offsite)" on page 1 and "(commission by Employee of other material and serious violations of the City's generally applicable personnel policies as amended from time to time)". Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Chris Peterson, resident: She supports the airport but not the conversation easement. She suggested slowing down the process, providing full transparency and an evaluation on the airport property.

Jaren Cruz, non-resident: Requested that Council consider a sandwich board at Main St./Bulter St. to direct tourist to increase foot traffic to Water St. businesses.

Sherry Tedaldi, resident: She noted that the residents pay the taxes and expect City Council to do what is best for the City with not spending more money that what is available.

Joe Leonatti, resident: His concern is not having the public not having the opportunity to have input in situations due to the timing of the meetings where decisions are being made.

Sevryn Novicki, resident: Requested that Council consider a sandwich board at Main St./Bulter St. to direct tourist to increase foot traffic to Water St. businesses.

Ashley Scholten, non-resident: Requested that Council consider a sandwich board at Main St./Bulter St. to direct tourist to increase foot traffic to Water St. businesses.

Correspondence:

- A. Board/Commission/Committee Vacancy Notice.

Council Comments:

- Councilmember Anderson:
 - Thanked the Treasurer Peter Stanislawski for his service to the City and well wishes with his new job at Saugatuck Township.
 - She loved the Clerk's report.
 - Happy upcoming Birthday to DPW Superintendent Herbert.
 - Congratulations to Ryan Cummins and is looking forward to working with him.
- Councilmember Gardner:
 - Thanked everyone for their public comments this evening.
 - Look forward to working with Ryan Cummins and appreciate his proper responses to questions he has had.
 - He supports the City Manager and would like to see:
 - A Council led process to ensure that City Manager Cummins is appropriately lead from a management standpoint.
 - The Council is the board of directors who are elected, and it is Council's job to provide leadership regarding the policies that are needed for the City Manager to do his work and work with the city staff.
 - Support for the City Manager that includes but is not limited to a bi-directional evaluation process, including a 360-feedback review, goal setting with measurable objectives, which he believes is in the agreement as well, and the training and mentoring needed to ensure that he goes on to grow into the position.
 - The Council needs to take a more proactive leader leadership and helping him do his job. So that's something councilmember Gardner looks forward to working with Ryan Cummins on along with the rest of the Council.

- Councilmember Baldwin:
 - Welcomed Ryan Cummins and thanked him for accepting the position.
 - She thanked Councilmember White for bringing Hudsonville ice cream to the Village Park Playground ribbon cutting ceremony.

- Councilmember Dean
 - Thanked Peter Stanislawski for his service to the City and the success that the City has enjoyed over the years in terms of a healthy fund balance and continued fiscal responsibility.
 - He congratulated Ryan Cummins and is excited for him.
 - He reminded all that the Council is the board of directors, Mr. Cummins is the CEO, Mayor Stanton is the chair of the board of directors. If everyone on the council were to go to the City Manager every day with a new priority, nothing will get done. He encourages all to continue to follow the City Strong Manger form of governance.

- Councilmember Muncey:
 - Thanked Peter Stanislawski, he has enjoyed working with him over the years. He appreciated his sense of humor, fiscal responsibility and helped make the town a great place to live in.
 - Cody Hardy will be missed, he is a valuable employee with a great attitude.
 - Congratulations Ryan Cummins and looks forward to working with him.
 - Noted SDABA used to do way finding signage to direct tourist to stores around town. Maybe that would be a good partnership with CVB.
 - Happy Father's Day this weekend.

- Councilmember White:
 - He really appreciates comments from the public today.
 - The Council needs to see how to support way finding signage without disrupting the war memorial in the park.

Adjournment:

Motion by Gardner, second by Muncey to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stanton adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk