



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
June 5, 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, White.

Absent: None.

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

Agenda Changes: None.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment: None.

Discussion Items:

Proposal for Planning of Maple Street Improvements:

Maple Street and the underground water main are in need of replacement. City Council listed roads, asset management, and lead service line replacement as essential infrastructure priorities for the year. This work is also on the City's capital improvement plan. The estimated cost of the Maple Street project is \$2.5 million. The City Engineer has submitted a proposal for planning of the Maple Street improvements in the amount of \$30,000. Planning work would take place in 2024 and early 2025, with formal design happening in 2025 and construction in 2026.

Water Capital Improvement Fee:

As part of the City's Drinking Water Asset Management Plan was a recommendation from Baker Tilly to implement a water capital improvement fee to provide adequate cash flow to fund necessary future improvements to water mains and lead service lines in the City. The need for a water capital improvement fee includes aging infrastructure and environmental compliance. The rationale for capital

improvement fee is user-pay principle, dedicate funding source and long-term financial stability. Baker Tilly's proposal for a dedicated funding source would be a recommended fees per month per meter equivalent unit (MEU). The estimated annual revenue would be \$331,680. An Ordinance and fee schedule update would be needed if Council chooses to approve.

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

The University of Colorado, on behalf of the University of Colorado Boulder's Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (UC Boulder), is requesting temporary access to City-owned property in the Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area, north of Oval Beach, for a weather research activity via drone over Lake Michigan. A representative from the University of Colorado was present to discuss with the Council on reasons they chose our area.

Councilmember White exited the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

Waste Services Agreement:

The City's waste services agreement is set to expire October 1st. The Council discussed frequency of recycling of going to twice a month instead of once. Bulk garbage pickup was introduced by councilmember Baldwin. Councilmember Anderson suggested composting. Councilmember Gardner noted that there should be communication with the residents on what they need from garbage services. Mayor Stanton suggested a survey for residents and Councilmember Muncey agreed.

Start Time for Council Meetings:

The Council revisited whether or not to change the start time for regular Council meetings from 7:00 p.m. to an earlier time. Times discussed were 6:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Public Comment:

Chris Peterson, resident: She is in support of the public use of the airport property but does not support the conservation easement agreement with the ODC.

Sheri Tedaldi, resident: She is upset the City is not prepared for the \$11 million and that the discussion was to put that on the taxpayers back. She suggested to rein in the spending.

Joe Leonatti, resident: He is concerned about the easement and other legalities involved with the airport. Suggested that the airport be on firm legal footing and he would like to see more input from residents.

Motion by Muncey, second by Anderson to move into a closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268 (e) and (h), to discuss a confidential written legal opinion 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. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

The council entered closed session at 5:37 p.m.

The council entered back into open session at 6:05 p.m.

Motion by Dean, second by Baldwin to accept legal counsel's recommendations for moving forward regarding 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 6-0.

Correspondence:

A. Jeff Scott, Ph.D.

Council Comments:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin: None.
- Councilmember Anderson: None.
- Councilmember Dean: Looking forward and will participate in any tours of the airport property.
- Councilmember Gardner: None.
- Councilmember Muncey: Jean's Greens and Magical Things has buy one get one free. Hanging baskets are \$20 and tomato plants are \$4. They are selling the rest of their plants at Black to the Fuchsia Flower Shop.

Adjournment:

Motion by Dean, second by Anderson to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk