



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 26, 2024**

The City Council met for Regular Council Meeting at 6:30 p.m.
City Hall
102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Stanton at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

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

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Cummins, Attorney Jake Witte and Deputy Clerk/DPW Admin Williams.

Mayor's Comments: Mayor Stanton noted that on September 16th at 7 p.m. there will be a ceremony honoring the amazing humans who jumped into action to save a man's life, who had a medical emergency and whose truck ended up in the Kalamazoo River. Two of them were Mayor Stanton's employees and two were very good friends of hers. The Labor Day Walk has been cancelled this year and hope to have it again next year. State Representative Rachel Hood and State Representative Joey Andrews chose Oval Beach to introduce two pieces of legislation aimed at protecting our state's critical dunes. Many businesses in town are short staffed with all the high school and college kids returning to school so please have patience when visiting local businesses.

City Manager Comments: City Manager Cummins informed everyone that the staff is sending communication to all the water customers in the city by mail and email. The lead service line verification project that the city received grant dollars from EGLE, one piece is trying to determine the material that enters each home. The letter going out is asking the resident of the community to assist us with determining the material that enters their home. Reminded everyone that signage around the city should be on private property and not in the city right of way. He thanked Lisa Mize and Ashley Siebelink from the CVB for re-painting the rainbow sidewalk by the SCA. City Manager Cummins has been in discussion with the Douglas City Manager and the Township Manager on creating a wildlife management committee that would compose representatives from each of the tri-communities and some other interested individuals.

Agenda Changes:

Councilmember Garnder requested that item 9e Parks and Public Works Committee be taken out of the consent agenda and moved to New Business for discussion.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Item Only:

Ethan Barde, 584 Lake Street: commented on the short-term rentals.

Chris Peterson, 742 Pleasant: commented on the short-term rentals.

John Thomas, 141 West: commented on the short-term rentals.

Tim Straker, 333 Culver: commented on the short-term rentals.

Glenna DeJong, Saugatuck Township: commented on the short-term rentals.

Bobbie Guant, 341 Mason: commented on the short-term rentals.

Nancy Kimble, 550 Spear: commented on the short-term rentals.

Laura Godfrey, 550 Francis: commented on the short-term rentals.

Sherry Tedaldi, North: commented on a councilmember's actions.

Jane Underwood, 130 Perryman: commented on short-term rentals.

Keith Charak, 541 Main: commented on short-term rentals.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes- August 12, 2024.
- B. Resolution 240826-A - Authorizing Qualified Institutions to Provide Investment Services for the City and Authorizing City Officers to Act as Signatories on Behalf of the City.
- C. 2024 Road Resurfacing Project – Award to Michigan Paving & Materials Co.
- D. TMF Water Service Material Verification Agreement.
- E. Banner Request for New Event.

Motion by Dean, second by Baldwin to approve the consent agenda. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

City Manager/Director of Planning & Zoning, City Clerk, Police and Engineer submitted status reports of current activities since the last Council meeting on August 12, 2024, for their respective departments.

Boards, Commissions & Committees:**Fire District Administration Board, Dan Fox:**

Recap from the August 19th meeting:

- He provided statistical charts that were included in the packet.
- The number of incident calls continues to increase.
- Explained the response times for Life EMS and STFD.
- Life EMS is situated at the fire house for eight hours a day for five days a week.
- He provided a map of all response calls for Life EMS.
- The fire department is working on a formal request for fire hydrants to be tagged to identify the different levels of flow.
- The school approached the fire district to use their antenna at the fire station and the fire board approved it.
- The fire department assisted in changing the roadblocks at Ferry Street that are easier to move in case of emergency and they need to move across the closure.

Interurban Board, Councilmember Muncey:

- Shuttle service is open until 11pm on Friday and Saturdays.
- Assisted in various special events shuttling people.
- Ridership increase of 3.5% for July.
- They found a contractor to start on their building expansion.
- The new director is doing a wonderful job and is receiving many compliments.
- They are working with the fire department to possibly have an employee shuttle service.

KLSWA, Mark Bekken:

Recap from the August 19th meeting:

- They approved a proposal from Eagle services in the amount of \$11,500 to clean the ferric chloride feed system.
- They accepted a proposal from Dixon Engineering for the inspection of the water systems reservoir.
- A sewer lift station in Douglas is starting to settle and sink, they are getting recommendations from engineers on how to correct that.
- They approved an agreement with the Township on how they charge their rates.
- Abby Bigford is now Vice Chairman for the board.
- Greg Freeman is the new Secretary Treasurer.
- The ongoing generator project is about 90% complete.
- The annual water sampling has been submitted to EGLE.
- They are working on a project to upgrade their SCADA water monitoring system.
- The board acknowledged the manager and staff for their response to the recent power outage due to the truck that crashed into a power pole.
- They put together four drafts for the water system agreement to present to the communities. Barry Johnson and himself are available to assist with any questions.

Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, Councilmember White:

- Next meeting is next month.

Zoning Board of Appeals, City Manager Ryan Cummins:

- They meet next month.

Historic District Commission, Councilmember Gardner:

- They meet on Thursday September 5th at 6 p.m.

Planning Commission, Councilmember Anderson:

- Next meeting is September 19th.

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

- Next meeting is tomorrow morning at 10 a.m.

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

- Nothing to report.

Request for Payment: None.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

A. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$602,485.62.

Motion by Gardner, second by Baldwin to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$602,485.62. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Ordinances: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Community Street & Boulevard Tree Planting Grant:

Motion by Muncey, second by Baldwin to approve the Consumers Energy Tree Planting Agreement and to authorize the Clerk and Mayor to sign the agreement. Via roll call, motion carried unanimously.

Metro Wireless WiFi Proposal for Oval Beach:

Motion by Baldwin, second by Muncey to approve the Metro Wireless proposal, terms, and conditions for Wi-Fi at Oval Beach. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 240826-A - Zoning Ordinance Amendment to Impose Maximum Limits on the Number of Short-Term Rentals in Specific Zoning Districts, Establish the Effect of Such Limits on Existing Licenses, and Establish how Available Licenses will be Issued, to Protect the Public Health, Safety, and Welfare:

Motion by Dean, second by Baldwin to approve Ordinance No. 240826-A to amend the City of Saugatuck's Zoning Ordinance to impose maximum limits on the number of short-term rental licenses in specific zoning districts, establish the effect of such limits on existing licenses, and establish how available licenses will be issued, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. Via roll call vote, motion carried 4-2. Yes – Anderson, Baldwin, Dean, Stanton. No – Gardner, Muncey. Abstain – White.

Ordinance No.240826-B - Short-Term Rental Licensing Ordinance Amendment to Impose Maximum Limits on the Number of Short-Term Rentals in Specific Zoning Districts, Establish the Effect of Such Limits on Existing Licenses, and Establish how Available Licenses will be Issued, to Protect the Public Health, Safety, and Welfare:

Motion to approve Ordinance No. 240826-B to amend the City of Saugatuck's Short-Term Rental Licensing Ordinance, Ordinance No. 240229-B, to impose maximum limits on the number of short-term rental licenses in specific zoning districts, establish the effect of such limits on existing licenses, and establish how available licenses will be issued, to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. Via roll call vote, motion carried 4-2. Yes – Anderson, Baldwin, Dean, Stanton. No – Gardner, Muncey. Abstain – White.

Short-Term Rental License Notification and Issuance Policy:

Motion to approve the Short-Term Rental License Notification and Issuance Policy. Via roll call vote, motion carried 4-2. Yes – Anderson, Baldwin, Dean, Stanton. No – Gardner, Muncey. Abstain – White.

Appointment of Judy Thiel to Parks and Public Works Committee:

Motion by Dean, second by Anderson to appoint Judy Thiel to the Parks and Public Works Committee with a term ending August 1, 2026. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Ethan Barder, 584 Lake Street: commented on the results of the short-term rental decision.

Laura Godfrey, 550 Francis: commented on the results of the short-term rental decision.

Bobbie Gaunt, 341 Mason: commented on the results of the short-term rental decision and the state representative event at Oval Beach.

Severyn Nowicki, 841 Holland: commented on the results of the short-term rental decision and Councilmember's reason for not discussing/voting on the topic.

Joe Leonatti, 712 Allegan: commented on the cell service communication and documentation.

Brad Lubbers, Manilus Township: Introduced himself as he is running to fill the vacant seat of County Commissioner.

Glenna DeJong, Saugatuck Township: commented on election procedures.

Chris Peterson, 742 Pleasant: commented on boards/committee applications.

Gary Medler, 461 Vine: commented on Ferry Street closure regarding emergency services.

Cathy Brockington, 989 Singapore Drive: commented on the results of the short-term rental decision.

Joe Coelho, 764 Mason: commented on the short-term rental decision.

Correspondence:**Council Comments:**

- Councilmember Anderson: Thanked everyone that has participated in the short-term rentals. It was challenging and sometimes a difficult discussion, it was healthy for the most part. She appreciates people who she does not agree with and who she does agree with. She thanked staff and attorney Jake Witte. She thanked Lisa Mize, director of the CVB for her work on the sidewalk recently and for the donation to support wireless at Oval Beach.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin: She appreciates the staff, legal counsel and Planning Commission for their efforts. Everybody who's participated in public comments both ways. She is a big fan of democracy. Not everyone will like the outcome, sometimes some need to compromise. They have made compromises on the Ordinances and it's a birthing process. She was happy to participate and glad for all efforts on both sides.
- Councilmember Gardner: Thanked the community. The community survived the Human Rights Ordinance dilemma back in the late 90's when he was Mayor and short-term rentals is far less contentious than that issue was. Those with experience have lived through worse. For the next workshop he would like an agenda item of alternatives to installing the antennas inside the radome. He would also like as an agenda item the discussion about the City Manager's goals and objectives. He has also requested multiple times the need for and update to the current ethics policy that hasn't been updated in 14 years.
- Councilmember Dean: In less than two weeks is the Mt. Baldhead Challenge, which is a multi-terrain long distance endurance event. He thanked everyone that have participated with the

short-term issues during the last 18 months. He thanked the Council and Planning Commission as well.

- Councilmember Muncey: Noted that everyone disagrees a lot, but it does not stop him from still visiting all the businesses in town regardless of their view points. Anyone that tries to make this more divisive or tries to separate the community is not doing anything to help the cause of the community. He does not approve of any kind of bullying or wrongdoing against any of the councilmembers. He will continue to collaborate and work in the community, because there is a difference of opinion and those that continue to try to make this a divisive subject are doing nothing to help it.
- Councilmember White: The third annual Saugatuck Film Festival is coming up on September 14th. They are picking up a ton of momentum as their submissions has more than doubled. The quality of the content that they are showing is that much better. They moved the event to September this year to increase the ability for people to walk around, because it used to be in November. Tickets just went on sale, if you are into art and would like to support the arts, come out as it will fun.

Adjournment:

Motion by Dean, second by Muncey to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stanton adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk