



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 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:

Others Present: City Manager Cummins, Attorney Jake Witte, Zoning Director Thompson, and Clerk Wolters.

Agenda Changes: None.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only: None.

Discussion Items:

Telecommunications Discussion:

The city council has been discussing telecommunications improvements, including cellular service and broadband. They have worked with Verizon to install small cell towers and approved staff working with AT&T to install a cellular antenna at Mount Bald Head. They have also partnered with Metro Wireless to provide Wi-Fi calling at the beach and are exploring options for fiber and public Wi-Fi.

The county is working on a larger broadband project, Jill Dunham, the county's Broadband Project Manager, provided an update on the project's progress:

Main project: Awarded through the Robin Grant Program, it's on track for a two-year completion. Currently 35%.

Additional projects:

- Rural Digital Opportunity Fund grants: Awarded to MEC (Midwest Energy Cooperative) for fiber optic installation in Casco, Pullman, and Cheshire (around 40-50% complete).

- Mercury Broadband: Planning to start construction next month in the southern part of the county, including Saugatuck Township.
- Bloomingdale project: To cover remaining areas.

Challenges:

- Identifying unserved addresses: Initial data provided by existing providers wasn't entirely accurate.
- Long driveways: Existing technologies like COEX may not reach them, making service expensive through traditional providers.

BEAD Grant (Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment):

- Aims to address remaining unserved areas, including those in Saugatuck's west coast.
- Application process is ongoing with the state waiting for final approval of eligible addresses. Once approved, a grant window will open with a 12-month fulfillment period.
- The state aims to find internet providers for all unserved addresses using a \$1.6 billion budget.

Sign Replacement Request from City of the Village of Douglas:

The City of the Village of Douglas have applied to replace their wayfinding sign at the intersection of Lake Street and Blue Star Highway, it's city right away, it requires council approval and a signed revocable license agreement.

No Wake Zone Request for Kalamazoo Lake:

Sergeant Marina Condominium Association has submitted a formal request that all of Kalamazoo Lake be no wake. Rick Lange from Sergeant Marina Condominium Association attended the meeting and shared the following thoughts:

- He has noticed a significant increase in wake over the past few years, leading to safety concerns and potential property damage.
- Large wakes, sometimes reaching 3 feet, are generated by boats traveling at high speeds (up to 50 mph). These wakes have caused damage to boats docked at the marina and posed a risk to people on board.
- He pointed out that other marinas with similar-sized bodies of water have implemented no-wake or speed restrictions to improve safety.
- He is calling for the implementation of no-wake or speed restrictions on Kalamazoo Lake to protect the marina and its residents. He emphasized the importance of safety and is considering taking further action if their concerns are not addressed.

Updated Rate Proposal from Republic Services:

The city council reviewed a rate proposal from Republic Services to extend the existing trash and recycling services.

Original proposal from Republic:

- Increase recycling pickup to bi-monthly.
- A five-year extension. Highlights include:
 - The year 1 rate of \$20.50 would be 28.3% higher than current rates, but include more frequent recycling pickup.
 - The rates would increase each year by 6%
 - The proposed year 1 rate is substantially lower than the competitive bid rate that Douglas received from Arrow Waste in 2022. That rate was \$19/month for trash and \$7.25/month for recycling for a combined rate of \$26.25/month.

- o Rear yard service will increase to \$20/month from \$15/month.

Updated Rate Proposal

City Council requested that staff work with Republic to lessen the number of years of the extended agreement and have rate increases match the consumer price index (CPI). Republic is proposing the same as above with the following changes:

- A four-year extension.
 - o Republic advised the pricing will change if it's at three years or less.
- Annual rate increases tied to the CPI for Water, Sewer, Trash, but no less than 4.5%.

City Manager Cummins provided an updated agreement from Republic for review. Staff is working with legal to make some additional changes:

Time of Collection

- Adding similar terms as the 2008 agreement, so we continue to have a say, especially on time collections start.

Complaints

- Adding language that they provide a copy of complaints and disposition details to the City upon request.

Annual Rate Adjustments

- Possible modifications to when rates may be adjusted.

Billing

- Clarifying that Republic should be responsible to continue to collect.

Indemnification

- Updating language to comply with caselaw.

Termination of Agreement

- Adding language that has similar termination terms as the existing agreement.

Benches for Village Square Park Playground:

Ryan Cummins presented the plan to place benches for visitors at the new playground at Village Square Park. The plan will also go to the Parks and Public Works Committee on September 24th and Historic District Commission for review on October 3rd.

Public Comments: None.

Correspondence: None.

Council Comments:

- Councilmember Anderson: Nice job to all the candidates at the candidate forum.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin: None.
- Councilmember Dean: The no wake zone, he is in favor but it's complicated. The city tried to pull it off during the high-water period. He wants the gentleman who is requesting the no wake that it involves the DNR and will be very time consuming and complicated. It is not something the council can approve alone.
- Councilmember Gardner: None.

- Councilmember Muncey: Echoed Dean's comments and hopes the gentleman has patience for the process. The Singapore Room is back open after they got so busy that they ran out of food. They are doing a great job.
- Councilmember White: Muncey and him have been sharing a microphone for a year.
- Mayor Stanton: Thursday September 19th she's meeting with the state representative Andrews at Everyday People Café with a lot of business owners to talk about the minimum wage bill.

Adjournment:

Motion by Dean , second by Anderson to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stanton adjourned the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk