



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
September 23, 2024**

The City Council met for a 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, Dean, Gardner, Muncey, White.

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Cummins, Attorney Trent Cunningham, Sergeant Haas and Clerk Wolters.

**Mayor's Comments:** Mayor Stanton thanked the Parks and Public Works Committee members Mayor Pro Tem Baldwin and Kelly Roche along with the 8th grade students for their work on the service project at the old airport property. She also highlighted the successful community night at the school before the football game and upcoming homecoming events. She thanked residents for attending the Maple Street project open houses and the League of Women Voters for hosting the candidate forum. She read a letter from retiring Captain Brett Ensfield of the Allegan County Sheriff's Department, expressing gratitude for his service to the community.

**City Manager Comments:** City Manager Ryan Cummins echoed the mayor's comments on the Maple Street open house. He congratulated Captain Ensfield on his retirement, he has been a huge help, very responsive and very professional and great to work with and well wishes on his next adventure. He thanked DPW, fire and police services for assistance in locating and removing a PVC pipe from the beach that was under water, broken and a safety hazard.

**Agenda Changes:** None.

**Guest Speakers:** None.

**Public Comment on Agenda Item Only:**

Becky Carten-Crandell, director of the Interurban: spoke in favor of the reappointment of Kathleen Johnson to the Interurban Board.

Kathleen Johnson, 334 Main: gave a brief overview of her reasons for applying for reappointment to the Interurban Board.

**Consent Agenda:**

*Motion by Baldwin, second by Muncey to approve the consent agenda, with the exception of having to update for the minutes, member Anderson's comments from the last meeting. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.*

**Staff Reports:**

The City Manager, Treasurer, City Clerk, Director of Planning & Zoning, Department of Public Works, Police and Engineer submitted status reports of current activities since the last regular council meeting on September 9, 2024, for their respective departments.

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

- The fire district has received almost \$21,000 so far this year from billing for services, such as the gas leak on Blue Star Highway and the incident with downed telephone pole in Douglas.
  - They continue to pursue cost recovery, though there are sometimes challenges collecting from multiple insurance companies.
- The fire district boat and crew assisted the City's DPW with removing the PVC pipe that was used to anchor the swimming area buoys at Oval Beach. Removing the partially buried pipe required specialized equipment and coordination between the fire district, the sheriff's office, and DPW.
- The fire district's new attenuator truck chassis is being outfitted with specialized equipment. This truck is designed to protect first responders on the highway. Dan provided an example of how important this type of truck is, showing a photo of a Michigan State Police vehicle that was struck, with the officer sustaining serious injuries.
- The fire district board subcommittee will be revisiting the parade and event security report that was previously presented to the council.

Interurban Board, Councilmember Muncey:

- The Interurban carried 11,877 riders in August, which is 13,125 more riders than the same time last year.
- The Interurban's ridership numbers are approaching pre-COVID levels, with 68,859 riders so far this year compared to 68,252 last year
- The Interurban is updating their website to allow riders to purchase their tickets online.
- They are also working on developing a mobile app for the Interurban, which is expected to be available next year.
- The Interurban's fiscal year is ending soon, so they have a big meeting coming up to approve the budget.
- They are also planning to approve a 5% wage increase across the board for Interurban staff.
- He expressed his appreciation for Kathy Johnson's 22 years of service on the Interurban Board and is glad she will continue to serve.

KLSWA:

- The residential sampling of water for the lead and copper rule has now been completed. Samples were collected from homes in the community and sent to the lab for testing.
- They are sampling of local water services to find the lead service lines, they are potholing to see where the connections are.
  - In Douglas Township, the lead service line identification work is 95% complete.
  - In the City of Saugatuck and Township of Saugatuck, the lead service line identification is 50% complete and expected to wrap up soon.
- The authority's monthly water quality reports and daily wastewater treatment plant monitoring have been submitted without issue.
- The authority conducted sampling and testing of the wastewater effluent, placing test animals in the water. All the test animals survived, indicating the high quality of the municipal wastewater discharge

Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, Councilmember White: None.

Zoning Board of Appeals: None.

Historic District Commission, Councilmember Gardner:

- Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 3, at 6 p.m.

Planning Commission, Councilmember Anderson:

- The planning commission held a public hearing to approve an ADU, but it was just shy of the required size.
- The commission will revisit this at their next meeting, considering either changing the ordinance to allow the existing ADU to be compliant, or proposing to lower the minimum square footage requirement for ADUs.
- The commission is looking at the waterfront zoning that was passed last year, specifically addressing the allowance of first-floor condos.
- They are considering either continuing to allow this through the PUD process or excluding it as permitted use.
- The commission will be scheduling a public hearing on the waterfront zoning review.

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

- Next meeting is the morning after the council meeting at 10 a.m.

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

- Scott reported that the initial project budget for the trail is now coming in 25% higher than originally budgeted. This is due to the need for more boardwalk and retaining wall work than initially anticipated.
- The engineering firm, C2AE, will be reaching out to the MDOT grant coordinators to inquire about the possibility of securing additional funding to cover the increased costs.
- If additional funding cannot be secured, the committee will need to look at contingency plans and potential adjustments to the project scope to address the budget shortfall.

**Request for Payment:** None.

**Approval of Accounts Payable:**

- A. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$2,919,310.18.

*Motion by Muncey, second by Gardner to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$2,919,310.18. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.*

**Introduction of Ordinances:** None.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Fifth Amendment to Waste Services Agreement:

*Motion by Baldwin, second by Dean to approve the fifth amendment to waste services agreement. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.*

**Public Comment:**

Emily Jipp, a candidate for Circuit Court Judge: Introduced herself and discussed her qualifications and priorities.

**Correspondence:**

- A. Drew Ebrom
- B. Hudson Rodewald
- C. Boards/Committee Openings

**Council Comments:**

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Councilmember Anderson:

She enjoys the correspondence in the packet from the children. Jon Moxey did a great job at the Maple Street open house. She noted it was great to see community involvement. Councilmember White was her cohort, she is excited for him, and he will be missed.

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin:

Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin thanked the 6th and 8th grade students who participated in the service project at the old airport property. She said it was a unique experience working with the students. The students were very enthusiastic, running through the brush to clear the trails. She spent her time counting to make sure she didn't lose any of the 13 students in her group. She enjoyed being able to show the students the airport property and talk to them about conservation and the importance of the site.

Councilmember Gardner:

Councilmember Gardner thanked Kathy Johnson for her service and continued efforts on serving the Interurban Board. He thanked Councilmember White and appreciates him. Save the date for July 4, 2026, as the United States will be celebrating its 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, it's called a semi-quincentennial. There is a small group that is being formed and has begun planning local recognition and anniversary details to follow.

Councilmember Dean:

He thanked Councilmember White for his service to the city and his service on this board and is hopeful there'll be another opportunity to show appreciation to his time on Council. He thanked the Holland League of Women Voters for putting on the candidate forum on Tuesday at the high school.

Councilmember Muncey:

He shared that the city will be decorating for fall again this week. Volunteers will be meeting on Thursday evening to learn how to make bows for the decorations. On Friday, the DPW will be distributing hay bales, corn stalks, and pumpkins, and volunteers will help set them up around town. Muncey thanked businesses like Wicks Park Bar and Grill for providing pizza for the volunteers, as well as Jeanne from Back to the Fuchsia for donating ribbon and the Quaint Cottages for contributing funds for the decorations. He mentioned that the Christmas lights are already starting to go up around town, and he is very excited about the upcoming holiday season.

Councilmember White:

Councilmember White announced that he will be moving to Holland, Michigan, and as a result, will no longer be able to serve on the city council. He does not have an exact timeline for his departure, as they are still working on getting some work done on their new house. He recommended that the council consider appointing Auston Marineau to serve in his seat. Logan has known Auston for a long time, since elementary school, and believes he would serve the city well. He will continue to be involved in the community, such as with the film festival. He wanted to give heads up to help in executing a successful transition.

**Adjournment:**

*Motion by Muncey, second by Baldwin to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stanton adjourned at 7:19 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted

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Jamie Wolters, City Clerk