



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 26, 2022

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 Lewis at 7:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Mayor Lewis, Mayor Pro-Tem Dean, Councilmembers Bekken, Gardner, Leo, Stanton & Trester.

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Heise, DPW Superintendent Herbert, Assistant DPW Supervisor Hardy, Deputy Clerk/DPW Assistant Williams & Clerk Wolters.

Consent Agenda:

A. Regular City Council Meeting Minutes – September 12, 2022.

- a. Under “New Business”, Item B- on the first line of the motion, change “the table” to “to table”. On the last line of the motion, change the date from October 1st to October 22nd-23rd.

B. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$1,988,659.63.

Motion by Leo, second by Trester, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

City Manager, Treasurer, Zoning Administrator, DPW Superintendent, Fire, Engineer and Police submitted status reports of current activities since the last Council meeting on September 12th, 2022, for their respective departments. Lt. Ensfield was on-line for questions from Council. Engineer Jon Moxey was in-person for questions from the Council.

Agenda Change:

Mayor Lewis moved item #17 Mayor’s comments to #7.

Mayor Comments:

Mayor Lewis addressed agenda item #14 correspondence piece from Mr. Gary Medler. Mr. Medler submitted a petition to rectify an abuse of power regarding Resolution 200311-B. Legal counsel spoke during the Council meeting and stated that the Resolution does not contain any penalties for violations. The appointments made for the Zoning Board of Appeals are governed by the state statute called the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act. The appointments made for the Planning Commission are governed by the Michigan Planning Enabling Act. Under State law there are no grounds to invalidate these appointments. Mayor Lewis and City Manager apologized for misinterpreting the process and promised to do better in the future.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

Peg Sanford, City of Saugatuck- Questioned Council on what happened to the City Charter rules and doesn't think Council follows them.

Helen Baldwin, City of Saugatuck- Her observations of the petitions signed reflect about what seems to be 200 signatures from Saugatuck residents. The first eleven pages are submitted twice, about 46 are Saugatuck residents.

Dan Fox, City of Saugatuck and Fire Board Representative- Reported from the Saugatuck Township Fire Department Fire Board meeting from September 19th.

Barry Johnson, City of Saugatuck- Thanked Mayor and City Manager for addressing the Correspondence.

Gary Medler, City of Saugatuck- Thanked City for including the petition on the agenda. 146 voters signed the petitions, more would have but felt retaliated against.

Introduction of Ordinances: None

Public Hearings: None

New Business:**A. Recommendation of Award-Water Street Sidewalk Improvements:**

City Council identified sidewalk connectivity- (Dewey property to Willow Park) at Lucy and Water as a top ranked essential priority infrastructure project at their December 2021 meeting. Engineers were engaged to create bid specifications for the project and solicit bids. Please see the attached summary provided by Fleis & Vandenbrink. There was a crosswalk request made at a previous Council meeting which will be incorporated into the project. I am recommending that the City assume the full cost for the sidewalk improvements (which should not be precedent setting)..

Motion by Dean, second by Leo, to approve the bid for sidewalk improvements on Water Street in the amount of \$64,632.00 from the public work project general fund. Contract to be executed by the Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Gregory Muncey, City of Saugatuck- reminded Council that he will be assisting SDABA with the annual fall decoration in the city.

Dan Fox, City of Saugatuck- noted that the Resolution in question regarding the correspondence was offered by the currently serving Mayor.

Catherine Simon, City of Saugatuck- state that Council rather than sorting out which residents on the petition vote and who said what. The compilation of signatories is people that have an investment in this community.

Barry Johnson, City of Saugatuck- noted at the last Council meeting that Councilmember Gardner requested what the costs have been for the Dune Ridge litigation.

Correspondence:

- Gary Medler- Petition to rectify an abuse of power.

Boards, Commissions & Committees Reports:

- Councilmember Dean- noted that Parks and Public Works Committee has its first meeting on 9-27-22, first time in ten years.
- Councilmember Gardner- updated Council that the State Historic Preservation Office approved the nomination of the Mt. Baldhead radar station to the National Register of Historic Places. He thanked all members of the community that worked hard to make this happen. This will be about a 45-day turnaround to the US Department of the Interior for them to actually take the nomination and they usually approve it.
- Councilmember Bekken-updated Council on KLSWA last meeting. First time in history the wastewater that went out to Lake Michigan had traces of Hexachlorobenzene. They approved \$46,000 not to exceed \$46,756 to rehab and rebuild well number five, which is in the City of Saugatuck.
- Councilmember Leo- very excited about the initial look at the trust fund score for the City of Saugatuck. They are continuing to work through the process and look forward to more detailed feedback soon.
- Mayor Lewis- Recycling Committee has their successful Styrofoam collection event. 62 vehicles arrived between the hours of nine and three. She thanked all the members of the community that helped out.

Council Comments:

- Councilmember Dean- had the opportunity to view a presentation of the Lily Pad Boats at Retro Boats. The boats are completely self-sustaining and made in Michigan.
- Councilmember Gardner- thanked the residents, business owners and property

owners that participated in the petition that was in the packet. He thanked the Mayor for her apology regarding the petitions. He was disappointed the Council workshop was canceled last week, reason being it ought to be used for not just agenda items put for policy discussions. It is a missed opportunity every time the workshops are canceled. He acknowledged that the City Manager did send out an email prior to the meeting with the legal costs for the project across the river. The League of Women Voters is hosting a forum on October 5th at All Saints Episcopal Church for all Council candidates to speak. Councilmember Gardner asked City staff to put the announcement on its website, and asked Council to give the City staff the same directions.

- Councilmember Stanton- thanked all the volunteers for all the events that are about to take place with SDABA and decorating town, Glow in the Park, Halloween Parade and all the events in the town. She also spoke on the Lily Pad boat presentation that took place at Retro Boats that included a number of State Dignitaries. It was a great day to show off the Saugatuck Harbor in that way.
- Councilmember Trester- his thoughts on the petition issue had been expressed by others and thanked Mayor for handling it in a very forward manner.
- Councilmember Bekken- noted the Mayor apologized for the Council also since the Council approved those appointments. He asked City Manager Heise why the City staff did not put the Council candidate announcement on the website.
- Councilmember Leo- congratulated the DPW staff for a good beach season and understand that there was success with staffing, which is remarkable since how difficult staffing is for everyone. That speaks volume for the leadership and the work put in starting early in winter.
- Mayor Lewis- Coastal Alliance Townhall meeting is on September 27th at the SCA at 6:30 p.m. Saturday October 1st is Glow in the Park. Regarding the League of Women Voters or any other kind of political type announcements, generally in the past the City has been like Switzerland. The City has never posted nor promoted any political activity and that does not include individuals and their own personal social media.

Adjournment: *Motion by Dean, second by Leo to adjourn, Mayor Lewis adjourned at 8:01 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk