



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES September 4, 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(entered meeting at 4:02 p.m.) White.

Absent: Muncey.

Others Present: City Manager Cummins, Attorney Chris Patterson, Attorney David Szymanski, Clerk Wolters.

Agenda Changes: None.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

Christine Murphy-Pierce, 449 Water Street: commented on item #6A, rate proposal for Republic Services.

Discussion Items:

Rate Proposal from Republic Services:

The current five-year service agreement with Republic Services is set to expire October 1. Council requested a survey from residents to evaluate whether residents were satisfied with the current services.

Trash Services Survey Results

- The City received 159 responses to the trash and recycling services survey.
- 70% of respondents expressed that they are very satisfied or satisfied with the current trash collection services. 12% were neutral and 18% were dissatisfied.

Rate Proposal from Republic

- Republic has agreed to increase recycling pickup to bi-monthly which will meet the most requested service improvement.

- Household hazardous waste disposal was discussed as an option. Republic is willing to offer this, but customers would have to drive to Holland for this annual offering. The County has recently offered this service at no cost.
- Republic has proposed rates for five years. Highlights include:
 - o 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%
 - o The proposed rate is \$2 higher per month than the rates Douglas is at.
 - o 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.

Proposed Tri-Community Wildlife Committee:

The tri-community has been receiving complaints regarding the urban deer population. The City of Douglas has proposed the creation of a Tri-Community Wildlife Management Committee. This committee would involve representatives from Douglas, Saugatuck Township, and Saugatuck City, working together to develop comprehensive solutions.

Agreement with Bendzinski & Co. for Water and Sewer Agreement Consulting Services:

Andy Campbell, who was previously with Baker Tilly, has been working with the City of Saugatuck, City of Douglas, and Saugatuck Township, on water and sewer agreement negotiations with Kalamazoo Lake Sewer & Water Authority. Mr. Campbell recently started in a new position with Bendzinski & Co. Municipal Finance Advisors. Baker Tilly has allowed each municipality to end the agreement with them, without any cost or billings, understanding that Mr. Campbell brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table as it pertains to these negotiations. City Manager Cummins is requesting that the Council re-engage with Andy Campbell by signing an agreement with Bendzinski & Co. Municipal Finance Advisors for his services.

Review of Policy on Ethical Standards of Conduct:

Councilmember Gardner and White requested a review of the City's ethics policy. City Manager Cummins provided the current ethics policy adopted in 2008 for discussion.

Public Comments: None.

Correspondence: Board vacancy notice for the Interurban Transit Authority Board.

Council Comments:

- Councilmember Anderson: None.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin: None.
- Councilmember Dean: Have a great holiday weekend. Congratulations to the staff for showing the town as a wonderful place for folks to visit.
- Councilmember Gardner: None.

- Councilmember White: None.
- Mayor Stanton: None.

Adjournment:

Motion by Anderson, second by Dean to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stanton adjourned the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk