



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 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. *Motion by Anderson, Second by Dean to approve councilmember Gardner's absence at the beginning of this evening's meeting. Via voice vote, motion carried 6-0.*

Gardner entered the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

Absent: None.

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

Mayor's Comments: The Mt. Baldhead Challenge was a fantastic race as it gets better and better every single year. Congratulations to Rotary as 600 plus runners are a part of it and all proceeds go to the Boys and Girls Club. Thank you to DPW, Police, Fire and volunteers for making it happen. Looking forward to the Saugatuck Film Festival that is coming up.

City Manager Comments: Maple Street open house is September 17th with two sessions, the first session is 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. and second session is 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The water material service material verification will be starting. The grant funded requirement is the city needs to verify several water service lines in the city to see if they contain lead. The contractor will poke holes in different parts of the city, whether it be the road, city right of way or potentially sidewalks. There will be door hangers on properties that they need to service inside. Oval Beach had a busy summer. The Oval Beach Manager Noah Aramendi and his team did a great job.

Agenda Changes: None.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Item Only: None.

Consent Agenda:

- A.** Regular Meeting Minutes- August 26, 2024.
- B.** Agreement with Bendzinski & Co. for Water and Sewer Agreement Consulting Services
- C.** Designation of Luke Thompson as Zoning Administrator and Historic District Administrator
- D.** Third Year of Holiday Lighting Agreement with Chips Groundcover
- E.** Special Event - SHS Homecoming Parade
- F.** Special Event - Family & Pet Halloween Parade
- G.** Special Event - Christmas Tree Lighting & Holiday Kick Off
- H.** Special Event - Christmas Parade
- I.** Banner Request - Ugly Sweater Christmas Pub Crawl

Motion by Baldwin, second by White to approve the consent agenda. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

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 Council meeting on August 26, 2024, for their respective departments.

Boards, Commissions & Committees:

Fire District Administration Board, Dan Fox:

- Next meeting is September 16th.
- The total number of calls has increased 22% this year.
- Response times have gone down to 6 minutes 21 seconds which is down from just over 7 minutes.
- 52 calls for August, up from 40 last year.
- 53 simultaneous calls have increased as last year was 36.
- 58% of the calls are EMS regarding falls.
- 49 motor vehicle accidents is up from 41 a year ago.
- There was a wonderful letter in the paper regarding her husband that fell and the emergency response.

Interurban Board, Councilmember Muncey:

- Next meeting is September 18th.
- They are moving forward with the building expansion.
- Kathy Johnson will be reapplying to serve another term on the Interurban Board.
- The new director Becky is doing a wonderful job.

KLSWA: None.

Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, Councilmember White:

- Next meeting is September 17th.

Zoning Board of Appeals: None.

Historic District Commission, Councilmember Gardner:

Recap from the meeting on September 5th:

- 413 Lake Street requested new rear doors and windows which was approved.

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- The other discussion was for the history sign to be placed at Village Square Park, there was feedback given to the city manager by the members on placement.
- They had 4 administrative approvals.

Planning Commission, Councilmember Anderson:

- Next meeting is a week from Thursday.

Parks and Public Works Committee, Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin: None.

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

- Next meeting is in the works to schedule.
- Construction start date is still scheduled from spring of 2025.

Request for Payment: None.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

A. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$68,748.78.

Motion by Baldwin, second by Anderson to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$68,748.78. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Introduction of Ordinances: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Historic Markers at Village Square Park and West Chain Ferry Dock:

Motion by Dean, second by Muncey to approve the historic marker installation at Village Square Park and west Chain Ferry dock, contingent upon final location details being approved by staff. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Creation of a Tri-Community Wildlife Committee:

Motion by Anderson, second by Baldwin to approve to approve partnering with the City of the Village of Douglas and Saugatuck Township to create a Tri-Community Wildlife Management Committee with a sunset date of December 31, 2025 unless an extension is approved, and to appoint Council Member Dean to serve on the committee. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Regular Meeting Date Changes:

Motion by Baldwin, second by Dean to reschedule the October 14th regular meeting to October 9th, 2024, and reschedule the November 11th regular meeting to November 12th, 2024. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Patricia Smith, 995 Lake Street: commented on seating at the playground at Village Park.

Joe Leonatti, 712 Allegan: commented on the city ethics policy.

Correspondence: None.

Council Comments:

- Councilmember Anderson: She addressed Councilmember Gardner's comments about the importance of updating the city's ethics policy. She acknowledged that while much of what Gardner outlined about the need for an updated ethics policy was valid, some of those points would be better suited for separate organizational policies rather than the ethics policy itself. She reminded Gardner that he was part of the initial unanimous vote on the short-term rental moratorium, but then later in a public meeting accused city staff and officials of "nefarious" or criminal behavior regarding the introduction of that moratorium. She expressed that this type of behavior, where an elected official disparages and accuses staff of criminal actions without evidence, is a major breach of ethical conduct. Anderson argued that this hypocrisy from Gardner, where he calls for an improved ethics policy but has himself exhibited unethical behavior, is "breathtaking." She emphasized that ethical behavior should be the baseline for how the organization operates.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin: The Mt. Baldhead challenge was a wonderful turnout with 600 runners and 150 volunteers. She is proud of the Rotary for taking care of the Boys and Girls Club program. She piggybacked on councilmember Dean's ethics policy comment and noted that the ethics policy was looked at as early as July 23, 2024.
- Councilmember Gardner: He apologized for being late. He reiterated the importance of updating the ethics policy and listed specific reasons. He met with a cultural resource protection manager with the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office regarding the AT&T project. They informed councilmember Gardner that the FC requested that AT&T consult with SHPO and tribes to complete a NHA PA Section 106 review. Councilmember Gardner recommended to the council that they be proactive in looking at other alternatives in case the review is not approved.
- Councilmember Dean: He answered the constituent comment about the city not having an ethics policy. The ethics policy is resolution 081110-C and was included in the city council's September 4th packet and was on page 25. He complimented the city staff, athletes, volunteers and Rotary for putting on a great event.
- Councilmember Muncey: He promoted Community Night, this Friday and is the first done by the High School. It will be in the softball field and starts at 6:30 p.m. with great activities. Decorating downtown will start soon.
- Councilmember White: He said the new signs on the bathrooms at city hall are gender neutral and that's great and efficient. He brought to attention that the Adult Halloween Parade needs funding this year, he does not have an answer but something to think about. The Saugatuck Film Festival is this weekend, and the quality of the films is absolutely going to create a record year. They are having a pre-release screening of a movie with recognizable actors. The event will be at the Women's Club downtown Saugatuck.

Adjournment:

Motion by Muncey, second by Baldwin to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stanton adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk