

**Minutes**  
**Saugatuck City Council**  
**Saugatuck, Michigan, October 12, 2020 7:00 P.M.**

The City Council met in regular session at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video/audio conference technology due to COVID-19 restrictions currently in place.

1. **Call to Order** by Mayor Trester at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Attendance**

**Present:** Bekken, Johnson, Leo, Lewis, Peterson, Trester, and Verplank

**Absent:** None

**Others Present:** Interim City Manager Karen Doyle Homan, Clerk Erin Wilkinson, Treasurer Peter Stanislawski, Lt. Brett Ensfield, Randy Dirosa, and Chief Greg Janik

3. **Approval of Minutes:**

**Regular City Council Meeting of September 28, 2020:** A motion was made by Johnson, 2nd by Verplank, to approve the meeting minutes of September 28, 2020 as amended. Upon roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

4. **Mayor's Comments:** Mayor Trester commented on the following:

- Thanked Saugatuck Douglas Rotary Club for hosting the virtual City Council candidate forum;
- Announced the City of Saugatuck has not historically made a statement about Halloween or suggested acceptable times for Trick-or-Treating, but we have shared the Allegan County Health Department guidelines through our website and Facebook;
- Provided a COVID-19 update: Michigan reported 1522 new infections on Saturday, the highest since April 7th, pushing the 7 day average above 1000 for the first time since April; recommended continuing to be cautious and encouraged our community to remain vigilant; and noted the schools reported 6 cases and moved to virtual learning for two weeks;
- Michigan Municipal League has advised council to speak with the attorneys about meeting virtually, until the Senate Bill 11-08 has passed; and
- Recognized Mark Bekken who paid tribute to Phil Quade for his many contributions and years of service to the community.

5. **City Manager's Comments:** Interim City Manager Karen Doyle Homan:

- Offered clarification around the accrued personal time-off payout to City Manager Kirk Harrier, in response to comments made about the amount at the last meeting. Last year the council passed a new personal policy that placed a maximum on the number of hours that may be accrued. The new policy combines all time off (vacation, sick, and PTO) and allows employees in their first year to earn 160 hours of paid time off. Broken down by a traditional policy that would amount to 12 sick days, 3 personal days, and 1 week of vacation.

6. **Agenda Changes:** None

7. **Guest Speakers:**

**A. Lt. Brett Ensfield – Allegan Co. Sheriff Department:** Provided Council with an update on the following: worked with the City Clerk to resolve a complaint from a citizen regarding a digital speed sign on Allegan Rd. that had been removed, and temporarily installed a replacement sign (while weather permits); staff has been working on mandatory training, and ran firearms range this week; a few extra reserves are scheduled for Halloween night; an individual has been identified, who was stealing campaign signs, the case has been turned over to the prosecuting attorney; and Lt. Ensfield responded to Council Member Lewis and Mayor Trester that he would look into the feasibility of providing a quarterly or annual report in the format council has requested.

**B. Randy Dirosa - Saugatuck Douglas History Center: Fish Shanty Restoration Project Update:** the History Center is working on a restoration project and want to evaluate The City's interest in the project; the goal would be to use the old fish shanty as an exhibit and educational tool; the location where it will be relocated is yet to be determined; there is public and private interest in the project; and the History Center would like to continue conversations with The City.

**8. Public Comment:**

- **Scott Dean** - (13B) Eurasian Milfoil Study Group - encouraged Council to work with the City of Douglas.
- **Lauren Stanton** - (13 A&B, \_\_) - encouraged Council to make a plan to treat the river by next Spring and evaluate what can be done up river; asked Council to encourage safe trick-or-treating and post the Allegan County Health Department guidelines; expressed a preference for continuing virtual Zoom Council meetings; and remarked about the International Fire Code being controversial and discouraged council from supporting the fee schedule amendment requested by the Saugatuck Township Fire District.

**9. Request for Payment:** A motion was made by Lewis, second by Johnson to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$70,051.24. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

**10. Introduction of Ordinances:** None

**11. Public Hearings:** None

**12. Unfinished Business:** None

**13. New Business:**

**A. Amendment to add International Fire Code Board of Appeals fee to Fee Schedule:** A motion was made by Peterson, second by Johnson, to approve the City of Saugatuck Schedule of Fees incorporating the fee structure for IFC Board of Appeals. Upon roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

**B. Creation of Eurasian Water Milfoil Study Group:** A motion was made by Johnson, second by Peterson, to approve the creation of a Eurasian Water Milfoil Study Group consisting of two council persons, two city residents, and the city manager with a February 1, 2021 deadline to bring a recommendation for treatment to the City Council. Upon roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

**C. Budget Amendment:** A motion was made by Verplank, second by Lewis, to approve Resolution No. 201012-A amending the FY 20/21 budget as presented. Upon roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

**D. Resolution No. 201012-B - Requesting Nonprofit Recognition for Saugatuck Sportfishing Association:** A motion was made by Bekken, second by Verplank, to approve the City of Saugatuck Resolution No. 201012-B as presented. Upon roll call vote the motion carried unanimously.

**14. Consent Agenda:** None

**15. Public Comments:**

- **Jane Underwood** - Commented on removing the speed signs on Park St. and encouraged council to pursue a walking and bike path on Park; and encouraged council to deal with the milfoil issue.
- **Todd Hoskins** - Thanked Mayer Trester for the COVID-19 update and encouraged The City to communicate updates more regularly.
- **David Blandford** - Commented on Park Street safety and thanked City Council for the work they have done to make it safer, including the addition of three radar speed signs and added police presence; stated the three proposed options for increased safety along Park St. are not suitable or appropriate for the street and would negatively impact a number of residents and commended city council for pursuing common sense options to address the issue.
- **Steffanie Vlasity** - Requested data on accidents and incidents on Park St. to adequately evaluate the severity of the safety issue.
- **Gary Medler** - Commented on Dune Ridge construction.

**16. Communications:**

- A. Phyllis Yff Thank You Note** (ACCEPT AS INFORMATION)
- B. Kenneth Altman Letter Re Park Street Non-Motorized Study** (ACCEPT AS INFORMATION)
- C. Richard E. Heriford Letter Re Park Street Non-Motorized Study** (ACCEPT AS INFORMATION)

**17. Boards, Commissions & Committee Reports:** Fire Board summary and statistics were provided by Chief Janik.

**18. Council Comments:** Council Member Peterson thanked merchants and restaurants for keeping up with their response to the pandemic; thanked Sean Steele for moving the fish shanty; and thanked the CVB for donating to the Christmas lights project.

Council Member Lewis requested the council follow up on scheduling a meeting with Jon Vanderbeek, an independent local resident working on the Tri-Community Walking Trail Master Plan, to present his trail master plan.

Mayor Trester commented he had been working with Jon Vanderbeek to schedule a meeting.

**19. Adjournment:** A motion was made by Verplank, 2nd by Peterson to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin K. Wilkinson

City Clerk