

Minutes
Saugatuck City Council
Saugatuck, Michigan, December 14, 2020

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 Bekken at 7:00 p.m.

2. **Attendance**
Present: Dean, Leo, Lewis, Peterson, Trester, Stanton, Bekken
Absent: None
Others Present: Interim City Manager Doyle Homan, Clerk Wilkinson, Zoning Administrator Osman, and Finance Director/Treasurer Stanislawski

3. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. **Regular City Council Meeting of November 23, 2020** - A motion was made by Peterson, 2nd by Dean, to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of November 23, 2020 as amended to update Sean Steel created the tree in Coghlin Park. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

 - B. **Special City Council Meeting of November 30, 2020** - A motion was made by Trester, 2nd by Leo, to approve the Special City Council Meeting Minutes of November 30, 2020 as amended to update the time council entered back into open session was 8:28 pm. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

 - C. **Special City Council Meeting Closed Session of November 30, 2020** - A motion was made by Leo, 2nd by Peterson, to approve the Special City Council Meeting Minutes from the Closed session of November 30, 2020. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

4. **Mayor's Comments:** None

5. **City Manager's Comments:** Jim Sellman is pulling the \$100k donation from the Wick's Park Band Shell project, because it is causing such division in the community. He offered to cover any engineering or other fees the city may have

incurred, as he didn't feel the taxpayers should be responsible for that expense.

The fence between the Chain Ferry and the private docks owned by Dune Ridge, has been met with public resistance. Staff is following up to get all the facts.

Chief Janik proposed a snowplowing mutual-aid agreement with the City of Saugatuck, the City of Douglas, and the Saugatuck Township Fire District. All met and began working on an agreement to work together throughout the winter with COVID-19 still affecting staffing.

The City has withdrawal from Community Safety Rating (CSR) program, because the benefits don't outweigh the time and effort it takes staff to comply with the reporting.

6. Agenda Changes: None

7. Guest Speakers:

A. Lt. Brett Ensfield – Allegan Co. Sheriff's Department - Lt. Ensfield reported Deputy Flokstra was able to fly the drone to get some photos of the erosion.

8. Public Comment: Dan Fox (resident) (13F) remarked on the City Manager candidates and wondered if the candidates would consider living within the city limits of Saugatuck. He also mentioned the Fire Department does not have a dump truck or large plow truck.

9. Request for Payment: A motion was made by Lewis, 2nd by Trester, to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$159,179.89. 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. Ordinance Amendment State of Emergency Declaration - A motion was

made by Lewis, 2nd by Peterson, to adopt Ordinance 201214-A, amending Title III, Chapter 31, Entitled "ADMINISTRATION; DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS" to add a new section 31.02 entitled "EMERGENCY DECLARATIONS" to the Code of the City of Saugatuck. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

B. Extend Advisory Tri-Community Recycling Ad Hoc Committee - A motion was made by Leo, 2nd by Dean, to approve the resolution 201214-A, to extend the Advisory Tri-Community Recycling Ad Hoc Committee through 2021. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

C. Allegan County Interlocal Agreement For County Designated Assessor - A motion was made by Lewis, 2nd by Trester, to approve entering into the Allegan County Interlocal Agreement and Designated Assessor Contract. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

D. Appoint Brian Stephens to the Board of Review - A motion was made by Stanton, 2nd by Dean, to approve the appointment of Brian B. Stephens to the City of Saugatuck Board of Review with such term expiring January 1, 2022. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

E. Reappoint Ken Vlasity to the Board of Review - A motion was made by Trester, 2nd by Peterson, to approve the re-appointment of Ken Vlasity to the City of Saugatuck Board of Review with such term expiring January 1, 2023. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

F. City Manager Search - A motion was made by Leo, 2nd by Trester, to make a conditional offer of employment as Saugatuck City Manager to Ryan Heise contingent on successful background check and contractual negotiations. Mayor Bekken and Mayor Pro Tem Lewis are authorized to work with Mr. Walsh in negotiating the City Manager Contract. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

14. Consent Agenda: None

15. Public Comments: Jane Underwood (resident) expressed concern for pedestrian safety with the new fence on Park Street next to the Chain Ferry.

Barry Johnson (resident) expressed how impressed he was with Frank Walsh's consulting services and Ryan Heise as a candidate. He also suggested he would have comments forthcoming on the Park Street fence issue, when it arises.

Cindy Osman (non-resident) suggested the City Manager may wish to reiterate her comments about the Wicks Park Bandshell project and Park Street fence issue, as several of the people interested in speaking may have joined the meeting after the comments were first shared. Interim City Manger Doyle Homan restated the information.

Peg Sanford (resident) informed council she had collected 937 petition signatures in support of the gazebo and restroom facilities in Wick's Park and hoped council would consider that moving forward and let them know the group is supportive to help in any way they can moving forward.

16. Communications:

A. Email from Gordon Lefort (Received as Information)

17. Boards, Commissions & Committee Reports: Council received a report from the Historic District Commission and Tri-Community Recycling Committee.

18. Council Comments: Council Member Lewis expressed thanks to Frank Walsh for his services.

Council Member Leo expressed regret for the Wick's Park donation being withdrawn and thanked Jim Sellman and David Balas for their generosity.

Council Member Stanton expressed deep gratitude to Jim Sellman for the contribution and thoughtful consideration for what the community wanted. She suggested council develop a list of projects other donors could contribute to and said she hopes we can find a way to resolve the Park Street fence issue.

Mayor Bekken also thanked Jim Sellman for his generous donation and suggested the project not working out and subsequent withdrawal of the donation in no way diminishes the affection, respect and appreciation the community holds for both Jim Sellman and the memory of David Balas. They have both been stellar community residents and he thanked Jim Sellman.

19. Adjourn: A motion was made by Lewis, 2nd by Trester, to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 pm. Upon roll call vote the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin K. Wilkinson
City Clerk