



CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

July 20, 2022

The City Council met for Regular Council 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 Lewis at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Mayor Lewis, Mayor Pro-Tem Dean, Councilmembers Bekken, Gardner, Leo, Stanton. Trester entered meeting at 4:01 p.m.

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Heise, Project Coordinator/Deputy Clerk White & Clerk Wolters.

Agenda Change: None

Guest Speakers:

Maryjo Lemanski, former Saugatuck gallery owner- who previously proposed a multi-community artwork initiative returned to update Council with the artwork description along with the proposed Cook Park placement.

Rusti Owens-Engineer at C2AE- updated Council on the TAP grant application for the Blue Star Non-Motorized Trail project. The application reviewal process has yielded six additional questions for the City to respond to. Numbered are the six questions and bullets are proposed responses from the City.

1. Both MDOT and the SHPO archaeologists recommend the trail be moved to the west side of the road to avoid unnecessary complications with the cemetery.
 - Saugatuck Township has given approval to move the trail to the west side of 66th Street to avoid any potential conflicts with the cemetery.
2. Archeological survey to be completed along the north side of North St. west of Blue Star Highway, in the undeveloped, wooded area surrounding Goshorn Creek, north and south of the creek terrace because this project bisects an area that is sensitive for historic and prehistoric archaeological sites.
 - The City is willing to hire a qualified archaeologist to conduct a field survey per this request.
3. Project needs to be designed in accordance with current AASHTO and MDOT design standards. Estimate should be updated to include some bridge deck modifications to

accommodate the intended design work, and to include updating bridge rails on both sides to current design standards.

- The City has requested specifics to what authority/standard does the placement of the cycle track on the bridge deck dictate that bridge rail upgrades are required? The City is willing to remove the portion of the cycle track on the bridge deck and approaches from the project application and construct them with local funds prior to the trail construction if that makes it easier on MDOT to approve the project.
4. Strongly suggest hiring a cultural resources consultant immediately to begin looking at identifying historic properties both above and below ground.
 - The City is also getting a proposal from CARDNO to conduct a cultural resources review in addition to the archaeological work. Unless it is cost exorbitant the City plans to engage their services.
 5. The neon sign and its historic status is a concern. The trail will have an impact on the sign because it will be changing the existing conditions.
 - The sign was relocated to that position/location around the year 2000. None of the site location, construction, or site context is historic with regard to that sign.
 6. Given pending outstanding items, they believe the project needs to be moved to FY2025.
 - The City would prefer to continue to plan on utilizing the proposed schedule in the grant application until the above issues can be further resolved.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

Catherine Simon, Saugatuck City Resident- spoke in opposition to the Wick's Park Bar and Grille consent judgment. She requested a protocol for noise issues or any concerns her or her neighbors might have in the future.

Dan Fox, Saugatuck City Resident- regarding TAP grant memo-asked Council why the TAP grant memo that was released on July 8th was not communicated to the public until 7/20/22.

Richard Donovan, City of Douglas Resident- regarding TAP grant memo-remarked that it was responsible of Council to wait until they could find out more before addressing the public. Speaking on behalf of the Friends of the Blue Star Trail, they think the questions are confident in moving forward.

Discussion Items:

Structure/Dockage License Transfer for S. ½ South of the Museum:-

City Manager Heise Informed Council that for the next Council meeting on Monday 7/25/22, there will be documentation provided for Council to vote on the license transfer due to a recent home sale.

New Business:

A. Special Event - Movie in the Park:

Attached is the special event form for Movie in the Park sponsored by Mill Pond Realty on 8/12/22. Safety meeting to be scheduled as soon as possible.

Motion by Trester, second by Gardner, to approve the special event application Movie in the Park sponsored by Mill Pond Realty to be held on August 12th, 2022, contingent on staff approval after safety meeting is conducted. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

B. Special Event - Camp Blodgett Ride for the Kids Fundraiser:

This will be a multi distance ride along West Michigan's beautiful Lake Michigan. There will be multiple stops along the way for some encouragement, water, light refreshments, and activities. The multi-distance there and back ride will conclude with an after party get together with food, prizes, and live music. Location- 10451 Lakeshore Drive. West Olive, MI 49460.

Motion by Dean, second by Leo, to approve the special event application Camp Blodgett's for the kids FUNraiser Ride to be held on October 8th, 2022, contingent on staff approval after safety meeting is conducted. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

A. Special Event - Spear Street Block Party:

The Spear Street Block Party Committee will be holding a neighborhood celebration on 8/20/22 from 5 p.m. – 11p.m.

Motion by Leo, second by Trester, to approve the special event application Spear Street Block Party sponsored by Spear Street Block Party Committee, contingent on staff approval after safety meeting is conducted. Upon voice vote, motion carried 6-0, Councilmember Gardner abstained.

B. Special Event - Saugatuck High School Homecoming Parade:

Ride for the SHS Homecoming Parade sponsored by SHS. There will be approximately one float per class which equates to about 7 floats. Safety planning to happen closer to event.

Motion by Stanton, second by Dean, to approve the special event application Saugatuck High School Homecoming Parade to be held on October 7th, 2022, contingent on staff approval after safety meeting is conducted. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

C. Blue Star Bridge Navigation Lights Financial Contribution:

The Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, in support with the Township and City Village of Douglas is recommending the navigational lights be placed on the Blue Star Bridge. Douglas has committed \$7,000.00 and Township of Saugatuck has dedicated \$4,000.00. The request to Saugatuck City is a match of \$7,000.00.

Motion by Bekken, second by Stanton, to approve the City contribution for the installation of navigation lights on the Blue Star Bridge at a figure not to exceed \$7,000.00 Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

D. Wicks Park Bar & Grille:

Legal counsel was present to explain the consent judgment for Wick's Park Bar and Grille.

Motion by Leo, second by Stanton, to approve the consent judgment as presented. Upon roll call vote, motion carried 4-3. Yeas- Dean, Leo, Lewis, Stanton. Nays- Bekken, Gardner, Trester.

Councilmember Bekken, Gardner and Trester noted they voted NO solely based on item 7a of the Consent Judgment regarding occupancy.

Public Comment:

- Catherine Simon, Saugatuck City Resident- spoke in opposition to Wicks Park Bar & Grille.
- Kate White-City of Saugatuck Project Coordinator/Deputy Clerk- wanted to take time to thank Council and city staff, noted it was a great experience to serve the community of Saugatuck.
- Dan Fox, City of Saugatuck City Resident- continued his comments from earlier in the meeting when he spoke during public comments on agenda items regarding TAP grant memo-asked Council why the TAP grant memo that was released on July 8th was not communicated to the public until 7/20/22.
- AJ Nassir, City of Saugatuck City Resident- spoke in favor of Wicks Park Bar and Grille noting he is an investor and there are many other establishments in Saugatuck that create noise. Thanked Council for their work.
- Jane Underwood, Saugatuck City Resident- spoke with concern regarding the incident at Oval Beach. She urged Council revisit the issue of WiFi at the beach regarding emergencies.

Correspondence: None

Council Comments:

- Councilmember Trester- our ultimate responsibility is to protect the lives of our community and wonder if the beach could connect to emergency services radio networks. Suggested asking AT&T and Verizon to come in and explain their plan for the community. He noted that the explanation from the bike trail engineer alleviated many of his concerns and the engineer firm did a good job with the responses to the MDOT questions.
- Councilmember Bekken- regarding cell service, this challenge goes back many, many years. The Oval Beach has tried walkie talkies in the past. He asked if the current landline that is at the gate could be extended to the concession stand. The issue is not just in Saugatuck, but other places along the lakeshore.
- Councilmember Leo- echoed Jane Underwood's concern, and wonders if there are options through the County for emergency assistance or maybe a mechanism where the beach can have a municipal emergency cell instead of waiting on a commercial carrier. The Blue Star Trail is an ongoing process, they have received feedback from MDOT multiple times. They are still working through the process and will continue.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Dean- noted he is a huge believer in transparency of public information and as civil servants who utilize the Freedom of Information Act, there is a very clear and robust process to make sure people have access to public information. He also thanked Kate White on her new appointment, and she will be missed.
- Councilmember Gardner- No additional comments.
- Councilmember Stanton- regarding a newspaper article about the bike trail, she noted that being a journalist for twenty years, context is everything and correct

information should be gathered properly before publishing. She also agrees with resident Jane Underwood and the need for better cell service at the beach and throughout the community.

Mayor's Comments:

- Regarding the incident at Oval Beach, she noted they have to move fast and get communications in place to get the necessary help in an emergency at Oval Beach. She appreciates that Council understands that they must trust the process. They are elected to make sure that the process is completed in the way that constituents can trust.

Adjournment: *Motion by Leo, second by Stanton to adjourn, Mayor Lewis adjourned at 5:23 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk