

**Minutes Saugatuck City Council Meeting  
Saugatuck, Michigan, October 26, 2020**

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

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

2. **Attendance:**

Present: Bekken, Johnson, Leo, Lewis, Peterson, Verplank & Trestler

Others Present: Interim City Manager Doyle Homan, Clerk Wilkinson, Zoning Administrator Osman, Finance Director/Treasurer Peter Stanislawski

3. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made by Peterson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Verplank, to approve the October 12, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. Amendments were offered by Council Member Johnson to strike the portion of the last sentence in 5) City Manager's Report which read, "which is equal to the amount of time the interim manager was offered 30 years when she started working in this field" as anecdotal in content; also to amend 18) Council Comments to include a reference to the Tri-Community Walking Trail Master Plan to further identify Jon Vanderbeek. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peterson to amend the minutes as amended. Upon roll call the motion carried to approve the October 12, 2020 minutes as amended.

4. **Mayor's Comments:** The Saugatuck Douglas Area Business Association (SDABA) has created their annual Christmas ornament with proceeds going to the SDABA Sparkle fund.

The Allegan County Health Department's Halloween guidance has been posted on the City's website and Facebook page and there will be extra deputies posted downtown during the evening. We hope for a safe Halloween in Saugatuck.

The City of Saugatuck recently passed Resolution 200928-B to reauthorize the Tri-Community Advisory Blue Star Trail Committee. The communities of Douglas and Saugatuck Township Resolutions did not have a deadline date; as a result the committee can be activated without delay.

Because of recent legislation the City will be able to continue with Zoom meetings.

The state legislature is considering bills to establish a state-wide short-term rental registry, which is good, but would usurp local units of government's authority to regulate short-term rentals within their jurisdictions. The MML has come out in opposition and we should join the MML in opposition to this.

The State's surge in COVID-19 cases is alarming although Allegan County and the Saugatuck Douglas area numbers have remained steady.

5. **City Manager's Report:** Interim City Manager stated that the date for swearing in new and returning Council Members is on or before November 16, 2020 and the first regular meeting for the new City Council is November 23, 2020.

6. **Agenda Changes:** Add City Clerk Erin Wilkinson as a guest speaker

7. **Guest Speakers:**

**Clerk Erin Wilkinson:** We are in good shape going into the election. We have 890 registered voters, and as of today 512 have requested absentee ballots, 388 have returned their ballots, with 124 still outstanding. There have been 12 ballots spoiled. The Women's Club is set up as the polling place and we have plenty of poll workers. Clerk Wilkinson explained the process of someone desiring to re-do their ballot and gave that as an example of a spoiled ballot. We have one instance of attempted voter fraud which has been turned over to the Allegan County Sheriff and the Prosecuting Attorney.

**8. Public Comment:**

**Scott Dean**, resident, asked Council to consider not selecting a new mayor before the seating of the new council. Mayor Trester explained that the sequence of choosing the mayor is dictated by the City Charter.

- 9. Request for Payment:** A motion was made by Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peterson, to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$329,802.90. The payment of the Road Bond was questioned; Finance Director/Treasurer Stanislawski explained this was the annual principal and semi-annual interest payment on our outstanding road debt. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**10. Introductions of Ordinances:**

Chapter 154 – Section 035(D) Front Setback  
Chapter 154 – Section 143 Fence Height for Corner Lots  
Chapter 154 – Section 174(C) Non-Conforming Structure out of Flood Plain  
Chapter 154 – Section 154.005/024/039/040/041 Land Usage: Zoning Code

The Zoning Administrator presented the above ordinances for first reading. Motion by Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Verplank, to put the ordinance amendments on the November 9<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**11. Public Hearings:** None

**12. Unfinished Business:** None

**13. New Business:**

**A. Proclamation of Appreciation for the Saugatuck Douglas CVB**

Motion by Peterson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bekken, to adopt Proclamation 201026-P1, A Proclamation of Appreciation for the Saugatuck Douglas Convention and Visitors Bureau for their \$5,000 donations toward the downtown Saugatuck Christmas lighting in both years 2019 and 2020. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**B. Resolution 201026-A Fish Shanty Restoration Project Advisory Committee**

Motion by Lewis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo, to approve Resolution 201026-A to appoint a Fish Shanty Restoration Project Advisory Committee comprised of Barry Johnson, Garnet Lewis, Holly Leo, and Randy Dirosa. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**C. Resolution 201026-B Eurasian Water Milfoil Advisory Committee**

Motion by Lewis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Peterson to approve Resolution 201026-B to appoint a Eurasian Water Milfoil Advisory Committee comprised of Ken Trester, Garnet Lewis, Bob Shuchman, Pat Burroughs, Tim Straker, and the City Manager. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**D. Policy and Procedure for Remote and Hybrid Meetings.**

Motion by Peterson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo to approve City Public Bodies: Policies and Procedures for Remote and Hybrid Meetings. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

**14. CONSENT AGENDA:** None

**15. Public Comment: Greg Muncie**, resident, supported an open band shell suited to the water-view Wicks Park site and allowing for better audience placement for performances. He noted that the old gazebo is rotting from the inside out and should be rebuilt or replaced. He likes the Big Pavilion design.

**Scott Dean**, resident, asked the City to amend its ordinances regarding the timing of selecting the Mayor and Mayor Pro-tem. The Council does not have the power to amend the charter. To change the timing would require a vote by the registered voters of the City.

**Todd Hoskins**, resident, spoke against the procedure for selecting the next Mayor.

**Lt. Brett Ensfield – Allegan Co. Sheriff Department** updated Council on departmental activities in the City.

**David Blandford**, resident, commended the Council on the safety measures taken the past summer

season. He commented that the three options in the Park Street Non-Motorized Study all take away parking and are problematic to the conditions on Park Street.

**John Dart**, resident, suggested lowering the speed limit even further, installation of speed bumps, and to consider other options for Park Street.

**Doug Sander**, resident, said taking more space to widen the road would be detrimental to the people who lived on Park Street. He does not support a bike path and suggested a speed hump to slow traffic down.

**16. Communications:**

**David Blandford** email (*accepted as information*)

**Fire Chief Greg Janik** (*accepted as information*)

**17. Boards, Commissions & Committee Reports:** Council received reports from the following committee(s): Kal-Lake Sewer Water Authority, Fire District, Planning Commission, Harbor Authority

**18. Council Comments:**

Council Member Lewis reminded Council that Tri-Community Recycling Committee would be meeting the next day.

Council Member Johnson suggested that names should be used on the Zoom meeting screens rather than slogans.

**19. Adjournment:** A motion was made by Peterson, 2nd by **Verplank**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m. Upon roll call the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Erin Wilkinson

Saugatuck City Clerk