



## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

The City Council met for Regular Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.  
City Hall  
102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453.

### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dean at 7:00 p.m.

### **Pledge of Allegiance.**

### **Attendance:**

Present: Mayor Dean, Mayor Pro-Tem Stanton and Councilmembers Baldwin, Leo, Lewis, Gardner, Muncey.

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Heise, Treasurer Stanislawski, Department of Public Works Superintendent Herbert, Attorney O'Meara and Clerk Wolters.

### **Mayor's Comments:**

Mayor Dean suggested an agenda change of moving Item #15e (Election of Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem) to Item #5.

*Motion by Lewis, second by Muncey to move item #15e to the next item, number five selection of Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.*

Mayor Deam thanked City Clerk Jamie Wolters, Deputy Clerk Sara Williams and their team of volunteers for holding a safe and secure election last week Tuesday. Congratulated Councilmember Russ Gardner on his re-election to Council. Congratulated Holly Anderson and Logan White on their election and welcomed them to the Council. Thanked outgoing Councilmembers Garnet Lewis and Holly Leo for their four years of service on the City Council.

### **Selection of Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem:**

Attorney O'Meara explained the process to Council.

*Motion by Lewis, second by Leo to nominate Lauren Stanton for the position of Mayor of Saugatuck. Via voice vote, motion carried 5-2. Gardner voted no and Muncey voted no.*

Mayor Stanton presided over the meeting and asked for Mayor Pro-Tem nominations:

*Motion by Leo, second by Lewis to nominate Helen Baldwin for Mayor Pro-Tem.*

*Motion by Gardner, second by Muncy to nominate Gregory Muncey for Mayor Pro-Tem.*

*Vote on Mayor Pro-Tem Helen Baldwin. Via voice vote, motion carried 5-2. Gardner voted no and Muncey voted no.*

Mayor Stanton thanked for the vote of confidence and appreciates Helen for taking on the role of Mayor Pro-Tem and everyone's willing to serve.

**City Manager Comments:** City Manager Heise noted his report is on page seven.

**Agenda Changes:** None.

**Guest Speakers:** None.

**Public Comment on Agenda Item Only:**

Mark LaChey, resident: Thanked City Councilmembers Lewis and Leo.

Vicky Cobb, resident: Noted Mayor Stanton and Mayor Pro-Tem capabilities to take on these roles.

Dan Fox, resident: Spoke regarding the airport property of an analysis report from an engineering firm in 2009.

Glenna DeJong, resident: Spoke in support of the airport property recommendation.

Marsha Caspar, resident: Spoke in support of the airport property recommendation.

Luis Allen, non-resident: Began to speak on non-agenda item, Mayor Stanton asked to comment during next public comment period.

Holly Anderson, resident: Thanked Council for last two years. She congratulated Russ and Logan.

Christine Murphy-Pierce, resident: Spoke in favor of the Expanded Outdoor Eating Area dates not to change.

Keith Charak, resident: Spoke highly of Lewis and Leo. Told Council there are rare fox dens on the airport property.

**Consent Agenda:**

- A.** Regular City Council Meeting Minutes – October 9, 2023. *Change by Lewis- from Mr. Dean to Mr. Dean Kapenga.*

*Motion by Lewis, second by Dean to approve the regular city council meeting minutes from October 9, 2023. Upon roll call vote, motion unanimously.*

**Staff Reports:**

City Manager, Director of Planning & Zoning, Treasurer, DPW Superintendent and Engineer submitted status reports of current activities since the last Council meeting on October 13, 2023, for their respective departments.

**Boards, Commissions & Committees:**

Fire District Administration Board, Dan Fox: Update on the ambulance 2.0 study group. There is hope to have a meeting within the next 10 days to hear a presentation from a local ambulance company.

Interurban Board, Councilmember Muncey:

- Next meeting on the 21st.
- Subcommittee is working on expanding operating hours.
- Phyllis is looking for an engineer to work with on building expansion.

KLSWA: None.

Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority, Mayor Pro-Tem Stanton: None.

Zoning Board of Appeals: None.

Historic District Commission, Councilmember Lewis:

- Met on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 333 Lucy was approved.
- 439 Butler was approved.

Planning Commission, Chair Councilmember Gardner:

- Meet this Thursday.

Short Term Rental Task Force, Mayor Stanton:

- Ryan Cummins presented Short-Term Rental Task Force recommendations at Council Workshop and Planning Commission.

Parks and Public Works Committee, Councilmember Baldwin:

- A couple of motions on the agenda for tonight that were discussed at length at the workshop and next meeting is the 28<sup>th</sup>.

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

- The trail is progressing and turning into a municipal infrastructure project and City Manager Heise is the point person and Parks and Public Works Committee will take the lead.

Tri-Community Recycling Ad-Hoc Committee, Councilmember Lewis:

- Reminder to Council that in spring there will be a renewal for the single hauler waste contract. Dougals set good example of updating theirs based on the Tri-Community Recycling Committee recommendations of twice a month recycle pick-up and inclusion of household hazardous waste day.

**Request for Payment:** None.

**Approval of Accounts Payable:**

A. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$ \$256,532.48.

*Motion by Muncey, second by Gardner to pay the accounts payable in the amount of \$256,532.48. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.*

**Introduction of Ordinances:** None.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**New Business:****Airport Property Recommendation:**

*Motion by Lewis, second by Leo to allow staff to prioritize the airport property trail system and conduct due diligence on the site to Council with recommendations for the safe and efficient utilization of the existing trail system. Via voice vote, motion carried 6-1. Gardner voted no.*

**Park Street Stop Sign Requests:**

*Motion by Dean, second by Lewis to allow staff to conduct due diligence on the installation of stop signs on Park Street at major intersections, focusing on Park and Campbell, and Park Perryman. Staff will report back to Council to discuss any engineering concerns and cost. Via voice vote, motion carried unanimously.*

**Expanded Outdoor Area:**

*Motion by Muncey, second by Lewis to adopt zoning ordinance no.231113-A and its amendments to Section 154.092(O) of the zoning ordinance to provide expanded regulations pertaining to restaurants with outdoor seating and expanded outdoor dining areas occupying public rights-of-way or public sidewalks. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.*

**Expanded Outdoor Area Ordinance Repeal:**

*Motion by Muncey, second by Gardner to adopt ordinance no.231113-B, an amendment to the code of ordinances to remove the temporary licensing provisions for expanded outdoor dining areas from Section 96.33 to ensure consistency in the City's regulation of expanded outdoor dining areas. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.*

**Public Comment:**

**Glenna DeYoung, resident:** Thanked Holly Leo and Garnet Lewis for their service over the last four years.

**Marsha Caspar, resident:** Echoed Glenna's comments regarding Garnet and Holly, also looks forward to what Lauren and Helen will pull off in the next few years.

**Luis Allen, resident:** Spoke in favor of Short-Term Rentals which allowed him to afford purchasing his home in Saugatuck.

**Christine Murphy-Pierce, resident:** Suggested using the airport property as an outdoor classroom as other local schools have added this to their curriculum recently.

**Logan White, resident:** Reported on the Saugatuck Film Festival and is looking forward to serving the City as a Councilmember.

**Keith Charak, resident:** Suggested the Council look at the parking situation on the hill.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Council Comments:**

- **Councilmember Dean:** Congratulated people on the Mayoral upgrade and is sure Mayor Stanton will serve the City very well. Democracy in action, every vote counts, and Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem have earned it.
- **Councilmember Muncey:** Welcomed Holly, looking forward to getting to know her more and Logan as well. He got a lot of questions from guys at the Dunes Resort regarding Logan's candidate signs. Even though he voted no, he spoke to Mayor Stanton earlier in the day about

the process. Russ and himself did not know Ex Mayor Dean wasn't interested in running again until they heard it on the street over the weekend. He did not know Helen would be asked to be nominated for Pro-Tem. Thanked Mayor Stanton for saying she will reach out to him more often about conversations that others are having and not everyone's having. The conversation about the election did not happen at the workshop. This is his first year on Council and it was a surprise to see it on the agenda. The non-support from some of the Councilmembers that are leaving is noted.

- Councilmember Leo: Thanked everyone, it's been quite an odyssey. The first morning of her first Council meeting her three vehicles were vandalized along with her lawn. She was a parent affected by the old Council's involvement with the school bond and not being able to get the bike trail done. They fought for transparency, to fly the pride flag, getting the bike trail going. They were the first Tri-Community Committee. They found experts and wonderful people in Douglas, Township and City and made their case from the basics. Went to all stakeholders and checked every box. She is looking to everyone to continue the work and get the trail done. She was proud of the work of the old Council bringing on City Manager Heise unanimously. Her and Garnet's goal was to bring the community into being involved with parks, the DPW committee and short-term rental to begin to tackle some of the issues that wasn't happening. She thanked everyone for the opportunity and thanked everyone who had helped her.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin: Said a big thank you to Holly and Garnet for their service as they have changed things for the better. She welcomed Logan and Holly to Council and congratulated Russ on retaining his seat. She noted that they are not always going to agree on everything, but that is part of the deal. She congratulated the new very capable Mayor and thanked her for asking Helen to be her Pro-Tem and for the confidence of her peers seeing that through. She will work hard every day to earn that.
- Councilmember Garnder: The word odyssey is great and would be a great way to describe his past few years of experience on Council. He is looking forward to two more years on Council, especially with Logan and Holly. It will be a welcome breath of fresh air for the Council and look forward to continue to service with Scott Dean, Lauren as the Mayor, with Helen as the Pro-Tem. He wished best of luck to Holly and Garnet on the next phase of life. He is looking forward to better things for the City.
- Councilmember Lewis: Congratulations to Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem with the first in the City with two women in the seats. Welcomed Holly and Logan, it will be an educational experience and will be the experience they want it to be. She thanked the City Staff as the unsung heroes that don't get a lot of kudos for what they do and what they have put up with. Caution everyone on Council and in the community to think about everything that staff deals with on a daily basis that no one has a clue about. She appreciates every one of them and thanked everyone.
- Mayor Stanton: Welcomed and congratulated Logan and Holly. The first time she met Holly was during a women's march that Holly oversaw. The first time she met Garnet was at coffee with the candidate and Mayor Stanton was the only one who showed up. She was at a lot of the Council meetings when Garnet and Holly first started. She appreciated both Holly and Garnet's fight for new businesses in town as Mayor was a new business owner. Their Tri-Community

efforts both put together were some of the first committees the City had and what everything should be going forward on so many things. It should include a Tri-Community effort.

**Adjournment:**

*Motion by Muncey, second by Lewis to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stanton adjourned at 8:22 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted

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Jamie Wolters, City Clerk