



**CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 28, 2022**

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.

Attendance:

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

Absent: Councilmember Lewis.

Others Present: City Manager Heise, Treasurer Stanislawski, DPW Superintendent Herbert, DPW Assistant Supervisor Hardy, Deputy Clerk/DPW Assistant Williams & Clerk Wolters.

Consent Agenda:

A. Regular City Council Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2022.

B. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$315,516.89.

Motion by Gardner, second by Stanton, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Upon roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

Staff Reports:

City Manager, Treasurer, Zoning Administrator, DPW Superintendent, Engineer and Fire Chief submitted status reports of current activities since the last Council meeting on November 14th, 2022, for their respective departments. Lt. Ensfield was present for questions regarding his department.

Agenda Changes: Mayor Dean moved agenda item #12A before agenda item #7A.

Motion by Baldwin, second by Muncey to approve the agenda change. Upon voice vote, motion carried 6-0.

New Business:

A. Organizational Meeting Discussion for Committee, Commission, Chairperson

Appointments: Mayor Dean recommended the three following appointments:

- a. Councilmember Baldwin to the Parks and Public Works Committee
- b. Councilmember Lewis to the Historic District Commission
- c. Councilmember Gardner continuation his appointment on the Planning Commission

Motion by Stanton, second by Muncey to approve Mayor Dean's recommended appointments. Upon voice vote, motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

Catherine Simon (resident): Opposed to the proposed removal of Councilmember Gardner from Planning Commission. Voiced her concerns with Council communicating with the City Attorney to justify various board changes.

Dan Fox (resident) (City Council Fire Board Representative): Informed Council of topics from the most recent Saugatuck Township Fire District Board meeting on November 21st.

Erin Wilkinson (resident): Opposed to Dan Fox giving the Fire Board update during public comment instead of during board reports or in the beginning of the meeting as he did in previous years. Commented on there being availability of the two Fire Board Representatives to the Council. Voiced her concern with Councilmember Gardner's proposed removal from Planning Commission.

Barry Johnson (resident): Noted the November 14th minutes were incorrect, there was no motion to approve the agenda changes- per Robert's Rules of Order, chair cannot depart from prescribed order of business without two thirds vote from Council. Regarding Councilmember Gardner's proposed removal from the Planning Commission, Charter 31.34 (B) states- Any member may, after a public hearing, be removed by the Mayor for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office.

Gary Medler (resident): Voiced his concerns with the process of the proposed removal of Councilmember Gardner from Planning Commission.

Guest Speakers:

Ken Berthiaume, from the office of Berthiaume & Company CPA. Presented the City of Saugatuck annual audit and was available for questions.

Introduction of Ordinances: None

Public Hearings: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business Continued:

- B. Spear Street Launch Agreement:** Request to renew yearly agreement with Star of Saugatuck, LLC.

Motion by Gardner, second by Baldwin, to table the agreement until Council has the updated agreement with the correct dates and names. Upon roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment:

Catherine Simon (resident): Informed Council and the public that former Mayor Lewis falsely identified Catherine's campaign as violating the Michigan campaign finance act by failing to include the required identification statement on her yard signs. She was interrogated relative to the signatures on her petition filings along with all other Council candidates. Commented that this all is a stain on the Community.

Jane Verplank (resident): Stated that Councilmember Lewis filed a complaint stating Jane's campaign signs did not have proper identification. Suggested Councilmember Lewis resign from Council.

Dan Fox (resident): Expressed his concerns with the City's ease of obtaining outside legal Counsel opinions and endorsements in favor of removing Councilmember Gardner from Planning Commission. He revisited the recent removal of Richard Crawford from the Planning Commission and the petitions filed from residents opposed to that appointment.

Barry Johnson (resident): He was asked to come speak in person to give the KLSWA report and he would not use his three-minute public comment time for that. He noted Richard Crawford was removed from the Planning Commission despite Charter 31.34 (B) which states public hearing should have taken place to do so and one did not happen.

Mark LaChey (resident): He is a member of the Planning Commission and supports Councilmember Gardner staying on Planning Commission. He is disgusted and ashamed of the residents public shamming of Councilmember Lewis which reminded him of the time a woman was railroaded off Council. Noted that procedures were not followed historically when the City entered into its most recent lawsuit.

Gary Medler (resident): Regarding the comment earlier on Council members who don't read their packets. He stated that two people are responsible for almost half of a million dollars in legal fees and if they had read their packets and asked questions the City would not be where they are regarding the lawsuit.

Correspondence: None.

Boards, Commissions & Committees Reports:

- Councilmember Gardner: The Planning Commission meets on December 15th.
- Councilmember Stanton: The Historic District Commission meets on Thursday December 1st.
- Councilmember Leo: Still awaiting word from MDOT.
- Councilmember Muncey: Interurban Board, not much to report all is well.
- Councilmember Baldwin: She is excited to be on the new Parks and Public Works Committee.

Council Comments:

- Councilmember Gardner: Read a letter he sent the previous night to the City Manager regarding his representation on the Planning Commission.
- Lauren Stanton: Congratulated Councilmember Baldwin for her Parks and Public Works Committee appointment, Councilmember Lewis for her Historic District Commission appointment and Councilmember Gardner for continuing on the Planning Commission. She appreciated all of the correspondence regarding Councilmember Gardner. She noted Councilmember Lewis has served well and that all should respect everything she has done for the community.
- Councilmember Leo: Thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and it is important all were heard. The last year or two Council has done good job putting many initiatives forward. She hopes that things will change, and everyone can move forward professionally.
- Councilmember Muncey: Thanked all for coming to the meeting. He appreciated everyone for reaching out and submitting letters with their concerns. He noted he has been researching the Charter, Roberts Rules as well as attending MML training to learn his new position. Reminded everyone of the Christmas Parade happening on December 3rd at 12:30.
- Councilmember Baldwin: Echoed Councilmember Muncey's comments on the parade and thanked everyone for her appointment on PPW.

Mayor Comments:

- Mayor Dean – Welcomed Councilmember Muncy and Baldwin to the Council. Thanked everyone who was in attendance and assisted with the tree lighting event.

Adjournment:

Motion by Gardner, second by Stanton to adjourn, upon voice vote, motion carried 6-0, and Mayor Dean adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Wolters
City Clerk