



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
March 6, 2024

The City Council met for a Workshop 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 Stanton at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

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

Absent: None.

Others Present: Interim City Manager/ Director of Planning, Zoning & Project Management Cummins, DPW Superintendent Herbert, Attorney Chris Witte, Engineer Moxey and Clerk Wolters.

Agenda Changes: None.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment: None.

Discussion Items:

Capital Improvement Plan Presentation:

Fleis & VandenBrink recently updated the City's Capital Improvements Plan, Engineer Jon Moxey and DPW Superintendent Herbert presented to the Council.

Resolution 240311-A – Support of STR House Bill 5438:

Ryan Cummins informed the Council that State Representative Joey Andrews has been working on drafting short-term rental legislation for several months. This included various meetings to gather stakeholder input. State Rep. Andrews recently introduced House Bill 5438. In summary, the bill would:

- Provide for the registry, promotion, and regulation of certain short-term rentals and hosting platforms;
- Create certain databases;
- Provide for the imposition and collection of a statewide excise tax;
- Provide for the disbursement of the excise tax;

- Provide for the powers and duties of certain state and local governmental officers and entities;
- Prescribe penalties and remedies.

Rep. Andrews' staff has drafted a letter for those who wish to support the proposed legislation. The draft was put into a resolution format for Council to consider whether it wishes to support the proposed legislation.

City Manager Search Options:

Mayor Stanton noted per charter, the Council shall appoint a city manager within 120 days of vacancy. Mayor Stanton provided a proposal from Walsh Municipal Services in the amount not to exceed \$5800.00. Frank Walsh introduced himself and spoke to the Council about the timeline options.

Additional Compensation for Interim City Manager:

Mayor Stanton asked the Council to consider a weekly stipend for the Director of Planning and Zoning and Interim Manager Cummins for his increased City Manager responsibilities.

STR Enforcement, Fees, and Fines:

Ryan Cummins introduced an enforcement plan for Saugatuck's short-term rental Ordinance.

Updated Agreement with Burnett & Kastran P.C. for Legal Services:

Burnett & Kastran has historically provided the City with legal representation for criminal ordinance and Michigan Uniform Traffic Code violations. The motion is to approve the continued partnership with this firm.

Resolution 240311-B- DNR Trust Fund Grant – Blue Star Trail:

Ryan Cummins presented a resolution to approve the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Development Project Agreement for the Blue Star Non-Motorized Trail which will approve the grant agreement.

650 Water Street – Preliminary Feedback on Proposed Right of Way Encroachment:

Ryan Cummins requested preliminary feedback about a proposed encroachment for 650 Water Street.

Right of Way Signage Request:

Ann Hayes applied for a right of way signage to be displayed on the Saugatuck Pallete sign from April 17 through May 1 for the celebration of retirement for Phyllis Yff scheduled on May 1 at the SCA.

Dean left meeting at 5:51 p.m.

Public Comment:

Greg Auer, resident: gave other ideas instead of using Granicus.

Richard Williams, resident: commented on incurring additional expenses regarding Granicus service and also asked if non-short-term rental homes will be held accountable to the violation fees.

Closed Session:

Motion by Baldwin, second Muncney move into a closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(e) and (h) to discuss a confidential written legal opinion regarding the ongoing lawsuits filed against the

City by Dune Ridge, captioned Dune Ridge v. City of Saugatuck (Case No. 22-65713-CK) and Dune Ridge v City of Saugatuck (Case No. 21-64709-CZ) regarding trial or settlement strategy, which if discussed in an open meeting would have a detrimental financial effect. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0. The council entered closed session at 5:54 p.m.

Dean returned at 6:06 p.m.

The Council entered into open session at 6:41 p.m.

Motion by Gardner, second by Baldwin to accept the city attorney's recommendation relative to the litigation pending and Dune Ridge versus City of Saugatuck case number 21-64709-CZ. Via Roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence:

- A. Ally Rogers
- B. Angela Carrion
- C. Christine Pierce
- D. Clement Beaudoin
- E. Craig Baldwin
- F. Daniel Pannoizzo
- G. Ethan Barde
- H. Gary Kemp
- I. Gary Knott
- J. Greg Auer
- K. Jaline Tucker
- L. James Graham
- M. Jasen Schrock
- N. Jim Bouck
- O. Julie and Bob Sowa
- P. Kimberly Bagierk
- Q. Kristie Noguera
- R. Laura Dudley
- S. Laura Goble
- T. Leah Gauvin
- U. Liz Woodward
- V. Mark Schrupp
- W. Matthew Miller
- X. Michael Padavic
- Y. Mindy Trafman
- Z. Nico Leo
- AA. Patrick Murphy
- BB. Peter Hanson
- CC. Richard Vogel
- DD. Shawn Steele
- EE. Shawna Boomgaard
- FF. Sheila Denam
- GG. Steve Birnbaum
- HH. Tammy Kerr
- II. Tasneem Kapadia
- JJ. Victor Littlejohn

KK. Wally Peterson

Council Comments:

- Mayor Pro-Tem Baldwin: None.
- Councilmember Anderson: None.
- Councilmember Dean: None.
- Councilmember Gardner:
The Historic District Commission meets tomorrow. Asked the Council to begin to think about goals and objectives for policy, directions for the HDC.
- Councilmember Muncey:
In a week is an event at Wicks Park to create terrariums with Back to the Fuchsia flower shop.
- Councilmember White: None.
- Mayor Stanton: None.

Adjournment:

Motion by Anderson, second by Dean to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Stanton adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk