



CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 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 Lewis at 6:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Mayor Lewis, Mayor Pro-Tem Dean, Councilmembers Bekken, Gardner, Leo, Stanton and Trester.

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Heise, DPW Superintendent Herbert, Zoning Administrator Osman & Clerk Wolters.

Approval of Minutes:

A. Regular City Council Meeting Minutes – May 23, 2022

B. Accounts Payable in the amount of \$292,739.87

C. Temporary Sidewalk Restaurant Seating Revocable License Agreement – Saugatuck Pub Partners, LLC

D. Special Event – Pink Patio 10th Anniversary

E. Special Event – 4th of July Fireworks

F. Special Event – Music in the Park

G. Ox-Bow Mt. Baldhead Parking Request

H. Approve Legal Coverage for Interim-City Manager

Motion by Trester, second by Stanton, to approve the consent agenda. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports:

City Manager, Treasurer, Zoning Administrator, DPW Superintendent, Police Lieutenant, and Engineer submitted status reports of current activities since the last Council meeting on May 23rd, 2022, for their respective departments.

Agenda Change:

Under New Business, Mayor Lewis rearranged the discussion items as follows:

A. Resolution 220613-A: MDOT Category B Grant Application Submission (Roll Call)

B. Water Street Sidewalk Project (Roll Call)

C. Ordinance No. 220613-A: Text Amendment to Chapter 97 – Trees (Roll Call)

D. Ordinance No. 220613-B: Text Addition of Chapter 53 – Parks and Public Works

E. Committee (Roll Call)

- F. Special Event – 4th of July Parade (Roll Call)
- G. Mt. Baldy Fence Request (Roll Call)
- H. Saugatuck Township Fire District – FY 22-23 Budget (Roll Call)

Guest Speakers: None

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

- Brenda Marcy, Saugatuck Township Resident- spoke in support of the Fire District Budget.
- Dan Fox, City of Saugatuck Resident- spoke in support of the Fire District Budget.
- Stacey Aldrich, Saugatuck Township Resident- spoke in support of the Fire Budget.

Introduction of Ordinances: None

Public Hearings: None

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

A. Resolution 220613-A: MDOT Category B Grant Application Submission:

MDOT Category B is state funding targeted toward local roads that aren't eligible for federal funding. The program's stated priorities are projects paired with other infrastructure, those combined with work by another agency and preventative maintenance projects. Priority is given to communities that haven't received a grant in the past, and the committee tries to balance the grant awards geographically. The City applied for this grant several times with Douglas for the Campbell Road project but was not successful despite the project meeting all of the program priorities. It is a direct grant program with very little overhead cost. The program is competitive, as it is one of the only sources of funding for local roads beyond Act 51 revenues. The application is not an expensive one to prepare, which balances out the potentially low chances for funding. The current request is for projects to be funded in MDOT FY2023, which begins October 1, 2022.

Motion by Stanton, second by Leo, to approve Resolution 220613-A to establish a request for funding, designate an agent, attest to the existence of funds and commit to implementing a maintenance program for roadway improvements on Lucy Street, Spear Street, Francis Street, Mary Street, and Hoffman Street funded by the Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Program. Upon roll call vote, motion was carried unanimously.

B. Water Street Sidewalk Project:

There are some sections of sidewalks on Water Street that do not have the desired connectivity due to gaps or other reasons. The City desires to make improvements to the sidewalks by eliminating the gaps and provide proper continuity to protect the public with a connected sidewalk so they don't have to weave back and forth between the street and the sidewalk along the west side of Water Street north of Spear Street.

Motion by Leo, second by Stanton, to direct the City Engineer to put the west side Water Street sidewalk north of Spear Street project out to bid. Upon roll call vote, motion was carried unanimously.

C. Ordinance No. 220613-A: Text Amendment to Chapter 97:

During the strategic planning session in December of 2021, City Council reviewed the total list of City boards, committees, and commissions, and identified certain appointed groups that could either be dissolved or absorbed into other boards, committees, or commissions. City Council identified an opportunity to create a more comprehensive committee that would assist with parks and public works project and policy recommendations. Council saw the Tree Board as a redundant board if the Parks and Public Works Committee were to be created. They also identified tree care decisions as largely being handled administratively, ultimately deciding the Tree Board could be dissolved.

Motion by Dean, second by Stanton, to approve Ordinance Amendment 220613-A to amend Chapter 97: Trees of the Code of the City of Saugatuck. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

D. Ordinance No. 220613-B: Text Addition of Chapter 53 Parks and Public Works Committee:

During the strategic planning session in December of 2021, City Council identified an opportunity to create a more comprehensive committee that would assist with parks and public works project and policy recommendations. The purpose of this text amendment to the City Code is to create the new Parks and Public Works Committee. This new committee will be advisory in nature, providing recommendations to City Council regarding parks and public works projects, policies, and plans. Additionally, the committee will be the authority to review appeals of denial for tree removal permits. The committee will be composed of five members, all residents of the City of Saugatuck and one Council member representative. Members will be non-paid. Meetings shall be held once a month, occurring on the fourth Tuesday at 10 a.m., with meetings subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Motion by Stanton, second by Leo, to approve Ordinance Amendment 220613-B to amend the Code of the City of Saugatuck adding new chapter which shall be designated as Chapter 53: Parks and Public Works Committee. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

E. Special Event – 4th of July Parade:

Following the withdrawal of the Saugatuck-Douglas Rotary Club's parade application, Mayor Lewis submitted a special event application for the 4th of July parade in the City of Saugatuck on July 4, 2022. As opposed to years past, the parade route has changed to encompass a wholly downtown route.

Motion by Stanton, second by Trester, to approve the special event application for the 4th of July parade from Garnet Lewis. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Leo, second by Trester, to table the motion to enable City of Saugatuck to pay for liability insurance for the parade event whether the coverage

comes through Garnet Lewis or through the City of Saugatuck's insurance policy. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

F. Mt. Baldy Fence Request:

As discussed at the last Council meeting on May 23rd, the Mt. Baldhead workgroup Collected proposals from various companies to improve the fence at the top of Mt. Baldhead surrounding the historic Radar building. Below are the three proposals collected by the workgroup:

1. Straight Line Fence Quote: \$16,000
2. Fence Solutions: \$14,000
3. Grand Rapids Fence Company: \$14,700 (vendor who installed the current tower fence)

Motion by Bekken, second by Leo, to delegate authority to City staff to manage the Mt. Baldhead fence proposal collection and installation, not to exceed \$17,000. Upon roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

G. Saugatuck Township Fire District – FY 22-23 Budget:

Attached is the FY 22/23 Saugatuck Township Fire District (STFD) budget for the City Council review. The STFD has scheduled the required public hearing on June 20, 2022, at 4pm. Each of the three (3) participating governmental units in the District is required to approve the operating budget annually prior to the public hearing and adoption by the STFD Administrative Board.

Motion by Trester, second by Gardner, to approve the Saugatuck Township Fire District FY 22/23 Budget as presented.

Council entered into discussion.

Motion by Dean, second by Leo, to table the motion to vote on the Saugatuck Township Fire District budget until next workshop meeting. Upon roll call vote, motion carried 5-2. Yeas: Bekken, Dean, Leo, Lewis, Stanton, Trester. Nays: Gardner, Trester.

Public Comment:

- Dan Fox, Saugatuck City Resident- Reminded Council that he is one of two Fire District Board representatives appointed by City Council. He noted that historically he has not received any questions from Council regarding the Saugatuck Township Fire Department.
- Brenda Marcy, Saugatuck Township Resident- Recommended that Council review Act 33, Section 41.811 regarding the appointments of the two Saugatuck City Residents represented on the Saugatuck Township Fire District Board.
- Jane Verplank, Saugatuck City Resident- Noted that since she has left the Saugatuck City Council, no one from Council has reached out to her with any questions regarding the Saugatuck Township Fire Department.
- Greg Janik, Fire Chief of Saugatuck Township Fire Department and Saugatuck City Township Resident- Apologized to Council for his shortcomings. He commented that if Council dislikes the City representatives there should be a dialogue between him and the City Council. If there is an issue with him, he would suggest the process of removal of him from his position. A lot of time was spent on the fire budget.

- Michelle Green, Casco Township resident and full-time employee at the Saugatuck Township Fire Department. Informed Council that there are many of the staff at the fire department that do not live in this community but choose to serve this community. She noted they serve because they care. She commented on the amount of time and hard work the Fire District Board puts into the budget. The actions of Council have disappointed her.
- Heather Beek, Saugatuck Township Resident and Fire Department- Thanked Council for the opportunity to speak. She commended Chief Janik for his dedication to the community, all Fire staff works many hours on the budget. The fire department works because they care.
- Wendy Bales, Douglas Resident and Fire Department- She was frustrated with the behavior she saw during the meeting. She works to risk her life for the community. Everyone needs to be accountable for their actions and behavior of which they display. She works for the people of the community and questioned Council on why they do their job.
- David Haverdink, Chief of Hamilton Fire Department- Works with the Saugatuck Township Fire Department. Spoke highly of Chief Janik, he can call him any day and any time, and he will get assistance from Chief.

Correspondence: None

Boards, Commissions & Committee Reports:

- Councilmember Gardner- Updated Council on the next planning commission meeting.
- Mayor Lewis- Updated Council on Tri-Community Recycling Committee meeting. They also had a successful Styrofoam collection event.

Council Comments:

- Councilmember Trester- Thanked the Fire Department and Fire Board members for attending the meeting and expressing their heartfelt thoughts.
- Councilmember Bekken echoed Trester's sentiments. He supports the Fire Budget and it's important that Council has consensus with one voice.
- Councilmember Leo- Thanked first responders in the room, she appreciates their service. She feels bad that everything has escalated to this point and noted Council is trying to balance their ability to get information. The Fire Department is passionate and extremely important to the community.
- Councilmember Stanton- She appreciated everyone coming to the meeting. She stated Council needs more time to look at the Fire Budget and stated that the Fire Department's job is to protect the community and Council's is to look at the budget. Council is allowed to ask questions on behalf of the City of Saugatuck taxpayers.
- Councilmember Gardner- Thanked Fire Department for their service. It is important for Council to move forward and be cognizant of schedules and calendars that need to be adhered to. He is in support of the Fire Budget, but also interested in continued dialogue to learn how the Fire Department is managing its' changes.
- Councilmember Dean- Thanked Fire Department for coming to the meeting and

showed gratitude for the Department and how they serve the community.

Mayor's Comments:

- Mayor Lewis stated she appreciates all of the Fire Department members. The Council has a responsibility to ask questions that have come from the taxpayers frequently and this is not personal.

Adjournment: *Motion by Gardner, second by Leo to adjourn, Mayor Lewis adjourned at 8:15 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk