



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
August 9, 2023

The City Council met for a Workshop Meeting at 4:00 p.m.
City Hall
102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453.

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Dean at 4:00 p.m.

2. Attendance:

Present: Mayor Dean, Mayor Pro-Tem Stanton, Councilmembers Baldwin, Leo, Lewis and Muncey. Gardner entered the meeting at 4:04 p.m.

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Heise, Director of Planning, Zoning, & Project Management Cummins, City Attorney Patterson, Clerk Wolters.

3. Agenda Changes: None.

4. Guest Speaker: None.

5. Public Comments on Agenda Items Only (Limit 3 minutes): None

6. Discussion Items:

A. HDC Appointment-

Historic District Commissioner, Daniel Pannozzo, advised he was not going to apply for reappointment to the Historic District Commission (HDC). His term expired on August 1. An application was received from Laura Godfrey. An interview with Ms. Godfrey took place on July 25. Rosemary Johnson previously interviewed and advised she was still interested in being considered for the HDC. Ms. Johnson submitted supplemental materials for consideration. Recommendation is that Laura Godfrey be appointed as a Historic District Commission member with a term ending August 1, 2026.

- Councilmember Gardner asked for an understanding on the comparison of the two applicants.
 - Mayor Dean read a note from Chair Straker recommending Ms. Godfrey.

B. 4th of July Event Presentation-

City Manager noted that Council directed staff to have an independent review and opinion on whether the City's expenditure for the Fourth of July celebration complied with the relevant

procedural requirements set forth in the City Charter in the Code of Ordinances. A legal memo was sent to Council which is a public document.

- Attorney Chris Patterson presented the analysis:
 - Legal review of the following:
 - Invoices, Contract, City Council Meeting Minutes, Recordings, Reports, Agendas, Etc. and Credit Card Statements.
 - The City followed the proper procedures to make these expenditures.
 - The Council authorized the Manager to carry out these expenditures, which he did within the scope of the grant of power under the City Code and Charter.
 - While the City did exceed its budget for its Fourth of July Event, all of the expenditures incurred in making the Event possible comported with the applicable procedures of the City Code and Charter and are lawful expenditures.

C. Clearbrook Youth Golf Outing Sign Request-

Merijeane Webb has applied for a pallet banner approval. Operation Hope for Allegan Youth golf outing will take place on Sep 21, 2023.

D. North Shore Development Letter-

As agreed by City Council, presented was a proposed resolution providing city council's public comment to the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy ("EGLE") permit (with EGLE Submission Number HPF-7A8A-RGC7Q) on north shores of Saugatuck, LLC's permit to build a marina basin.

- Councilmember Gardner noted that the deadline for submittal was July 20th.
- Attorney Chris Patterson explained they have been in contact with The Coastal Alliance that the City of Saugatuck comment was still going to get submitted.

7. Public Comments (Limit 3 minutes):

Bobbie Gaunt, resident:

Thanked Chris Patterson and all of Council. She spoke to David Swan about the deadline and even though the public comment closed, EGLE is still accepting comments. As of today, there are two outstanding comments, City of Saugatuck and one other. Deadline is the 13th.

Deb Gardner, resident:

Brought her concern about parking at 256 Spear Street. They bought their home 50 years ago. 234 Spear Street is a rental and there is no problem there. 256 Spear Street, they charge money for parking. The vehicle exhaust is four feet from the Gardner's back deck, this only effects their home. Is the property zoned to charge for parking? It has gone on for years. She has contacted Ryan Cummins.

Vicky Cobb, resident:

Regarding the Fourth of July event. All votes taken were unanimously by Council. The cost Information was shared at every single step along the way. All information was available To the public as well as City Council. The citizens that are complaining about legal expenses are The same that are driving a need for this report. It seemed like a total waste of legal effort and

a waste of City funds.

8. Correspondence:

- Joseph Leonatti
- Catherine Simon
- Lisa Mize

9. Council Comments:

- Councilmember Baldwin:
Thanked legal counsel for the Fourth of July presentation. She echoed other citizen comments and didn't see a need for it. Everything the Council did was televised and votes were unanimous. There was never one thing that was pointed out that Council needed to specifically audit from the charter. She regrets the money, waste of additional time and legal expenses. She thinks everything was transparent and hopes there is not precedent started that every time somebody kicks their feet that legal counsel had to do a full audit.
- Councilmember Muncey:
Thanked legal counsel for the Fourth of July presentation. He believes from the beginning that all procedure was followed. He is aware that the Council did approve of the contracts and celebration. The one thing he would like to have seen was the revenues to match the expenditures. He was not made aware of until after the event of the gap between the two, it would have been nice to have known that a week or two prior to event of the gap. If there was a need to raise funds, he would have helped. He does not think the laws were broken, just a concern about the large gap between revenues and expenditures. This Friday brought by Mill Pond Realty is the New Top Gun movie in the park.
- Councilmember Leo:
She remembers clearly that the Council had conversations about making phone calls and trying to raise money. It is her clear memory that they had that conversation at least two or three times at meetings about using their contacts and reaching out to their networks.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Stanton: None.
- Councilmember Gardner:
He agreed with Councilmember Muncey's comments about request for information regarding where the City was from an expense contribution standpoint. The request was made several times and there was no response. The information would have been very helpful in advance of the event whether the City needed to scale back the event to match contributions or whether additional contributions were going to be available.
- Councilmember Lewis:
Regarding the Fourth of July, there was an amount of \$25,000 promised by an individual in town that he would go about gathering it from business owners, and therefore was being waited upon patiently and that did not materialize.
Regarding the Venetian Festival, it was a great weekend. Rotary probably won't do another light show, there needs to be \$100,000 spent to have a successful light show. They will never do fireworks. The Star of Saugatuck pulled out of the boat parade several weeks before and they did everything to try to keep the boat parade happening. Friday night there were 3,000 plus

individuals in attendance at the park. There were 71 dinghies in the poker run which is about 200 people in that race. The net is about \$42,000, and Rotary is very happy with that. They sent out a survey asking for feedback, and they received good suggestions and ideas.

- Mayor Dean:

11. Adjourn (Voice call):

Motion by Gardner, second by Muncey to adjourn, upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously, and Mayor Dean adjourned at 5:06p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jamie Wolters
City Clerk