

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, November 21, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Withee at 7:06 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Lauri Krueger, Jason Smith, Chuck Moore, and Wayne Rayburn. Absent: None. Also present: City Manager, Aaron Mitchell; and Fire Chief, Brandon Weber.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The November 14, 2022, Organizational Minutes, were approved as submitted, motion Commissioner Krueger, second by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he asked why there are appointments being made to the DDA Board if it is dissolving. Mayor Withee stated that the DDA Board will be having one last meeting, thus the appointments.

John Pickron, 1104 Barton – he asked for an explanation of the longevity bonuses. City Manager Mitchell explained that the union employees receive their longevity bonus in their hourly rate and it is in their contract. Non-Union employees historically have received a lump sum longevity bonus.

Reggie Haskins, 248 E. Orleans – she asked if the Fire Department employees were included in the longevity bonuses. City Manager Mitchell stated that the Fire Department employees are in a different category.

Lori Beason, 709 Barton – she asked if the longevity bonuses have always been done. City Manager Mitchell stated that they have been done for many years. She commented that she is not against it, but the City needs to be careful if they are having financial problems.

I. PRESENTATIONS:

A. COUNTY COMMISSIONER GALE DUGAN UPDATE

County Commissioner Dugan gave an update on current Allegan County activities. He answered questions of the audience.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

IV. ORDINANCES:

V. REQUESTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF LONGEVITY BONUSSES FOR NON-UNION EMPLOYEES

City Manager Mitchell explained that the longevity bonuses were included in the budget for non-

union employees, as union employees receive their longevity through their hourly wage. He stated the employees with ten and over years of service receive \$750, and five to nine years of service receive \$500, for a total of approximately \$5200. Commissioner Smith moved to approve the longevity bonuses for non-union employees, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. CONSIDERATION OF HOLIDAY TURKEYS FOR CITY EMPLOYEES

City Manager Mitchell commented that the holiday turkeys have been a tradition for many years and this expenditure was also included in the budget. A brief discussion took place regarding different types of holiday gifts that have been given to employees. Commissioner Krueger moved to approve the purchasing of holiday turkeys for City employees, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Smith. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. CONSIDERATION OF A MONETARY DONATION TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY, NOT TO EXCEED \$500.00

City Manager Mitchell explained that in the past, a monetary donation was given to the Fire Department to purchase the main course for their Annual Christmas Party. Commissioner Krueger moved to authorize a monetary donation to the Fire Department for their Annual Christmas Party, not to exceed \$500.00, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VI. AGREEMENTS:

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS: CITY CLERK, CITY TREASURER, CITY ASSESSOR, CITY ATTORNEY, HEALTH OFFICER –

Commissioner Moore moved to confirm the Mayor's Appointments of: City Clerk, Angela Cronen; Treasurer, Matthew Storbeck; Assessor, Lydia Paille; Attorney, Marshall Grate – Clark Hill; and Health Officer, Aaron Mitchell; seconded by Commissioner Smith. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. CONSIDERATION OF DESIGNATION OF THE CITY DEPOSITORY

City Manager Mitchell explained that the City's Charter requires that the City's Depository be within the City limits. Mayor Withee commented that a Charter amendment was on the ballot to change this requirement and it didn't pass. Commissioner Krueger moved to confirm the Mayor's designation of PNC Bank as the City's Depository, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. CONSIDERATION OF THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR AND COMMISSIONER RAYBURN TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Commissioner Krueger moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Mayor Withee and

Commissioner Rayburn to the Planning Commission, seconded by Commissioner Smith.
CARRIED. Abstain – Commissioner Rayburn.

D. CONSIDERATION OF THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR
AND COMMISSIONER MOORE TO THE SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Commissioner Krueger moved to confirm the Mayor’s appointment of Mayor Withee and
Commissioner Moore to the Salary Review Committee, seconded by Commissioner Smith.
CARRIED. Abstain – Commissioner Moore.

E. CONSIDERATION OF THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR
AND COMMISSIONER KRUEGER TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
COMMITTEE

Commissioner Moore moved to confirm the Mayor’s reappointment of Mayor Withee and
Commissioner Krueger to the Fire Department Committee, seconded by Commissioner Smith.
CARRIED. Abstain – Commissioner Krueger.

F. CONSIDERATION OF THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF THE MAYOR
AND COMMISSIONER SMITH TO THE DDA BOARD

Commissioner Krueger moved to confirm the Mayor’s appointment of Mayor Withee and
Commissioner Smith to the DDA Board, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED.
Abstain: Commissioner Smith.

G. CONSIDERATION OF THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF WIGHTMAN AS
THE CITY’S ENGINEER OF RECORD

Commissioner Moore moved to confirm the Mayor’s appointment of Wightman as the City’s
Engineer of Record, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. CONSIDERATION OF THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT OF BEN DOTTERER
TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION, TERM TO EXPIRE NOVEMBER 2023

Commissioner Krueger moved to confirm the Mayor’s appointment of Ben Dotterer to the Planning
Commission, term to expire November 2023, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED
UNANIMOUSLY

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MANAGER’S REPORT

The City Manager gave updates on the following:

- Fire Department Medical Car – he gave a brief history and current status of the vehicle.
- Hometown Christmas – Saturday, December 3, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:30p.m., most activities will be held in the Pavilion area and Social District.
- Planning Commission – he welcomed Ben Dotterer to the Planning Commission. He commented that beginning at the next Planning Commission meeting, the Planning Commission will begin the process of reviewing and updating the City’s Master Plan.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he gave a brief history of the purchasing of turkeys and other items for City employees.

Pam Roth, 701 Kay – she asked if there will be examples on the ballot as to what the cost would be for a \$100,000, home. City Manager Mitchell commented that specific amounts will not be on the ballot, but the amount can be given to a homeowner if they ask.

Vince Pagano, 440 W. Orleans – he stated that during PA33 talks, it was said that difficult cuts would be made, but he has not seen any cuts made, and it was expected that cuts would be made. He asked why would you put it on the ballot. Mayor Withee stated that the City did make cuts, by cutting the Main Street Program, we received a larger LCSA payment, we sold sand from the Armintrout property, and the reallocation of funds (LCSA) that were going to the DDA/Main Street. She stated that the Fire Department brought their needs to the Commission to consider replacement of fire trucks, and it will be up to the voters to decide. Mr. Pagano continued that the Township has just as much say and their voters will have to support it. City Manager Mitchell commented that the purchase will be a partnership with the Township.

At this time, the audience continued with a lengthy discussion (question and answer session) regarding funding of the Fire Truck, the specifications of the Fire Truck and other various Fire Department subjects.

Nick Breedveld, 1101 Barton – he thanked City Manager Mitchell for the Gus Macker contract with the Otsego Public Schools Foundation. He stated that he still has a concern with the contract and also the proceed amount as he didn't see Police and DPW in the calculation. He asked who is the TOP Group. City Manager Mitchell explained that the Otsego Public School Foundation is taking over the event and if the event does not take place the funds will come back to the City. Mr. Breedveld asked if the DDA could hold the funds. City Manager Mitchell stated that the DDA could hold the funds until it is dissolved. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the Gus Macker event.

Lori Beason, 709 Barton – she asked what was going on with the City's Economic Developer in regards to Smart & Simple and the banks in town.

COMMISSIONER'S' COMMENTS

Commissioner Krueger – she thanked the audience for attending and the good discussion. She wished everyone a wonderful holiday with family and friends.

Commissioner Moore – he thanked the audience for showing up and bringing their concerns to the meeting. He commented that the Commission is listening. He commented that he appreciates all the hard work County Commissioner Dugan does. He thanked Fire Chief Weber for his report.

Commissioner Smith – he thanked the audience for their thoughts and ideas. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Commissioner Rayburn – he thanked the audience for attending, the good conversation and encouraged them to keep attending the meetings. He thanked Ken Bleeker for his comments at the Workshop Meeting on transparency. He wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Withee – she thanked the audience for attending. She wished everyone a Happy and Peaceful Thanksgiving.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Smith. CARRIED – 8:37 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk