

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held Monday, August 19, 2019.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Trobeck at 7:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Stacey Withee, Lauri Krueger, Dustin McNees and Brent Milhiem. Absent: None. Also present City Manager Mitchell and Fire Chief Weber.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The July 15, 2019, Regular Minutes were approved as submitted.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

I. PRESENTATIONS:

A. PRESENTATION BY FIRE CHIEF WEBER

Chief Weber gave a presentation regarding cost recovery for the Fire Department. He briefly explained the Cost Recovery Ordinance that the City has in place. At this time, structure fires are billed at a rate of \$500, which is sent directly to the insurance company. He stated that the costs being billed are not reflective of what it is actually costing the Fire Department. He reviewed in detail the various types of medical calls and how they are dispatched, either by the alarm company to Central Dispatch or by the patient/residence directly. He stated that alarm companies do not always have the needed patient information. Chief Weber gave an example of one hundred and eighty-five medical calls (City & Township combined) that would fall in the proposed billable category that amounted to approximately \$62,000 – the Fire Department’s actual cost. He briefly discussed police alarms. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the billing “under certain circumstances” and using “may” instead of “shall” in the proposed language. Chief Weber explained that he has researched many different cost recovery ordinances and will forward these examples to Manager Mitchell. He explained that some municipalities have a permit process for business. Chief Weber answered questions of the Commission and Township Supervisor Winn.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

IV. ORDINANCES:

V. REQUESTS:

VI. AGREEMENTS:

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. He gave updates on the following: Police Chief Konkle's retirement – after forty-four years of service in the police field – he will be missed; Gus Macker; Pickleball Courts – thank you Otsego Rotary; and motorhome parking.
2. He asked for further questions or comments regarding his written Manager's Report submitted to the Commission in their weekly packet.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he stated his appreciation for the sidewalks on Allegan Street being edged.

Mike Prouty, 336 E. Orleans Street – he thanked the Commission for allowing them to have their block party. He commented that people were driving around the barricades and hoped that next year they could get more barricades or a Road Closed sign. He thanked Commission Withee for attending.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner McNees – he commented that he recently walked the riverfront trail at 6 a.m., and it was beautiful. He thanked the City employees for the nice riverfront trail. He also thanked Dan Pepper of the Allegan County News for his service at the newspaper and commented that he will be missed.

Commissioner Krueger – she commented that she is excited to volunteer for the Gus Macker. She invited everyone to come downtown. She thanked Fire Chief Weber for his presentation and commented that he has given the Commission and Township a lot to think about. She thanked Otsego Township for attending the meeting.

Commissioner Withee – she stated that the Gus Macker is this weekend and volunteers are needed – reach out to the Main Street Office if interested.

Commissioner Milhiem – he commented that there will be a lot of local talent at the Gus Macker this weekend and invited everyone to come downtown. He commented that the Gus Macker is a big draw for many people to visit our downtown. He echoed the comments of the other Commissioner's regarding Fire Chief Weber's presentation. He commented that if the Fire Department is bearing the burden and "money is being left on the table" it is understandable that something needs to be done. He thanked Fire Chief Weber for his presentation.

Mayor Trobeck – she thanked the following: Supervisor Winn and Township Board Member Bumgart for attending the meeting; the DPW and Jail Crew for the edging of the sidewalks; Fire

Chief Weber for his presentation, the Police and Fire Departments; and the East Orleans residents for their successful Block Party. She reminded everyone that Gus Macker will be taking place this weekend.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Milhiem, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED – 7:48 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC