

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held Monday, November 4, 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, Police Chief Konkle, Finance Director Storbeck and Fire Chief Weber.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The October 21, 2019, Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

## **REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

### **I. PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **A. UPDATE FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONER DUGAN**

Commissioner Dugan gave an update on the most recent County Commission activities.

#### **B. PRESENTATION BY SIEGFRIED & CRANDALL OF THE 2018-2019 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT**

Mr. Dan Veldhuizen from Siegfried & Crandall was in attendance to review the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Audit. He expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Finance Director Storbeck and his staff for again successfully preparing the financial statements. He commented that he has worked with Mr. Storbeck for over twenty-five years and he is one of the best. Mr. Veldhuizen stated that the City had received an unmodified opinion, with no adjustments. He summarized and reviewed the highlights of the audit with the Commission. He also indicated that the City has thirty-six percent fund balance which is a great percentage, as the typical is around fifteen percent. In conclusion, he remarked that the City is in great shape being financially healthy with little debt. The Commission thanked Mr. Veldhuizen and Finance Director Storbeck.

### **II. PUBLIC HEARING:**

### **III. PLANNING AND ZONING:**

#### **A. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO GRANT A REQUEST SUBMITTED BY WENDY KATJE - 123 SOUTH FAIR STREET, OTSEGO MI 49078 TO HAVE 123 SOUTH FAIR STREET, OTSEGO MI, RE-ZONED FROM PO- PROFESSIONAL OFFICE TO R-B, SINGLE AND TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL**

Planning Chairman Tom Gilmer commented that this is an exciting thing for Otsego to have this residence converted back to a single family residence. Commissioner Krueger moved to grant the request submitted by Wendy Katje, to change the zoning of 123 South Fair Street, from PO-Professional Office to RB-Single and Two Family Residential, as recommended by the Planning Commission, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**B. CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO GRANT A REQUEST SUBMITTED BY THE CITY OF OTSEGO TO HAVE 227 SHORT STREET (2 PARCELS), OTSEGO MI, REZONED FROM GI- GENERAL INDUSTRIAL TO R-B, SINGLE AND TWO FAMILY RESIDENTIAL**

Manager Mitchell explained that the entire block on East River Street was converted from GI-General Industrial to RB-Single and Two Family Residential, but these two parcels were not included. Manager Mitchell stated that the owner was in favor of the rezoning. Commissioner Milhiem moved to grant the request submitted by the City of Otsego, to change the zoning of 227 Short Street (2 parcels), from GI-Industrial to RB-Single and Two Family Residential, as recommended by the Planning Commission, seconded by Commissioner McNees. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**IV. ORDINANCES:**

**V. REQUESTS:**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF MONETARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Commissioner Krueger moved to authorize a monetary contribution to the Fire Department for their Annual Christmas Party, not to exceed five hundred dollars, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. Chief Weber thanked the Commission, and commented that it is greatly appreciated.

**VI. AGREEMENTS:**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF A MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE TRUNKLINE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT**

Manager Mitchell stated that the contract is for five years and there are very minor changes from the last contract. Commissioner Krueger moved to authorize the City Manager and the City Clerk to enter into an agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation for a State Trunkline Maintenance Contract, as presented, seconded by Commissioner McNees. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**B. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH WIGHTMAN FOR DESIGN ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR 123 N GRANT STREET, AS PRESENTED**

Manager Mitchell explained that engineering work is needed to prepare for the house to be moved and the new road put in. Commissioner Milhiem asked if other bids were received, and that possibly next time more bids could be obtained. Commissioner Milhiem moved to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Wightman for design engineering services for 123 North Grant Street, not to exceed \$18,875.00, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**VII. RESOLUTIONS:**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2019-23 - A RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE LOWER KALAMAZOO RIVER GREENWAY PLAN**

Commissioner Withee offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Krueger.

CITY OF OTSEGO  
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
RESOLUTION NO. 2019-23

A RESOLUTION TO ENDORSE THE LOWER KALAMAZOO RIVER GREENWAY PLAN

WHEREAS, The Kalamazoo River traverses nearly one and a half miles through the City of Otsego, a prominent and defining feature of the City; and

WHEREAS, At the request and with the assistance of State Representative Mary Whiteford, the ODC Network (ODC) began developing a plan for a greenway corridor in Allegan County along the Kalamazoo River in January of 2018; and

WHEREAS, The Greenway Plan was designed to bring together the diverse communities scattered along the Kalamazoo, Rabbit, and Gun Rivers to coordinate planning efforts and work together as a unified county on addressing ecological, educational, and developmental issues related to the river; and

WHEREAS, Through a planning process that involved over 300 people and dozens of meetings, the Greenway Plan was developed to identify different types of projects along the river corridor; and

WHEREAS, The Greenway Plan reflects the feedback received during the planning process, yet remains adaptive and flexible enough to be updated or adapted based on future needs and accomplished projects; and

WHEREAS, The Greenway Plan addresses issues related to environmental restoration, recreation, conservation, and education which may include seeking collaboration and funding for projects such as improving river access, addressing pollutants, treating invasive species, creating pathways, creating improved educational opportunities, and preserving the highest quality habitats.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City of Otsego City Council hereby endorses the Lower Kalamazoo River Greenway Plan to be used as an advisory document guiding public officials on a comprehensive approach to restoring the Kalamazoo River and its tributaries and help engage public involvement to determine financial feasibility (tax payer capacity) of any proposed projects.

YEAS: Commissioners: Cyndi Trobeck, Stacey Withee, Brent Milhiem, Laurie Krueger, & Dustin McNees.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

B. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2019-24 – A RESOLUTION  
HONORING POLICE CHIEF GORDON KONKLE

Commissioner McNeas offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Krueger.

CITY OF OTSEGO  
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN  
RESOLUTION NO. 2019-24

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO POLICE CHIEF GORDON KONKLE

WHEREAS, Gordon Konkle was hired by the City of Otsego as the Police Chief on August 13, 2001; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Konkle has faithfully served the City of Otsego as the Police Chief for the past eighteen years; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Konkle over the years has also performed the duties of Interim City Manager and Public Safety Director; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Konkle has faithfully served in the Law Enforcement field for over forty-four years;

WHEREAS, Gordon Konkle is highly respected by his peers and his co-workers; and

WHEREAS, Gordon Konkle has been a valuable asset to the Citizens of the City of Otsego, the Otsego Police Department, the Otsego City Commission and to the City of Otsego; and

WHEREAS, he has participated in many community endeavors and represented the City with dignity; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the development of many procedures and practices at the City of Otsego Police Department; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the West Michigan Police Chief Association and the Michigan Chief of Police Association; and

WHEREAS, on November 8, 2019, Gordon Konkle attended his last day of work as Police Chief for the City of Otsego; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Otsego, as an expression of thanks on behalf of the citizens of this City, commend Gordon Konkle for his loyal and extraordinary service to the City of Otsego; and we wish him well on his retirement;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread in full on the minutes of the November 4, 2019 meeting of the Otsego City Commission and a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Konkle.

YEAS: Commissioners: Cyndi Trobeck, Stacey Withee, Brent Milhiem, Laurie Krueger, & Dustin McNees.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

### **VIII. APPOINTMENTS:**

### **IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. He gave updates on the following: Chief Konkle's Open House – he also congratulated Chief Konkle; commended the Pavilion Fundraising Committee, Main Street Manager Saukas and the community for raising almost \$60,000, for the project; new Marketing Campaign – sixty second video; and the upcoming Well-Head Protection Program meeting.
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 commended Finance Director Storbeck and congratulated Chief Konkle.

#### **COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Milhiem – he thanked Chief Konkle for his time served. He commended Chief Konkle for being respectful and polite, as are his officers. He thanked Chief Konkle and his officers for watching over the community and for all they do.

Commissioner Withee – she thanked Finance Director Storbeck for his stellar job on the audit. She commented that Chief Konkle will desperately be missed. She wished Chief Konkle the best and hopes he enjoys his next adventure.

Commissioner Krueger – she thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his update. She commented that Finance Director Storbeck does an awesome job. She thanked Chief Konkle for serving this community and your personal effort to remember everyone you meet. She congratulated everyone who helped with the Pavilion Crowdfunding.

Commissioner McNees – he thanked Finance Director Storbeck for making the City look awesome. He thanked Chief Konkle for his service. He thanked the audience for attending. He commented that he had the pleasure of meeting former Mayor Tom Gilmer tonight.

Mayor Trobeck – she thanked Finance Director Storbeck for the audit and the employees of the City. She thanked the new potential owner of 123 S. Fair for her vision. She stated that she had no doubt that the Pavilion Fundraiser would be a success – she commended Main Street Manager Saukas and the hard working Pavilion Fundraiser Committee. She stated that she and the City will miss Chief Konkle. She described Chief Konkle as a great listener, very dignified and low keyed – the epitome of the best Police Chief.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Withee, seconded by Commissioner McNees. CARRIED – 7:42 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC  
City Clerk