

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, April 19, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Trobeck at 7:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Lauri Krueger, Stacey Withee, Brent Milhiem, and Dustin McNees. Note: Commissioner Krueger was present on speaker phone, from Otsego Michigan, with a health concern. Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Mitchell, Finance Director Storbeck and Fire Chief Weber.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The April 5, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

I. PRESENTATIONS:

A. PRESENTATION OF CITY OF OTSEGO PROCLAMATION NO. 2021-01 – TO PATTI HERM

Mayor Trobeck presented Ms. Patti Herm with Proclamation No. 2021-01.

PROCLAMATION NO. 2021-01

THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF OTSEGO, MICHIGAN DESIRES TO CONVEY TO MS. PATTI HERM

CONGRATULATIONS AND RECOGNITION ON BEING THE RECIPIENT OF THIS YEAR'S PARTNERS IN DANCE COMMUNITY DANCE ADVOCACY AWARD. SHE HAS INSPIRED YOUNG DANCERS AND SERVED THE OTSEGO COMMUNITY AS A CHOREOGRAPHER AND TEACHER, FOR MANY YEARS. SHE IS THE OWNER AND DIRECTOR OF THE PATTI HERM SCHOOL OF DANCE, IN THE CITY OF OTSEGO. THIS AWARD WAS PRESENTED "TO HONOR AND CELEBRATE AN INDIVIDUAL WHO HAS DEMONSTRATED SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT IN ADVANCING AND SUPPORTING DANCE – THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM, PHILANTHROPY, ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT, TEACHING AND ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP".

The Commission congratulated Ms. Herm. Ms. Herm thanked the City of Otsego for the recognition. She commented that she will begin her 39th year, in June. She also thanked all of her supporters. Ms. Herm commented that it has been a wonderful experience in this community. She also commented that the dance studio has put on a full-length Nutcracker for the Otsego Community every two years.

B. COUNTY COMMISSIONER GALE DUGAN UPDATE

County Commissioner Dugan gave an update on the most recent County Commission activities. County Commission Dugan answered questions regarding the ORV Ordinance.

**C. PRESENTATION OF 2021-2022 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL – DPW
MOTOR POOL FUND & DDA FUND**

Finance Director Matthew Storbeck presented the Motor Pool Fund and DDA Funds for the fiscal year 2021-2022. Anticipated revenue for the Motor Pool Fund is \$224,000, and anticipated expense is \$253,290, capital improvements of \$56,000. Anticipated revenue for the DDA Fund is \$341,380, and anticipated expense is \$337,455, with no capital improvements. Mayor Trobeck added that Main Street has a goal to raise \$15,250.00. Finance Director Storbeck added that the DDA/Main Street will have sufficient cash until September, with the sale of the museum.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

IV. ORDINANCES:

V. REQUESTS:

**A. CONSIDERATION OF THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE LOCAL OFFICER’S
COMPENSATION BOARD MINUTES**

Clerk Cronen gave a brief explanation of the process and answered questions of the Commission. Clerk Cronen will forward the Commission a copy of the latest compensation study. Commissioner Withee moved to accept the Local Officer’s Compensation Board Minutes, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL MANUAL UPDATES

Commissioner McNees moved to update the Personnel Manual to include the updates, as amended, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**C. CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST TO ALLOW FOR THE POLICE
DEPARTMENT TO CARRY OVER VACATION FOR THE 2020-2021 FISCAL
YEAR**

City Manager Mitchell gave an explanation as to why this would be beneficial for the City and for the Officers. He explained that with COVID it was a unique year. Commissioner McNees moved to grant the request to allow for the Police Officers to carry over vacation for the 2020-2021 fiscal year, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**D. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM OTSEGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO
HOLD A SENIOR PARADE**

Commissioner Krueger moved to grant the request from Otsego Public Schools to hold a Senior Parade, on May 23, 2021, from Memorial Park, north on Farmer Street, and west on Washington Street to the bus loop, beginning at 6:00 p.m., seconded by Commissioner Withee. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

E. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM COMMUNITY SHOPPERS GUIDE FOR FREE GARAGE SALES FOR MAY 20-22 AND AUGUST 5-7

City Manager Mitchell commented that this is the first time that there has been a request for two weekends. Commissioner McNees moved to grant the request from the Community Shopper's Guide to hold Free Garage Sales for May 20-22 and August 5-7, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. AGREEMENTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF AN EASEMENT WITH MICHIGAN GAS UTILITIES

City Manager Mitchell explained that Michigan Gas Utilities has approached the City to upgrade a natural gas valve in the City's right-of-way on the north side of Dix Street, by field number six. They are requesting a permanent easement to place the valve. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the placement, potential smell, different ways to deter vandalism, and the overall look of the end product. City Manager Mitchell will contact Michigan Gas Utilities and voice the Commission's concern over the appearance of the valve. Member Milhiem suggested placing shrubbery around it. Fire Chief Weber asked if there was going to be a relief valve at the site also. Commissioner Milhiem moved to grant an easement to Michigan Gas Utilities, with City Manager Mitchell addressing the Commission's aesthetic concerns with Michigan Gas Utilities, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED. Commissioner McNees – No.

B. CONSIDERATION OF AN AMENDMENT TO THE CURRENT AGREEMENT WITH THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SIDEWALK IN THE 600 BLOCK OF EAST ALLEGAN STREET, AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO COMPLETE AN APPLICATION FOR A SIDEWALK PERMIT

City Manager Mitchell gave an overview of the history of the 1979 agreement and the sidewalk in need of repair. He stated that the concern is the replacement of the sidewalk with concrete instead of asphalt, which was outlined in the agreement. MDOT instructed City Manager Mitchell to pull a sidewalk permit for the work to be completed with concrete, which might amend the agreement. Commissioner Milhiem moved to amend the current agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation for the sidewalk in the 600 Block of East Allegan Street and authorized the City Manager to complete an application for a sidewalk permit, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. EPA Superfund Meeting
2. North Grant Street Project
3. Dangerous Building Ordinance

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Robert Alway – 1012 Barton, he commented that numbers are all over the place from his experience and the Local Officer's Compensation Board did the best they could. He commented that he did not contact the Governor's Office regarding the sidewalk, but he is pleased to have the repairs made on the sidewalk.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Milhiem – he thanked Finance Director Storbeck for his presentation and for making it easy to understand. He thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his report tonight and for the report that was sent to the Commission. He congratulated and thanked Patti Herm. He commented that dance is an expression of art, and his wife, daughters, and nieces have gone to Patti's dance studio. He thanked his fellow Commissioners for the good discussion at the Workshop Meeting, commenting that it was a productive meeting. He thanked the audience for attending.

Commissioner Withee – she congratulated Patti Herm on her legacy and all that she has done for the community. She commented that she is glad to be talking about parades again. She asked Fire Chief Weber for an update on COVID. Fire Chief Weber gave an update on COVID and vaccinations in Allegan County.

Commissioner Krueger – she thanked the other Commissioners for accommodating her to attend the meeting by phone. She congratulated Patti Herm. She commented that Patti Herm has left a beautiful legacy in our community and she is a lovely soul. She thanked City Manager Mitchell for representing and attending the Otsego Township Meeting. She commented that he is an asset and thanked him for clarifying the facts at the meeting.

Commissioner McNees – he thanked everyone for attending. He commented that he is happy to have parades back this year.

Mayor Trobeck – she congratulated and thanked Patti Herm for having touched so many lives in our community. She thanked the following: Finance Director Storbeck for a wonderful job; County Commission Dugan for attending; City Manager Mitchell for being very professional and staying neutral in the heated discussions at the Township meeting; all of the City employees; and the Local Officer's Compensation Commission, commenting that we are in these positions to serve and not for the money.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner McNees, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem. CARRIED – 8:14 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk