

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, August 16, 2021.

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

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The August 2, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

I. PRESENTATIONS:

A. COUNTY COMMISSIONER GALE DUGAN UPDATE

Commissioner Dugan gave an update on current Allegan County activities. Mr. Gary Smith, the CFO of Allegan County Community Mental Health. He spoke to the Commission regarding funding and ARAP funds. He requested that the Commission consider setting funds aside for Allegan County Community Mental Health, which provides vital services to the community.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

IV. ORDINANCES:

V. REQUESTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST OF GEI TO INSTALL A BOAT LAUNCH AT THE END OF JEWELL STREET

City Manager Mitchell explained that GEI is requesting to install a boat launch at the end of Jewell Street, instead of the originally proposed launch at the end of Mitchell Street, due to time constraints. He answered questions of the Commission and commented that this launch will be at no cost to the City. Commissioner McNees moved to grant the request from GEI to install a boat launch at the end of Jewell Street, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. AGREEMENTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH CALLANDER COMMERCIAL, LLC. TO EXECUTE A REAL ESTATE LISTING FOR THE PROPERTY COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ARMINTROUT PROPERTY – 598 & 602 WEST RIVER ROAD

City Manager Mitchell gave an update of his conversation with the City Attorney Grate in regards to the real estate listing, and his suggestion to include deed restrictions. Mayor Trobeck stated that the listing costs the City nothing and the City as the Seller does not have to accept any bid. She explained that Callander will be marketing the property that will bring revenues to the City. Commissioner McNees commented that it seems like the City is on a selling spree and he doesn't like the thought of the City selling all of its property. Mayor Trobeck commented that the property is a liability and is undeveloped

wilderness. Commissioner Withee commented that she thought that single family homes were the vision of the property. Mayor Trobeck stated that the property can be rezoned, if needed. A brief discussion took place regarding the past conversations of the City developing the property, the need for housing, and waiting to see what the Rock-Tenn property will be used for. Commissioner Milhiem commented that he agreed with Commissioners McNees and Withee and he sees no advantage in selling the property at this time. Commissioner Milhiem also suggested the property might even be appropriate for an industrial park, but the Commission needs to find the best use for the property and selling this is not the solution for the budget shortfall. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the development of the property and the realtor answered questions of the Commission. Mayor Trobeck stated that this is a good opportunity to sell the property, market it, and get it out to developers for more needed housing. Commissioner Krueger commented that she is torn with the current market and waiting until Rock-Tenn is redeveloped. Commissioner Milhiem moved to authorize the Mayor and City Manager to execute an agreement with Callander Commercial, LLC to execute a real estate listing for the property commonly known as the Armintrout Property – 598 & 602 West River Road, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. No: McNees, Withee, & Milhiem. Yes: Krueger & Trobeck. NOT CARRIED.

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF JASON SMITH TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF TOM GILMER ENDING NOVEMBER 2023

Commissioner McNees moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Jason Smith to the Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Tom Gilmer ending November 2023, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager gave updates on the following:

1. Gus Macker
2. Census Data – 4,120
3. Workshop Meeting - was very productive.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Gale Dugan, County Commissioner – he commented that he will not be at the Rock-Tenn Public Hearing tomorrow, but if anyone has questions to contact him or Dan Wedge. He commented that the Covid rate is now up over ten percent in Allegan County.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Withee – she asked everyone to please volunteer for the Gus Macker.

Commissioner Krueger – she thanked County Commissioner Dugan and Officer Gudith for being at the

meeting. She commented that a lot was accomplished at the Workshop Meeting earlier. She asked for people to volunteer for the Gus Macker.

Commissioner McNeas – he thanked his fellow Commissioners for a great discussion at the Workshop Meeting. He commented that it is nice that we all get along even when we disagree. He thanked the audience for attending.

Commissioner Milhiem – he stated that he is excited for the Gus Macker this weekend and he is happy that it is back in Otsego. He asked for volunteers for the event commenting that it would help Main Street, as this is a fund raiser for them. He commented that he is excited about the great news regarding the Census and that the City's numbers are growing. He stated that he agreed with the successful Workshop Meeting discussions where the Commission can talk and have fun. He commented that if all of the Commissioner's thoughts were alike that would not be beneficial. He echoed Commissioner McNeas's comments.

Mayor Trobeck – she thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his update and for his continued work on Rock-Tenn; and for bringing Mr. Smith to give his presentation. She thanked Derek from Callander for attending the meeting. She commented that she would like to discuss the listing in the future. She encouraged everyone to volunteer for the Gus Macker. She reminded everyone of the rally for the 125th Rivalry Football Game with Plainwell. She stated that the Chamber's 5:01 party will be held on August 26th, at the new Pavilion and Otsego Art will meet tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. She asked the Commission to let Clerk Cronen know if they would be attending the MML Conference and encouraged everyone to attend if they could.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner McNeas, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED – 7:49 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk