

A Special Workshop Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held Monday, August 16, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Trobeck at 6:00 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.

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. PARKS & REC COMMITTEE

City Manager Mitchell gave a history overview of the current Parks & Rec Committee. He stated that he had reviewed the bylaws and the focus was mostly on community education. He asked the Commission how they felt about the City Commission forming a Parks & Rec Committee, and the members would be appointed by the Mayor. Commissioner Milhiem commented that a committee is needed, especially for the replacement of the playground equipment at the parks. Commissioner Withee commented that having a plan allows the City to apply for grants. Commissioner McNees stated that representation from the Commission is essential. A discussion took place regarding the proposed number of members, who would be represented on the Committee, and the functions of the Committee. City Manager Mitchell will look at what other communities are currently doing. He suggested the following areas of possible interest for the committee: Riverfront, Mitchell Street, Jewell Street, engaging volunteers.

2. PUBLIC ACT NO. 33 OF 1951

City Manager Mitchell stated that after talking to City Attorney Grate about the proposed ballot language, Attorney Grate had suggested to have the Commission explore PA No. 33 of 1951. City Manager Mitchell explained that it provides for the Commission to levy a millage on a Special Assessment District (the entire City). He gave an overview of the following: special assessment vs. taxes; amount - look at budget in February and levy what is needed to maintain the Fund Balance Policy; and the public hearing process. Mayor Trobeck gave a brief history of special assessments. City Manager Mitchell stated that this is a different approach and the citizens would have to be educated on PA No. 33 of 1951, and the City's Fund Balance Policy. The Commission was in consensus to only levy what is needed to balance the budget. City Manager Mitchell also commented that the current millage rate has been in place since 1925, almost one hundred years. The Commission had a lengthy conversation regarding the next steps and how to educate the community. The main goal of the Commission is to be transparent with the community and be educated so that they can appropriately answer questions, if this is the path they take.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

None.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Withee, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED – 6:53 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk