

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Tuesday, September 7, 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; Police Chief Misner and Fire Chief Weber.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The August 16, 2021, Regular and Workshop Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

I. PRESENTATIONS:

A. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE – POLICE OFFICER SIKKEMA

Police Chief Misner introduced new Police Officer Judd Sikkema. He commented that Officer Sikkema had been an officer in Richland and for Barry County. Officer Sikkema commented that he loves the community and his new position a lot. The Commission welcomed Officer Sikkema.

B. FIRE DEPARTMENT PINNING

Fire Chief Weber gave a brief overview of the training and education that is required of the new firefighters. He commended them for the time and effort they have put into completing the requirements to become an Otsego Firefighter. Fire Chief Weber introduced and presented the following new firefighters with their certificate and badge:

- Robert Hester
- Steven Haywood

At this time, City Clerk Cronen swore in firefighters: Robert Hester & Steven Haywood.

C. ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DUGAN

Commissioner Dugan gave an update on current Allegan County activities.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE COMMENTS ON THE ALLOWANCE OF CHICKENS WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS

Mayor Trobeck opened the public hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Hannah Reed, Dix Street - gave an overview of the benefits of chickens. She read her proposed chicken ordinance.

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he commented that he has concerns with salmonella outbreaks that have been previously reported by the CDC, due to chickens. He commented that it is not

difficult to find fresh eggs in the area. He had a concern with the difficulty enforcing odor control. Mr. Alway also stated that the Michigan Right To Farm Act, does not include cities.

Hannah Reed, Dix Street – responded to Mr. Alway’s comments regarding salmonella.

Clerk Cronen read a letter from Matthew & Sherri Storbeck, 908 Windigo – in opposition on allowing Chickens.

Clerk Cronen read an email from Dave Grimm, 522 W Allegan – in favor of allowing chickens with minimal regulation.

Mayor Trobeck closed the Public Hearing at 7:33 p.m.

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

IV. ORDINANCES:

A. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #169 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 74-65, ARTICLE III- STOPPING, STANDING, AND PARKING OF CHAPTER 74 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF OTSEGO TO AMEND THE FRONT YARD PARKING ORDINANCE

City Manager Mitchell gave a brief overview of the proposed ordinance. He commented that by removing the “motor” from the reference to “motor vehicles” and the addition of a “vehicle” definition that will allow trailers and boats to be parked in the side or rear yard and driveway.

V. REQUESTS:

VI. AGREEMENTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF A MEMO OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE POLICE OFFICER’S LABOR COUNCIL – FLEX POSITION

City Manager Mitchell explained the flex position and answered questions of the Commission. Commissioner Withee moved to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a letter of understanding with the Police Officer’s Labor Council – Flex Position, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. CONSIDERATION OF A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION FOR 410 E. ORLEANS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE COMMUNITY CENTER/SCOUT HOUSE

City Manager Mitchell explained that the agreement is the same agreement as in previous years. He noted that the lease is for a five-year period. Dave Delemme of the American Legion explained the history of the American Legion and his role in the organization. He reviewed the improvements that they had made to the property. Commissioner McNees moved to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a lease agreement with the American Legion for 410 East Orleans Street, commonly known as the Community Center/Scout House, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2021-11- A RESOLUTION FOR THE DEDICATION OF CITY HALL CHAMBERS – MR. TOM GILMER

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

**CITY OF OTSEGO
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION NO. 2021-11**

DEDICATION OF CITY HALL CHAMBER – MR. TOM GILMER

WHEREAS, the Otsego City Commission desires to convey to Mr. Tom Gilmer for recognition of his service to the citizens of the City of Otsego for over 30 years; and

WHEREAS, he has served on the City Commission, as the City’s Mayor, the Planning Commission, Board of Review, and various other City appointed Commission’s as the City’s Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission and the citizens of the City of Otsego wish to thank Mr. Tom Gilmer for his dedication and service; and

WHEREAS, in honor of Mr. Tom Gilmer’s dedicated service the City Commission will dedicate the City of Otsego Commission Chamber’s in Mr. Tom Gilmer’s honor; and

WHEREAS, on September 20, 2021, a ceremony will take place before the City Commission Meeting, dedicating and naming the City Hall Chambers, as the Tom Gilmer Commission Chamber; and

FURTHER, LET IT BE KNOWN, that this Resolution will be spread on the permanent record of the Regular City of Otsego Commission Minutes.

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

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. DISCUSSION REGARDING CHICKEN ORDINANCE

A discussion took place regarding how a Chicken Ordinance would affect the City and its residents. Mayor Trobeck asked the Commission if they had changed their stance since the last discussion regarding chickens and they had not. Mayor Trobeck acknowledged Ms. Reed's passion for her chickens and for taking the time to research having chickens in the City. Mayor Trobeck commented that there is not an apparent huge ground swell of residents that want to loosen the Chicken Ordinance. She commented that it is her decision to stay with the status quo at this time. She complimented Ms. Reed for her passion and for being a fabulous person.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager gave updates on the following:

1. New City Hall Hours
2. Department Spotlights
3. Creative Arts Festival

COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Cronen read a thank you letter from property owner Michelle Pulver regarding the quick response of the City and the work of the DPW to repair her driveway apron, after the Gus Macker event. She commented "I am beyond pleased for your extended care and sense of community it is very much appreciated."

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Dave Delemme, 220 W. River – he inquired how long the gas company was going to be at Northside Park.

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he stated that that the gas company project at Memorial Park should be done today, per the workers on site.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Krueger – she welcomed Officer Sikkema. She thanked Hannah Reed for her all of research, answering questions, and having all of the information and facts. She thanked and gave her appreciation to Dave Delemme for attending the meeting on behalf of the American Legion and for his service. She commented that it is nice to have the American Legion in the Community Center/Scout House.

Commissioner Withee – she thanked City Hall employees, City Manager Mitchell and Clerk Cronen for being accommodating during the Gus Macker. She also commented that the Gus Macker was a great event. She thanked the new firefighters for all their time and effort and for caring about the community. She also welcomed Police Officer Sikkema and thanked him for his service to the community.

Commissioner McNees – he thanked the audience for attending. He commented that it is unfortunate that the neighbor made a complaint regarding Ms. Reed's chickens.

Commissioner Milhiem – he echoed the comments of his fellow Commissioners. He welcomed

Police Officer Sikkema and commented that he is very professional and will fit in great with this community. He congratulated the two new firefighters. He commented that we have the best Fire Department and thanked Fire Chief Weber. He stated that he is happy that Rock-Tenn is moving forward. He echoed the comments of Commissioner McNees in regards to Ms. Reed's chickens.

Mayor Trobeck – she thanked Fire Chief Weber for having the Fire Department's Pinning Ceremony at City Hall. She welcomed Police Officer Sikkema. She thanked Mr. Delemme for his service and commented that he has a special place in her heart. She announced that the Creative Arts Festival will be held on September 25th and there will be a dunk tank. She commented that The Art Thing will also be taking place and voting will take place at Mezzo's.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner McNees, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED – 8:06 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk