

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, October 4, 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 September 7, 2021, Regular Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – commented that he is favor of the Rock-Tenn draft support letter that he saw, but suggested that the draft be reviewed further.

I. PRESENTATIONS:

A. INTRODUCTION OF NEW WWTP EMPLOYEE – WYATT SOWLE
Waste Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, Luke Keyzer introduced new employee Wyatt Sowle, who has been working at the WWTP for three weeks. Mr. Sowle introduced himself to the Commission. The Commission welcomed Mr. Sowle.

B. ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DUGAN
Commissioner Dugan gave an update on current Allegan County activities. He answered questions of the Commission.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

IV. ORDINANCES:

A. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION 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 and how it will be enforced after the ordinance is adopted. Mayor Trobeck stated that the new ordinance will address non-motorized vehicles in the front-yards. A discussion took place regarding back-yard parking, front-yard parking, and side-yard parking.

CITY COMMISSION
CITY OF OTSEGO
Allegan County, Michigan

Commissioner Milhiem, supported by Commissioner Krueger, moved the adoption of the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 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

THE CITY OF OTSEGO ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment. That Sections 74-65 of Chapter 74 of the Code of Ordinances, City of Otsego, Michigan are amended to read as follows:

Sec. 74-65. Parking or storage of vehicles in front yards in residential districts.

- (a) In order to protect the public health, safety and general welfare, to enhance the visual environment of the city and to preserve residential neighborhoods, the parking, storage or leaving unattended of any vehicle in any front yard in any residential district in the city is declared to be a public nuisance and is prohibited. This paragraph shall not restrict parking in designated parking areas in residential districts which have been approved by the city's planning commission in accordance with Article IV of Appendix A of the Otsego City Code, being the Zoning Ordinance.
- (b) For the purposes of this section, the term "front yard" shall mean that area measured by the full width of the front lot line to a depth measured from said front lot line to the first supporting member of a structure. In the case of corner lots, the front yard shall be the area measured by the lot lines on each street to a depth measured from said lot lines to the first supporting member of the structure.
- (c) For the purposes of this section, the term "driveway" shall mean an access roadway leading from an authorized curb cut to a garage, carport or required parking space, including turnaround and other vehicle maneuvering areas, and including circular driveways from an authorized curb cut to another authorized curb cut, which is surfaced with concrete, asphalt, or such other material as permitted under the city's Zoning Ordinance, Appendix A to this Code, or by other applicable provisions of state law. Such surfacing shall have adequate coverage and barriers sufficient to confine the material, as approved by the building official.
- (d) For the purposes of this section, the term "vehicle" shall mean any automobile, truck, motorcycle, snowmobile, boat (motorized or non-motorized including canoes and kayaks) or any trailer that is intended to be pulled behind a self-propelled vehicle of any kind. This includes trailers with contents within or on it as well as empty trailers.
- (e) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the parking of vehicles upon driveways.
- (f) Any or all of the following persons shall be responsible for a civil infraction and shall pay a fine as set by resolution of the city commission for each violation of this section: (i) the owner of the vehicle parked in violation of this section; (ii) the operator of the vehicle parked in violation of this section; (iii) the owner of the property permitting a vehicle to be parked upon the subject property in violation of this section; and/or (iv) the occupant, lessee or licensee of the property permitting a vehicle to be parked upon the subject property in violation of this section. Each separate incident in violation of this section, and each separate day for which a violation of this section continues, shall constitute a separate offense.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon the latter of publication or the passage of twenty (20) days' time following its final adoption in accordance with the City Charter.

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

NAYS: Dustin McNeas.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED.

V. REQUESTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM OTSEGO MAIN STREET & OTSEGO ROTARY TO HOLD THE ANNUAL TRAIL FOR TREATERS ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2021, FROM 4PM TO 6PM, AS PRESENTED

Main Street Manager Sweeney was in attendance to explain that Main Street, with the assistance of the Otsego Rotary will be hosting the event this year. Commissioner Withee moved to grant the Otsego Main Street & Otsego Rotary request to hold the Annual Trail for Treaters on Friday, October 29, 2021, from 4pm to 6pm, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. CONSIDERATION OF ROCK-TENN MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL REDEVELOPMENT DECLARATION OF SUPPORT

City Manager Mitchell explained that the developer will be looking for funding and this document of support will be an asset when applying for the additional funding/grants. A brief discussion took place regarding the zoning of the property and what could be placed at the site. City Manager Mitchell explained that the letter of support does not change the zoning in any way, and all site plans and zoning questions will be directed to the Planning Commission for initial review. Commissioner Milhiem moved to approve the Rock-Tenn Multi-Family Residential Redevelopment Declaration of Support, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. AGREEMENTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH OTSEGO MAIN STREET FOR THE TRAIL FOR TREATERS, AS PRESENTED

Commissioner Withee moved to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement with Otsego Main Street for the Trail for Treaters event, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH NATIONAL MAIN STREET

City Manager Mitchell explained that the contract with National Main Street is an eighteen-month term, ending on December 31, 2022. Mayor Trobeck stated that Otsego Main Street has a new committee for fundraising. Main Street Manager Sweeney commented that the contract is

similar to the past contracts and without the contract the “Main Street” name can’t be used. Commissioner Krueger moved to authorize the City Clerk to enter into an agreement with National Main Street, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MANAGER’S REPORT

The City Manager gave updates on the following:

1. Boat Launch
2. Main Street Autumn Bliss – October 9th
3. Creative Arts Festival overview

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

County Commissioner Dugan – he announced that with the new redistricting there will be five County Commissioners instead of the current seven. He also mentioned that voting precincts will not be split up for Allegan County Clerks.

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he reiterated his comments regarding the letter of support for the Rock-Tenn redevelopment and asked that it be reviewed.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Milhiem – he thanked and gave his appreciation to County Commissioner Dugan for his representation and for the valuable information that he provides. He thanked Otsego Main Street Manager Sweeney, Otsego Main Street, the Chamber and the many volunteers for a great Creative Arts Festival and the upcoming Trail For Treaters and Hometown Christmas. He commented that he is very happy and excited to see all of the new things happening in Otsego – like the Rock-Tenn redevelopment and the dam. He welcomed new employee Wyatt Sowle. He commented that he appreciated the conversation tonight.

Commissioner Withee – she thanked everyone involved with the Creative Arts Festival. She welcomed new employee Wyatt Sowle.

Commissioner Krueger – she thanked her fellow City Commissioners and all of the volunteers at the Creative Arts Festival. She thanked Otsego Main Street Manager Sweeney for his hard work. She welcomed new employee Wyatt Sowle. She thanked County Commissioner Dugan for the great job he does and commented that with even a larger area to represent he will do a great job.

Commissioner McNees – he commented that he is happy that the State Legislature corrected a problem that shouldn't have happened. He welcomed new employee Wyatt Sowle.

Mayor Trobeck – she welcomed new employee Wyatt Sowle. She stated that the Creative Arts Festival was a phenomenal day and Commissioner McNees was in the dunk tank longer than anyone. She extended her thanks to Otsego Main Street Manager Sweeney for the “Art Thing” and the “Art Thing” Reception. She commented that there is now a newly formed committee – Otsego Arts, who has done a wonderful job. She mentioned upcoming Otsego Main Street events - Trail for Treeters, Autumn Bliss, and Hometown Christmas. She thanked the audience for attending and County Commissioner Dugan for his report. She also thanked City Manager Mitchell and Clerk Cronen.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner McNees, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED – 7:51 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk