

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, December 20, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Trobeck at 6:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Stacey Withee, Brent Milhiem, and Dustin McNees. Absent: Lauri Krueger. Also present: City Manager Aaron Mitchell; Finance Director Storbeck, and Fire Chief Weber.

Commissioner McNees moved to excuse Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The previous Regular and Special Meeting Minutes were approved.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

I. PRESENTATIONS:

A. ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DUGAN

Commissioner Dugan gave an update on current Allegan County activities. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

IV. ORDINANCES:

V. REQUESTS:

VI. AGREEMENTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH PEERLESS MIDWEST FOR WELL #7 PROJECT

City Manager Mitchell briefly explained that Well #3 has been in place since 1960 and the original plan was to put in a liner. He stated that Peerless Midwest, who is the best in the region, and maintains our wells, suggested to drill a new Well #7, but not increasing capacity. A new well house was discussed where liquid fluoride could be stored. WWP Superintendent Keyzer commented that the agreement will begin the process. Commissioner Milhiem asked if this project and the well house construction qualified for the use of ARPA Funds. City Manager stated that those projects would qualify for the use of ARPA Funds. Commissioner Withee moved to approve an agreement with Peerless Midwest for the Well #7 Project, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. DDA/MAIN STREET FUTURE FUNDING

City Manager Mitchell stated with possible questions regarding PA33 and future funding, he thought it would be beneficial to have a conversation regarding DDA/Main Street funding. He stated that the City Commission has the power to regulate the percentage of funds from the LCSA that the DDA/Main Street receives. He also commented that the LCSA funds are not set at this time, and when they are Finance Director Storbeck will have a better idea of the amount of funds that will be received. The following items were discussed:

1. Should a dollar amount or percentage amount be set for the funding.
2. Renovations and maintenance of DDA built buildings, such as City Hall and the Police Department.
3. Parking lots in the downtown, City Hall, and at the new Pavilion.
4. The future of the current DDA Plan past 2025.
5. The history of the DDA and investing in the downtown.
6. The City Commission approves the DDA/Main Street Budget.
7. Giving funds back to the County- if LCSA money is not utilized by the DDA/Main Street.
8. DDA projects called out in the DDA Plan – only remaining project is the Band Shell.
9. What the DDA would look like without Main Street – back to maintenance, flowers, and capital improvements.
10. DDA/Main Street fundraising efforts – set goal of \$15,000, currently working on a campaign.
11. What amount of funding should be designated for the DDA/Main Street, which needs to be looked at through a fiscal perspective.
12. Each Commissioner gave their opinion regarding the future of the DDA/Main Street.

B. ARPA FUNDS

City Manager Mitchell commented that he wanted to get the Commission's view on which projects to continue with and explain what we have ready to go. The following items were discussed.

1. Protect our current wells.
2. Protect our water source.
3. Take care of immediate WWTP needs.
4. Extension of water & sanitary lines.
5. New Well.
6. Intention of not raising rates and protection of our citizens.
7. Closure of loops.

MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager gave updates on the following:

1. He wished Commissioner Krueger a speedy recovery.
2. The Police and Fire Departments recently participated in Shop with a Hero.
3. GEI will be putting a boat launch at the end of Mitchell Street in the Spring.
4. Commissioner McNees asked if the Agenda Policy could be put on the next Workshop agenda. City Manager Mitchell stated that the Agenda Policy will be placed on the next regular meeting agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he commented that the City could contact their insurance company regarding the shingles on the roof, as maybe it was due to the hail storm. He agreed with the use of the ARPA Funds to protect the drinking water. He also commented that there was going to be a public conversation regarding the Kalamazoo River, Section 2, and they will listen to what the City would like to see.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Withee – she wished everyone happy holidays. She commented that she is excited talking about clean water. She sent her best wishes to Commissioner Krueger for a speedy recovery.

Commissioner Milhiem – he concurred with Commissioner Withee’s comments. He thanked his fellow Commissioners for the great conversation and for keeping an open mind during these discussions, and that we do not always have to agree.

Commissioner McNees – he thanked the audience for attending. He wished everyone Happy Holidays and Happy Hanukah.

Mayor Trobeck – she commented that she hopes that Commissioner Krueger gets better soon. She thanked and extended her appreciation to County Commissioner Dugan for his report. She commented that she appreciates the Commission’s conversations and listening to everyone’s point of view. She stated that she is looking forward to a new great year, with continued great conversations, understanding, and listening – and we all do not have to agree. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner McNees, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED – 7:13 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk