

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, February 7, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Withee at 7:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Brent Milhiem, Dustin McNees and Lauri Krueger. Absent: Mayor Trobeck. Also present: City Manager, Aaron Mitchell.

Commissioner Milhiem moved to excuse Mayor Trobeck, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner McNees, the previous Regular & Workshop Meeting Minutes were approved, as submitted. CARRIED

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

I. PRESENTATIONS:

A. COUNTY COMMISSIONER GALE DUGAN UPDATE

County Commissioner Dugan gave an update on current Allegan County activities. He answered questions of the audience.

B. PA 33 OF 1951 - PRESENTATION

Mayor Pro-Tem Withee presented a slide show to illustrate the current state-of-the City in regards to funding and how the City got to where it is financially today. PA 33 of 1951, was explained as a financial means to create a special assessment district and the levying of mills to fund Police and Fire. The details of the special assessment district were discussed in detail.

At this time, the Mayor Pro-Tem opened the floor for questions. An open discussion (question/answer session) took place with the Commission and the Audience. Fire Chief Weber answered questions regarding the Fire Department needs and current fire apparatus fleet. Police Chief Misner answered specific questions regarding the Police Department staffing, police coverage and future needs. The Commission answered questions regarding: Headlee; property values; why a special assessment district is being considered instead of putting it out for a vote; how many mills can be assessed; other communities with PA 33 special assessment districts; recourse the property owners have – petition drive; and various other questions.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. PUBLIC HEARING - TO ESTABLISH SINGLE PREMISE ASSESSMENTS FOR DELINQUENT CHARGES FOR CITY SERVICES

Mayor Pro-Tem Withee opened the Public Hearing at 8:38 p.m. There being no comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 8:39 p.m.

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

**A. CONSIDERATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S
RECOMMENDATION TO GRANT A SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT TO 241
HELEN – TO BECOME A TWO-FAMILY DWELLING – OWNERS GRIFFIN**

Commissioner Milhiem moved to grant a Special Land Use Permit to 241 Helen – to become a Two-Family Dwelling, owners Griffin, as recommended by the Planning Commission, Seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IV. ORDINANCES:

V. REQUESTS:

VI. AGREEMENTS:

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

**A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2022-04 - A RESOLUTION TO -
ESTABLISH SINGLE PREMISE ASSESSMENTS FOR DELINQUENT
CHARGES FOR CITY SERVICES**

Commissioner Krueger offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem.

**CITY OF OTSEGO
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-04**

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH SINGLE PREMISE ASSESSMENTS FOR DELINQUENT
CHARGES FOR CITY SERVICES**

WHEREAS, Otsego City Code of Ordinances Section 62-11 establishes the procedure for the collection of expenditures incurred by the city for services rendered for particular premise or premises which are not of the class required to be prorated among several lots and parcels in a special assessment district; and

WHEREAS, the City of Otsego has provided such services and has not received payments from the respective property owners for more than 30 days upon sending notice of outstanding amounts; and

WHEREAS, property owners with outstanding amounts for services were notified that a public hearing would be held concerning the establishment of a single premise assessment roll more than ten days prior to the hearing date.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED THAT: the City of Otsego hereby establishes the following Single Premise Assessment Roll for the following parcels of property which are identified by their tax identification number, property owner, address, amount owing and service rendered:

Parcel Number	Owner Name	Property Address	Invoice Number	Amount Due	Service Description
03-54-022-106-00	Frankhauser, Andrew	356 W. Franklin St.	2344	\$172.32	Mowing
03-54-022-106-00	Frankhauser, Andrew	356 W. Franklin St.	2351	\$118.67	Mowing
03-54-022-106-00	Frankhauser, Andrew	356 W. Franklin St.	2362	\$118.67	Mowing
03-54-100-100-50	Hulbert, Valerie	239 W. Allegan St.	2348	\$134.05	Mowing
03-54-100-100-50	Hulbert, Valerie	239 W. Allegan St.	2363	\$134.05	Mowing
03-54-250-022-00	Hagerman, Harold & Jeffrey	240 Helen St.	2345	\$172.32	Mowing
03-54-275-073-00	Hall, William & Arlington, Elizabeth	1026 Barton St.	2396	\$227.94	Water Meter Touch Pad & Radio
03-54-700-080-00	Tucker, Steven & Celeste	351 McKinley St.	2372	\$1,337.73	Removal of Garage

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above single premise assessments are due in full by Tuesday, February 28, 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after the due date, all unpaid single site assessments shall be returned delinquent to the Allegan County Treasurer and be placed as a lien against the respective properties.

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Laurie Krueger, Brent Milhiem, Dustin McNees.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: Cyndi Trobeck.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager gave updates on the following:

1. Good to see an audience; Good questions regarding PA 33 from the audience; Received compliments regarding snow plowing – DPW; Approval of the Special Land Use Application is great for the area.
2. He asked if the Commission had any questions.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he stated that there is a Blood Drive tomorrow at the Church of God from Noon to 5:00 p.m., and that the Red Cross will have a blood drive at the Library on March 7, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Gale Dugan, 318 21st Street – he commented that there is additional information on the Allegan County website, under Equalization that illustrates how Headlee has affected the City of Otsego.

Mr. Pickron, 1104 Barton (from later in the meeting) – he asked questions about a petition and the specifics of the petition. City Manager Mitchell answered his questions and commented that the process is outlined in PA 33. Mr. Pickron asked if this could be delayed. City Manager Mitchell stated that it could not be delayed because there are timeframes associated with the legal steps of PA 33, that have to be completed.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Krueger – she expressed that she is thankful to have Police Chief Misner and Fire Chief Weber in Otsego. She stated that if anyone needs to know anything regarding the Fire Department to contact Fire Chief Weber. She stated that the Commission has been talking about different financial scenarios for the past two years. She thanked the audience for the amazing questions and commented that it is nice to see people at the meetings. She commented that she would not like not having police coverage at night and no first responders. She continued that this has been a very hard decision. She stated that her thoughts are with Mayor Trobeck.

Commissioner McNees – he thanked the audience for attending. He noted that the Commissioners pay taxes too. He stated “I am poor, it sucks and it was a hard decision.” He stated that everything has been looked at. He commented that the audience had great questions and they will be put into the next presentation. He stated that ten percent of the property owners can sign a petition if they don’t want this special assessment district. He commented that the Commission has been as transparent as possible. He stated that he hopes that Mayor Trobeck gets better. He wished everyone an awesome week.

Commissioner Milhiem – he stated that the City Commission has been very transparent and upfront to alert residents. He commented that he and his fellow Commissioners also live here. He stated that PA 33 may not be an elegant solution, but it will help fix the gaps. He thanked County Commissioner Dugan for the Trowbridge Dam improvements. He also thanked County Commissioner Dugan for all of his hard work on the Rock-Tenn project – as he has fought hard for the City and it is a big deal for our City. He stated that the Fire Department’s ladder truck was used just last week, it is twenty-eight years old and looks great, but if the transmission goes out in it – it is trash. He stated that we have let it go too far – yes, but the City takes pride in paying cash and not having bonds and loans. He thanked the Police Department and Fire Department employees and continued that our Fire Chief and Police Chief are second to none. He complimented Mayor Pro-Tem Withee on her presentation and filling in for Mayor Trobeck. He stated that Mayor Trobeck is in his thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Pickron asked a question of the Commission – please see Public Comment above.

Mayor Pro-Tem Withee – she extended her well wishes for Mayor Trobeck. She thanked the audience for attending and giving her grace, as this was her first presentation. She explained that Mayor Trobeck was the one who had been giving the presentations and pushing for PA 33. She thanked the audience for listening and for their questions. She thanked the Police Department, Fire Department, Fire Chief Weber, Police Chief Misner, City Manager Mitchell, and Finance Director Storbeck and staff who have been on this journey for months.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner McNees, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED – 8:59 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk