

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, March 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 Mitchell; Finance Director Storbeck; Police Chief Misner; Fire Chief Weber; and DPW Supervisor Bosch.

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

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

At this time, Finance Director Storbeck introduced Renee Langford the new Part-Time Accounts Receivable Specialist. She gave a brief introduction to the Commission and audience. The City Commission welcomed Renee.

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.

A. PRESENTATION OF 2022-2023 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL - MAJOR STREET FUND; LOCAL STREET FUND; STREET AND BRIDGE FUND; AND SPECIAL ASSESSMENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Finance Director Matthew Storbeck presented the Major Street Fund, Local Street Fund, Street and Bridge Fund, and the Special Assessment Capital Improvement Fund for the fiscal year 2022-2023. Anticipated revenue for the Major Street Fund is \$435,500, and anticipated expense is \$269,095. Major Street capital improvement projects are planned in the amount of \$58,800. Anticipated revenue for the Local Street Fund is \$153,020, and anticipated expense is \$811,400. Local Street capital improvement projects are planned in the amount of \$639,000. Anticipated revenue for the Street and Bridge Fund is \$151,100, and anticipated expense is \$350,000. Anticipated revenue for the Special Assessment Capital Improvement Fund is \$5,200, and anticipated expenditures are \$80,000.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

A. CONSIDERATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION FOR SITE PLAN APPROVAL - 333 WEST RIVER – KEN BLEEKER

Commissioner Krueger moved to approved the Site Plan for 333 West River – Ken Bleeker, as recommended by the Planning Commission, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. It was noted that the gravel construction driveway will be returned back to grass after construction.

IV. ORDINANCES:

V. REQUESTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM OTSEGO HIGH SCHOOL TO HOLD A GRADUATION PARADE ON MAY 22, 2022, BEGINNING AT 6:00 P.M. AT MEMORIAL PARK

Commissioner Milhiem moved to grant a request from the Otsego High School to hold a Graduation Parade on May 22, 2022, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Memorial Park, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. AGREEMENTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH MnS LAWN CARE SERVICES LLC FOR THE CITY PARKS PACKAGE, CITY MUNICIPALITY PACKAGE, EXTRA PACKAGE, & SPRINKLER PACKAGE FOR 2022, AS PRESENTED

DPW Supervisor Bosch explained the services that are provided and the cost savings to the City. He also noted that they have not raised their rates in three years. Commissioner McNees asked why this was not put out to bid. It was explained that lawn care has been bid out before and MnS Lawn Care Services LLC is a local company and they have provided a good service at a reasonable price, and when it was bid out they were significantly lower. It was noted that they also service the City's sprinkler systems. Commissioner Milhiem moved to authorize an agreement with MnS Lawn Care Services LLC for the City Parks Package, City Municipality Package, Extra Package, & Sprinkler Package for 2022, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH SIEGFRIED CRANDALL PC FOR AUDITING SERVICES FOR JUNE 2022 THROUGH 2025

City Manager Mitchell explained that Siegfried Crandall PC has been the City's auditing service for over twenty years and they do a fantastic job. The City has a relationship with them and the auditing process takes less time, thus costs to the City are less. He stated that they have actually lowered their prices. Commissioner McNees commented that we need to get into the habit of going out to bid and this will be the last time he votes for it. Commissioner Milhiem moved to authorize the execution of an agreement with Siegfried Crandall PC for auditing services for June 2022 through June 2025, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2022-06 - A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE MAPS, DIAGRAMS OR PLANS CONCERNING PROPOSED SIDEWALK AND CURB AND GUTTER IMPROVEMENTS AND/OR ADDITIONS ON WEST MORRELL STREET

City Manager Mitchell briefly explained the major renovation and replacement of a water main on West Morrell Street. He commented with the Special Assessment the property owners will be responsible for fifty percent of the sidewalk, curb and gutter improvement costs. Commissioner Krueger offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem.

**CITY OF OTSEGO
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-06**

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY MANAGER TO PREPARE MAPS, DIAGRAMS OR PLANS CONCERNING PROPOSED SIDEWALK AND CURB AND GUTTER IMPROVEMENTS AND/OR ADDITIONS ON WEST MORRELL STREET

WHEREAS, this City Commission deems it may be advisable and necessary to acquire, construct, and install and/or improve the sidewalks, curb and gutter on West Morrell Street and

WHEREAS, it is contemplated that part or all of the cost of such improvements may be defrayed by special assessments upon the parcels of property specifically benefitting from those improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Otsego City Code directs that certain actions be taken in order to specially assess benefitted property

BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to prepare or cause to be prepared such maps, diagrams, or plans as will indicate the scope of the improvement and estimate and tabulate the cost of the proposed improvement, together with his recommendations as to the portion of those costs to be specially assessed against benefitted property and to be paid by the City at large and the land in the Special Assessment District.
2. Once prepared, the maps, diagrams, plans, estimates, or tabulation of cost shall be filed with the City Clerk, together with the City Manager's recommendation as to what portion of the cost should be paid by special assessment and what part, if any should be borne by the City at large, and the land which should be included in the Special Assessment District.
3. Once filed with the City Clerk, the Clerk is authorized and directed to present such plans to the City Commission.

4. All resolutions and parts of resolutions are to the extent of any conflicts with this resolution, hereby rescinded.

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Brent Milhiem, Lauri Krueger, 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. Aspen Park Apartment fire.
2. Rotary Pickleball Tournament, May 21, 2022.
3. Superfund Site/Kalamazoo River/Mitchell Street Zoom Meeting.
4. He asked if the Commission had any questions.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Charles Housel, 379 W Orleans – he asked questions regarding the water mains and fire hydrants on West Morrell Street Special Assessment project. DPW Superintendent Bosch explained the process and the new mains that will be put in. He commended the Commission for not pursuing PA33.

John Pickron, 1104 Barton – he asked how the West Morrell Street project would affect the General Fund. It was explained to Mr. Pickron that all funds for the project will come out of the Water, Sewer, and Local Road Funds. General Fund will not be affected.

Nick Breedveld, 1101 Barton – he asked if the budget presentations could be put on-line on Friday's like the Agenda. City Manager Mitchell stated that they will be put on the City's website before the meeting.

Jean Ashley, 1103 Barton – she commented that the Street Fund presentation didn't give anyone any information about the General Fund. She commented that she would like to see a committee formed to make suggestions. Mayor Pro-Tem Withee communicated that at the next meeting the

Water and Sewer Funds will be presented and that the General Fund will be presented in May. City Manager Mitchell encouraged anyone with questions to contact him.

Jason Bohl, 402 W. Franklin – he commented that during the School Bond Proposals, steering committees were formed and facilitated small, private groups. He commented that is a good way to come up with solutions. He stated that it is also important to know that the General Fund and Road Funds are separate.

At this time, an open discussion took place regarding having more Workshop Meetings before Regular Meetings, ways to get groups of people together, and communicating the meeting dates.

Angela Newton, 1002 Comstock – she gave an example of renting the new pavilion as a way to generate revenue.

Lois Bach, 220 W. River Street – she commented that maybe the City should contact people through email because she didn't know about this meeting and didn't know that PA33 didn't pass.

At this time, a lengthy discussion took place regarding the DDA/Main Street program and their budget.

Lori Beason, 709 Barton – she suggested having fund raisers for Police cars and Fire trucks. Various funding options for the cars and trucks were discussed. Fire Chief Weber answered various questions.

Wayne Rayburn, 621 Lawrence – he thanked Finance Director Storbeck and the City Commission for helping him better understand the budget. He commented that he learned what doesn't come out of the General Fund. Finance Director Storbeck answered various questions regarding the budget. City Manager Mitchell answered questions regarding the dam removal.

James Zadny, 515 Kalamazoo Street – asked why not put the Farmer's Market in the pavilion. A representative of the Farmer's Market was present and stated that the pavilion doesn't get the exposure that the current site on M-89 does, and they have over thirty-five vendors which is too many, and various other reasons.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Milhiem – he thanked everyone for attending. He commented that he appreciated the discussion and the options that were presented to consider at these last couple of meetings. He said that this is personal and the Commission has to be sustainable. He commented that it is a reality that budget cuts will have to be made. He commented that possibly it can be voted on to restore the millage. He stated that it is important and good to get feedback from the community. He commented that he appreciated the feedback and the passion in the voices that he heard tonight. He stated that transparency for him is the budget. He suggested that everyone look at the City's Budget on the City's website. He encouraged everyone with questions to come to City Hall and they will help you. He thanked everyone for staying until 9:15 p.m.

Commissioner McNees – he thanked the audience for attending. He thanked Nick Breedveld for his actions that led us to these discussions. He apologized to Nick Breedveld for interrupting him when he was speaking earlier. He stated that he wants to improve communication, make cuts, and talk more with every one of you.

Commissioner Krueger – she echoed Commission Milhiem and McNees’s comments. She stated that it was so nice to see so many faces in attendance. She invited the audience to come to the meetings and find out what is going on in the City. She commented that it would be a wonderful thing to have this audience at every meeting. She stated “we did hear you, and it is wonderful to have all of you here”. She thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his report, thanked Police Chief Misner and Fire Chief Weber, DPW Supervisor Bosch, and Finance Director Storbeck for his chart and graph presentation.

Mayor Pro-Tem Withee – she thanked the audience for attending. She commented that is greatly appreciated that everyone took the time to attend the meeting tonight. She stated that she hopes to see everyone at future meetings. She thanked all of the Department Heads and a special thank you to Finance Director Storbeck for his presentation.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner McNees, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED – 9:18 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk