

A Workshop Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held Monday, March 21, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Withee at 5:30 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Brent Milhiem and Lauri Krueger. Absent: Dustin McNees. Also present: City Manager, Aaron Mitchell and Finance Director Storbeck.

A. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. COMMUNICATION/INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION

City Manager Mitchell stated that currently the City uses the City's website, Facebook Page, Newsletter, Shopper's Guide, and the Union Enterprise for most communications. He commented that the City is open to ideas. It was suggested to put the link to the website in the Newsletter and or email a link with the minutes to people who wants them. The emailing option was discussed and it was noted that sending out mass emails may result in getting the City's email "black listed". Commissioner Krueger also stated that there is a "Contact Us" tab on the website also. Other suggestions were to have a message board, and more information in the Shopper's Guide. City Manager Mitchell encouraged everyone to send their suggestions and ideas to us.

2. BUDGET QUESTION & ANSWER

The following questions were answered or suggestions made:

- Why wasn't the budget looked at years ago when City Manager Mitchell had discussions regarding DDA/MS
- Make cuts – don't raise taxes
- Let the taxpayers help with ideas and don't threaten with taking away services
- Have each Department cut 10% of their budget
- What is Main Street doing for us
- The difference in the DDA and Main Street was explained & the funding
- If Main Street is not sustaining itself – it has to go
- The DDA Agreement with the County was explained
- If Main Street is no longer – the DDA will continue maintenance
- A tax increase will not be supported unless cuts are made
- Cut Main Street's expenses and keep the DDA
- DDA sunsets in 2025
- Pavilion is nice, but will have to be maintained. Nice to have stuff, but it all needs to be maintained
- Use Allegan County for Economic Development Services
- Change hours of Police Officers
- Detective Wages
- Full-Time position at the Fire Department
- Cut Main Street – only keep if they generate their own funding
- Cut Overtime for Police Officers
- Various Main Street activities were discussed

At this time, Police Chief Misner and Fire Chief Weber answered questions of the audience.

3. POTENTIAL 2022-2023 BUDGET CUTS

No discussion – due to time constraints.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

None.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem. CARRIED – 6:59 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk