



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Spring/Summer 2022

IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

Tues., Aug. 2, 2022 - State Primary Election

Tues., Nov. 8, 2022 - State General Election

The polls will open at City Hall at 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 8:00 p.m.

If you are not Registered to Vote, visit City Hall.

Call the City Clerk if you want to verify your Voter Status!

Absentee Applications are available at City Hall, if you are on the Permanent Absentee Voter's List, you will be sent a dual application for both the August & November Elections.

If you have any questions, contact the City Clerk, Angela Cronen at 692-3391.



CITY COMMISSION PETITIONS AVAILABLE

Petition forms are now available at the office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 117 E. Orleans St., for election to the Otsego City Commission. The City Election will be held Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

Three Full Term City Commission Seats

The two candidates receiving the highest number of votes will be elected to four year terms and the third candidate will be elected to a two year term.

Two Partial Two-Year Terms

Terms Expiring in November 2024

At the time the petition is picked up, the candidate must declare what office they will be running for.

In order to qualify for the Office of City Commissioner, a candidate must be: A resident of the city for not less than one year immediately preceding his or her election and a Registered Voter.

Nominations for office are determined by petition signed by not less than 40 registered voters of the City of Otsego. Petitions need to be submitted to the City Clerk's office no later than Tuesday, July 26, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.



HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE

The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants April 25 through May 6. This is done to remove any stale water that may be in the system and ensure that the fire hydrants are working properly. You may experience some reduced pressure and discoloration during this process. If discoloration occurs, let your water run until it clears.

DOOR TO DOOR SALES

Remember to make sure that the salesperson has a signed permit from the City. Just a reminder that the City is in no way endorsing any of the salespersons or their products by signing the permit. The signed permit only means that they filled out the proper paperwork and a background check has been completed, per the City's Ordinance. If you have a complaint - call the Police Department or City Hall.



CITY HALL HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m., and Friday 7:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.
***Hours may vary on a Holiday Week.**

If you would like to use the drop box, please feel free to use the one located on the northeast side of the building attached to the building or we now have a drive-up drop box located on the north side of City Hall. These drop boxes are monitored and checked frequently. If you use the drop box and would like a receipt, please indicate that and one will be mailed to you.



RECYCLE PICK-UP IS THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH



"The City of Otsego Citizen's Guide, Performance Dashboard, Debt Service Report and Projected Budget Report are available for viewing at the Otsego City Hall or online at www.cityofotsego.org."

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED May 30, July 4, & Sept. 5, 2022

City Manager's View



City Manager
Aaron Mitchell

2022-2023 Budget-End of Main Street

The City of Otsego has had an interesting budgeting cycle in relation to its' General Fund these past few months. The growing issues have revolved around a General Fund that has been dwindling due to multiple circumstances. Fortunately we had been able to build a sufficient fund balance due to years of cutting costs and stretching every dollar we received prior to the short-falls. However, we realized over a year ago that this problem will need resolution sooner rather than later.

FINANCIAL
BUDGET

2022-2023



This spurred discussions on this topic at City Commission meetings throughout all of '21 in hopes of finding an appropriate method to either cut services or raise additional revenue to secure an appropriate balance in the General Fund going forward. Many options were discussed and the City Commission decided to pursue Public Act 33 of 1951 over a ballot initiative. This was done to provide a resource for not only operation costs but also to retain revenue to replace the 3 fire trucks that are long overdue for replacements. The tentative 22-23 Budget included significant revenue by utilizing PA 33 for operations. As many of you are aware; a petition was submitted by 10% of the property owners in opposition, removing that as a viable option this year and going forward. That required the City Commission to take drastic measures to balance the budget. That drastic measure was to end the Main Street program within our DDA and transfer the DDA back to a capital improvement board; the traditional DDA role. The DDA is scheduled to dissolve in 2023 and will be only using its current fund balance to pay for its maintenance projects for our downtown. This was a hard decision, as many budget decisions often are. There was much discussion on this option and it was agreed upon that this is the best path forward for the City as a whole. It will immediately provide an additional annual \$150K to the General Fund, which will significantly fill the hole. The next steps will be to transfer as many Main Street successes over to City staff. This will rely heavily on the current volunteers that work on Main Street events and projects. This move is not a silver bullet. It does not completely fix the revenue concerns. It does not provide any revenues for fire trucks and it does not completely fill the void within the General Fund (but it definitely helps). Meaning additional long term financial solutions will continue to be researched and discussed. In the meanwhile, this move will stretch out the existing fund balance to continue to provide quality public services to our residents.



OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT OFFICERS



Devon Thomas, Lieutenant; Michael McGrail, Lieutenant;
David Kranz, Assistant Chief; Brandon Weber, Chief;
Todd Campbell, Captain; Michael T Bush, Lieutenant.

CITY OF OTSEGO'S WEBSITE



For up to date information regarding the City of Otsego, visit our website at:

<https://www.cityofotsego.org>

[City of Otsego, Michigan | Facebook](#)

The City also has a Facebook Page that you can follow for information. Public Notices are published in the Union Enterprise, as legally required. Please check our website regularly for updates. **Look for our logo to make sure that the Website and the Facebook Page are for the City of Otsego, Michigan. If you have any questions, please feel free to call City Hall at 692-3391; or email a Department Head.



Find us on:
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REMINDER



PLEASE **do not** flush **baby wipes, diapers, feminine products or flushable wipes** down your toilets! These items are not really flushable. They do not break down like toilet paper is intended to do.

They are beginning to be the cause of major problems and backups throughout the City. Please help yourself, your neighbors and community by not disposing of these items in this way. Please use your local refuse service to dispose of these items. Your cooperation in this would be greatly appreciated by everyone. Thank you.



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GARAGE SALES

Don't forget to obtain your garage/yard sale permit before having a sale. Cost of the permit is \$1.00 and may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office. Each residence is permitted two sales per year with a maximum duration of three days each.



PLEASE SEE THE CITY'S FIREWORK ORDINANCE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS - The City has many Ordinances that you might not be aware of, here are a few that may be of interest to you: Barking Dog Ordinance, an ordinance specifying how long your trash bin can be at the side of the road, a tall grass ordinance, no open burning ordinance, and front yard parking ordinance, to name just a few. Ordinances can be found in detail on the City's website www.cityofotsego.org. The City also asks now that mowing season is here to please not blow yard clippings into the road, as they can plug the street drains and increase pollution in the rivers. Please feel free to contact City Hall if you have specific questions.



Police Chief, Brad Misner

POLICE DEPARTMENT



A new year brings new beginnings and new challenges. I have now been a part of the Otsego Police Department (OPD) family for 2 years and could not be prouder of the hard-working, dedicated staff that put the community's needs before their own.

These six committed officers responded to 2,483 calls for service in 2021, up from 2,384 calls in 2020. Those numbers do not include the self-initiated activity such as traffic stops, community engagement, and business, school, and property checks.

Unfortunately, a challenge we have seen in our city over the past year is the rise in vehicle thefts. In 2021, officers responded to 10 vehicle thefts in the city and 16 larcenies from vehicles. We would like to remind our residents to please keep your vehicles locked, do not leave any val-

uables in your vehicle, also, do not leave your keys or key fob inside the vehicle as this makes your vehicle an easy target for thieves.

Now that we are approaching nicer weather, I'd like to remind you we do live in Michigan where road and weather conditions can change rapidly as we transition from winter to spring. As the days start to get longer and people become more active, please stay alert, watch for walkers, bicyclists and motorcycles. Put the phones away to prevent distractive driving so you and those sharing the roadway with you get to your destinations safely.

Your safety is our highest priority. If you see anything suspicious, call 911 to report...together we can stop these crimes from happening in our city.

In December of 2021, the City of Otsego hired Alyssa McLaughlin as a new member to the Otsego Police Department's team. I'd

like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Alyssa. Alyssa grew up in the Hopkins area, attending Hopkins High School 2011-2015. She graduated from Ferris State University in May of 2020 with a Criminal Justice degree. She worked for a short period in Bridgeport Township Police Department before being hired at Allegan County as Marine Deputy and Court House Security.



CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

MAY, 2022

2	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
3	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
3	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
9	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
16	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
17	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
23	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
30	CITY HALL CLOSED - MEMORIAL DAY	

JUNE, 2022

2	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
3	HOLIDAY HOURS -	7:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
6	CITY COMMISSION -	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
7	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
7	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
13	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
20	CITY COMMISSION -	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
21	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
27	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

JULY, 2022

4	CITY HALL CLOSED	
5	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
5	CURBSIDE BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY - DUE TO HOLIDAY	
7	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
8	CITY HALL HOLIDAY HOURS -	7:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
11	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
18	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
19	BOARD OF REVIEW	8:30 A.M.
19	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
25	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

AUGUST, 2022

1	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
2	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
2	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
4	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
8	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
15	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
16	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

SEPTEMBER, 2022

1	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CITY HALL CLOSED	
6	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
6	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY ** DAY LATER DUE TO HOLIDAY	
9	CITY HALL HOLIDAY HOURS -	7:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
12	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
19	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
20	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
26	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

OCTOBER, 2022

3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
4	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
4	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
10	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
17	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
18	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

CITY CONTACTS

Police & Fire Emergency.....	911
Fire Non-Emergency.....	694-4390
Police Non-Emergency.....	692-6111
Chief of Police.....	692-6111
City Manager	694-6146
City Clerk	692-3391
Finance Director	692-2741
Main Street Office.....	692-2336
Dept. Public Works	694-6636
Treatment Plant.....	694-9194

Website: www.cityofotsego.org



The Agenda is a quarterly publication of the
CITY OF OTSEGO

Stacey Withee.....	Mayor
Lauri Krueger.....	Mayor Pro-Tem
Brent Milhiem.....	Commissioner
Chuck Moore Jr.....	Commissioner
Jason Smith.....	Commissioner
Aaron Mitchell.....	City Manager
Angela Cronen.....	City Clerk
Mike Bosch.....	DPW Supervisor
Luke Keyzer.....	WWTP Superintendent
Brad Misner.....	Chief of Police
Matthew Storbeck.....	Treasurer
Brandon Weber.....	Fire Chief
Lydia Paille.....	Assessor
Kahler Sweeney.....	Main Street Manager

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269-692-3391

