

A Workshop Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held Monday, April 18, 2022.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Withee at 6:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Brent Milhiem and Lauri Krueger. Absent: None. Also present: City Manager, Aaron Mitchell; Fire Chief, Brandon Weber; DPW Supervisor, Mike Bosch; and Finance Director Storbeck.

## **A. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

### **1. DDA/MAIN STREET UPDATE**

At this time, City Manager Mitchell explained the options moving forward with the City's budget. He explained that Main Street will be dissolving on June 30, 2022, with the exception of the Main Street Manager staying employed until September 30, 2022. He explained that the DDA Board will have four new members who need to learn their roles and this three-month transition period will also give the Main Street Manager time to transition the projects that were under the Main Street umbrella. He indicated that the Main Street Manager will be moving his office to City Hall by June 30, 2022. City Manager Mitchell gave a brief overview of the history of the DDA, how Main Street was integrated into the DDA, and the expiration of the DDA would be in 2025. He stated that the DDA will now be a Capital Improvement Board, using their fund balance to complete projects. He explained that Main Street events, such as Gus Macker and Hometown Christmas will continue and be volunteer driven.

Commissioner Krueger commented that this has to happen, but she doesn't like it. She commented that Main Street Manager Sweeney proved to be an asset to the City. She stated that "a loved community is a community that people want to be a part of."

Commissioner Milhiem commented that the human element is hard when you have to cut something. He commented that people worked hard to build Main Street, but unfortunately it would have been dissolved in 2025.

Mayor Withee commented that this is not what she wanted to happen, but this is the best option moving forward. She explained that there will be four new members coming onto the DDA Board who have enthusiasm and know the future of the DDA. She also commented that with the Main Street Manager transitioning the teams and events, it will be the best chance to succeed.

City Manager Mitchell answered questions of the audience regarding the Main Street transition, and Gus Macker revenues. City Manager Mitchell explained that the Main Street Manager's salary, for three months, will be paid out of the DDA's fund balance. The amount being retained by the General Fund from the LCSA funds that were previously going to the DDA/Main Street were explained.

### **2. BALLOT INITIATIVE**

City Manager Mitchell reviewed the possible ballot initiatives for fire trucks and additional revenues. He briefly reviewed the following: Charter Amendment, Headlee Override, Public Safety Millage, and Bonding for Fire Trucks. A lengthy discussion took place regarding these options. Fire Chief Weber answered questions of the Commission and the audience. He also explained the rotation of the replacement of the trucks.

**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

None.

**COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS**

None.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Milhiem, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED – 6:55 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC  
City Clerk