

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on 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.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The March 21, 2022, Regular and Workshop Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

INTRODUCTION OF CITY COMMISSIONER APPLICANTS

Mayor Withee stated that two applications had been received for the two open seats on the City Commission. At this time, Chuck Moore Jr. and Jason Smith introduced themselves and explained why they would like to be considered for the open positions.

APPOINTMENT OF CITY COMMISSIONERS TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERMS FOR DUSTIN MCNEES AND CYNDI TROBECK

Commissioner Krueger moved to appoint Jason Smith to fill the unexpired term, November 2022, of Dustin McNees, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Commissioner Milhiem moved to appoint Chuck Moore Jr. to fill the unexpired term, November 2022, of Cyndi Trobeck, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CITY CLERK SWEARING IN OF NEW COMMISSIONERS

At this time, Clerk Cronen swore in Commissioner Moore and Commissioner Smith.

I. PRESENTATIONS:

A. COUNTY COMMISSIONER GALE DUGAN UPDATE

County Commissioner Dugan provided a written report to the Commission.

B. PRESENTATION CAM DAVIS OF GEI – RIVER CLEAN-UP

Mr. Cam Davis of GEI congratulated Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Moore. He also gave his condolences of the passing of Mayor Trobeck. He stated that it has been great to work on this project with City Manager Mitchell. Mr. Brad Parlato of GEI gave a brief presentation of the background of the project, the river cleanup project overview, and the Mitchell Street boat launch. They answered questions of the audience and Commission.

C. PRESENTATION OF 2022-2023 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL – DPW MOTOR POOL FUND & DDA FUND

Finance Director Matthew Storbeck presented the Motor Pool Fund and DDA Fund for the fiscal year 2022-2023. Anticipated revenue for the Motor Pool Fund is \$280,000, and anticipated expense is \$497,980, capital outlay of \$265,000. DPW Supervisor Bosch answered questions

from the audience regarding equipment. Anticipated revenue for the DDA Fund is \$78,140, and anticipated expense is \$439,300, with capital outlay of \$86,415. Finance Director Storbeck gave a detailed DDA/Main Street succession plan, which included the discontinuance of the Main Street Program and the DDA ending at the end of the 2022-2023, fiscal year. Finance Director Storbeck and City Manager Mitchell answered questions of the audience and Commission regarding the DDA/Main Street.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

IV. ORDINANCES:

A. SECOND READING AND ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE #171 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 26-4 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW

Commissioner Milhiem, supported by Commissioner Krueger, moved the adoption of the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 171

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 26-4 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW

THE CITY OF OTSEGO ORDAINS:

Section 1. Amendment. Chapter 26, “Elections,” Section 26-4, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Otsego, Michigan, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 26-4. Deadline for filing nomination petitions for the office of Commissioner.

The filing date for petitions for the office of City Commissioner shall be 4:00 p.m., local time, on the 15th Tuesday prior to the City's general election date in November.

Section 2. Effective Date. This ordinance shall take effect upon the latter of publication or the passage of twenty (20) days time following its final adoption in accordance with the City Charter.

Ordinance No. 171, will rescind Ordinance #159, and #160 of the City of Otsego’s Code of Ordinances.

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Lauri Krueger, Brent Milhiem, Jason Smith, and Chuck Moore Jr.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED.

V. REQUESTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF THE DDA/MAIN STREET BOARD’S REQUEST TO CONTINUE THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Commissioner Krueger moved to grant the request from the DDA/Main Street Board to continue the Main Street Manager position through September 30, 2022, seconded by Commissioner Milhiem. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. AGREEMENTS:

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2022-08 – A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2021-2022 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

CITY OF OTSEGO
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION NO. 2022-08

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2021-2022 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

WHEREAS, the Otsego City Commission approved the 2021-2022 Annual Appropriations Bill which limited amounts for expenditures and anticipated revenues for the 2021-2022 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, certain activities and/or revenue sources will exceed previous projections; and

WHEREAS, the Otsego City Commission wishes to formally amend the annual appropriations bill in acknowledgement of the need for revisions,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Otsego City Commission hereby approves the following increases and decreases to the 2021-2022 Annual Appropriations Bill:

Major Street Fund Expenditures

202-901-989.000	Capital Outlay - Street Rehabilitation	\$34,600
202-966-995.203	Transfer to Local Street Fund	\$90,000
	Net Increase/(Decrease)	\$124,600

Local Street Fund Revenues

203-931-699.202	Transfer in from Major Street Fund	\$90,000
	Net Increase/(Decrease)	\$90,000

Downtown Development Authority/Main Street Revenues	
248-000-569.000 State Grants - Other	\$20,000
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Net Increase/(Decrease)	\$20,000
Downtown Development Authority/Main Street Expenditures	
248-729-760.000 Minor Equipment Purchases	\$25,000
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Net Increase/(Decrease)	\$25,000

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Lauri Krueger, Brent Milhiem, Jason Smith, and Chuck Moore Jr.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

- A. CONSIDERATION OF THE MAYOR’S APPOINTMENT’S TO THE DDA BOARD OF SARAH KNASH TO FILL THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF BRUCE MELES - TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2022; MARISSA ANDRUS TERM TO EXPIRE JULY 1, 2024; AND SANDY FOSTER TERM TO EXPIRE JULY 1, 2024.

Commissioner Milhiem moved to affirm the Mayor’s appointment to the DDA Board – Sarah Knash, filling the unexpired term of Bruce Meles – July 1, 2022; Marissa Andrus, term to expire July 1, 2024; and Sandy Foster, term to expire July 1, 2024; seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mayor Withee thanked the new members for their willingness to serve, and their love of the City and Downtown.

- B. CONSIDERATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER KRUEGER TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Milhiem moved to affirm the Mayor’s appointment of Lauri Krueger to the Fire Department Committee, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MANAGER’S REPORT

The City Manager gave updates on the following:

1. Thanked Cam Davis and Brad Parlato of GEI, as they will be an asset to our town.
2. He thanked Main Street Manager Sweeney for everything he has done in the one year he has been here and for leaving a legacy to continue forward.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Sam Jacobs, 233 W Allegan Street – he thanked MS Manager Sweeney, the City, and Main Street for the time he spent interning as a student at Grand Valley. He commented that it is a shame that it has to go away, but is hopeful that the teams will continue on, because it is important to the City and the City's future.

Paulette Carr – 5199 142nd Street, Holland – she commented that she came to work with MS Manager Sweeney and was focusing on developing the downtown. She stated that she is still compassionate about the downtown's future and growing the community. She commented that she hopes that the downtown stays vibrant and active. She thanked MS Manager Sweeney and hopes that we will continue what he started.

Sandy Foster – 695 River Road – she thanked MS Manager Sweeney for his passion and professionalism. She commented that a key part of his position is writing grants and that she is sad to see him go.

Ben Pobocik, 116 North Fair – he thanked MS Manager Sweeney and the volunteers. He stated that he had served on the DDA Board for 10-11 years. He thanked everyone involved with the program. He thanked the Commission for being responsible stewards.

Marty Bennett, 1391 Hazelwood, Plainwell – he echoed Mr. Pobocik's comments. He commented that he has been the Chairperson of the DDA Board for many years. He stated that he hates to see the Main Street Program go away and it is going to be difficult for the City to carry on. He gave MS Manager Sweeney's background and commented that he knew he may only be employed for eight months, as the City might get rid of the program. He commented that people don't understand community engagement and how important it is to have. He commented that it takes everyone being involved and he encouraged everyone to find a way to get involved, because it is a big deal. He thanked MS Manager Sweeney and hopes that he stays through the end of September.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Milhiem – he thanked and welcomed the two new Commissioners and commented that he appreciates them stepping up, as they will do great things and gain a lot of experience. He thanked County Commissioner Dugan. He commented that he had limited interaction with MS Manager Sweeney, but the human element is the hard part. He stated that there is a lot to do and extending his time until the end of September will help moving forward. He thanked Mr. Davis and Mr. Parlato of GEI for their presentation. He expressed that he liked the vision of a park or boat launch at the end of Mitchell Street. He thanked Finance Director Storbeck for his presentation, and DPW Superintendent Bosch for answering questions. He thanked all of the people who have been in attendance these past few months. He commented that the budget information is a lot, and he hopes that they understand more of the process and the decisions that the Commission has to make. He stated that he forms his thoughts around the audience's input and questions, and he asked that they keep coming as it helps the City be sustainable.

Commissioner Moore – he thanked the Commission for the appointment. He commented that he is looking forward to bringing value and a different outlook to the Commission. He stated that MS Manager Sweeney will be missed, as he was valued in the community.

Commissioner Krueger – she congratulated Commissioner Smith and Commissioner Moore and is excited for their fresh perspective and new thoughts. She thanked Mayor Withee for appointing her to the Fire Department Board, as it is near and dear to her heart. She thanked the Main Street Board, the DDA, the community, MS Manager Sweeney and all of the volunteers, as they often go unappreciated. She commented that “a loved community is a community that people want to be a part of.” She expressed the need for people to step up which will be an asset to the community. She concurred with Commission Milhiem that it is good to hear the voices of the community, as it makes the Commission think. She stated that she appreciates all of the audience attending and all of their comments.

Commissioner Smith – he thanked the Commission for the opportunity to serve. He commented that MS Manager Sweeney will not be forgotten, as he made Main Street better and will leave a legacy. He commented that he is looking forward to the river cleanup. He congratulated Commissioner Krueger on her appointment to the Fire Department Committee.

Mayor Withee – she thanked MS Manager Sweeney, former intern Sam Jacobs, and Sandy Foster for all of their work. She commented that Main Street is loved and it is unfortunate that we have to do it, but we have to work very hard to continue the events. She thanked DPW Supervisor Bosch for answering questions of the audience and Commission. She thanked Robert Alway and County Commissioner Dugan for being a member and participating in CAG. She thanked everyone in the audience for attending.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Milhiem, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED – 8:39 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk