

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, March 6, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Withee at 7:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Lauri Krueger, Jason Smith, Chuck Moore, and Wayne Rayburn. Absent: None. Also present: City Manager, Aaron Mitchell; Finance Director, Matthew Storbeck; and DPW Supervisor, Mike Bosch.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The February 20, 2023, Regular Minutes were approved as submitted.

Commissioner Krueger moved to add the following item under Agreements – the CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH PLUMMERS INC. FOR LINING OF SEWER LINES ON WEST FRANKLIN STREET AND MAN HOLE REPAIRS seconded by Commission Smith. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

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 and the Commission.

B. PRESENTATION OF 2023-2022 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 2023-2024. Anticipated revenue for the Major Street Fund is \$862,800, and anticipated expense is \$996,655. Major Street capital improvement projects are planned in the amount of \$690,565. Anticipated revenue for the Local Street Fund is \$343,700, and anticipated expense is \$229,840. Local Street capital improvement projects are planned in the amount of \$54,000. Anticipated revenue for the Street and Bridge Fund is \$159,000, and anticipated expense is \$80,000. Anticipated revenue for the Special Assessment Capital Improvement Fund is \$12,840, and anticipated expenditures are \$0.00.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

A. CONSIDERATION OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO GRANT A SPECIAL LAND USE PERMIT FOR AN OUTDOOR MUSIC VENUE AT 129 EAST ALLEGAN STREET, MAUDE'S LLC

City Manager Mitchell explained that a special land use permit was created last year to allow outdoor music venues in the Central Business District. He stated that Mr. McPherson requested a temporary permit to hold concerts between June 9, 2023 and September 23, 2023. City

Manager Mitchell explained that residents and business owners within three hundred feet of the venue were notified of a public hearing for the special land use permit, and there were no objections at the public hearing. City Manager Mitchell stated that Mr. McPherson has a good site plan which he is comfortable with. Commissioner Krueger moved to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation and grant a Special Land Use Permit for an Outdoor Music Venue at 129 East Allegan Street, Maude's LLC, seconded by Commissioner Smith. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IV. ORDINANCES:

V. REQUESTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF THE APPROVAL OF THE UPDATED EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN FOR THE OTSEGO CITY DAM - DAM I.D. NO. 522

City Manager Mitchell explained that EGLE requires an updated Emergency Action Plan, and the City's is due for renewal. He stated that the City needs to maintain the documents and dam until the dam is removed, possibly in 2026. Commissioner Krueger moved to approve the updated Emergency Action Plan for the Otsego Dam – Dam I.D. No. 522, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. AGREEMENTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH PLUMMERS INC. FOR LINING OF SEWER LINES ON WEST FRANKLIN STREET AND MAN HOLE REPAIRS

City Manager Mitchell stated that more lining repairs were needed on West Franklin Street and the man hole covers. He stated that the cost is not at an emergency rate. DPW Supervisor Bosch explained the future benefits of the program. City Manager Mitchell stated that funds are budgeted in the sewer fund each year. Commissioner Krueger moved to authorize the agreement with Plummers Inc. for lining of sewer lines on West Franklin Street and man hole repairs, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager gave updates on the following:

- Excited for the outdoor music venue and for the downtown
- Excited about the housing "buzz" that has come from the Housing Study
- Mission Statement will be presented at the next meeting

COMMUNICATIONS

Clerk Cronen announced that the City of Otsego's Water Department once again received the National Fluoride Award.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Charles Housel, 379 West Orleans – he asked questions of the Commission – had they looked at the agenda items; talked amongst themselves; called each other. Commission Krueger stated that if a Commissioner has a question they call the City Manager. He asked why there are no amounts on the agenda items. City Manager Mitchell explained that the Commissioners receive all of the information before the meetings, not the day of the meeting.

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he commented that he is glad that Finance Director Storbeck is still here. He commented that he gave a clear presentation and everyone can understand what is going on.

Nick Breedveld, 1101 Barton – he asked if the budget PowerPoint and slides could be put on-line before the meetings.

COMMISSIONER'S' COMMENTS

Commissioner Moore – he thanked the audience for attending. He thanked Finance Director Storbeck for his presentation, as the budget can be overwhelming. He encouraged the residents if they have a question to ask City Manager Mitchell. He stated that the Commissioners are to represent the residents and also get answers to their questions. He stated “it is not us against you”, we are all working for the better of the City.

Commissioner Krueger – she thanked the audience for attending. She thanked Finance Director Storbeck for his on-point presentation. She thanked Mark McPherson as he continues to invest in the downtown, with the live music venue, and the downtown continues to grow. She thanked Firefighter Skyler Henion who is the current on-duty firefighter (sit-time) for attending the meeting and being genuinely interested.

Commissioner Smith – he thanked Finance Director Storbeck for how he presented the presentation and how comprehensive it was. He thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his report. He commented that he is excited to have the new outdoor venue, wished Mr. McPherson good luck, and thanked him for his investment in the downtown.

Commissioner Rayburn – he thanked Finance Director Storbeck for all of his hard work, and the amount of work he did on the presentation. He commented that this being his first budget, he will look it all over again and everything will fall into place. He thanked Mark McPherson for investing in our community and hopefully this will become permanent. He thanked the audience for attending. He stated that when the Commission gets the material for the meetings, he personally makes notes, and if he has questions he calls City Manager Mitchell.

Mayor Withee – she thanked the audience for attending and welcomed the new members of the audience. She wished everyone a “Happy Week”.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn. CARRIED – 8:11 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk