

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, March 20, 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; WWTP Supervisor, Luke Keyzer; and DPW Supervisor, Mike Bosch.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Moore, the March 6, 2023, Regular Minutes were approved as submitted.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

Charles Housel, 379 W Orleans – he asked where the funds will come from to pay MnS Lawn Service. City Manager Mitchell commented that it will be explained during the meeting.

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 2023-2024 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL - WATER FUND AND SEWER FUND

Finance Director Storbeck presented the Water and Sewer Funds for the fiscal year 2023-2024. Anticipated revenue for the Water Fund is \$639,005, and anticipated expense is \$633,740. No Capital improvements are planned. Anticipated revenue for the Sewer Fund is \$1,177,495, and anticipated expense is \$1,186,815. Sewer Fund capital improvement projects are planned in the amount of \$25,000.

He noted that there is a proposed increase in the base Readiness to Serve Fee in the Sewer Fund from \$48.92 to \$51.37 (5.01%); and an increase in the commodity charge from \$8.58 to \$9.01/1,000 gallons (0.43%); the Water Fund Base Readiness to Serve Fee will be increased from \$20.19 to \$21.20 (5.00%); and an increase in the commodity charge from \$2.14 to \$2.25/1,000 gallons (5.14%). The Readiness to Serve Fees illustrated are based on 5/8"-3/4" residential service meters.

At this time, Finance Director Storbeck and WWTP Superintendent Keyzer answered questions of the Commission.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

IV. ORDINANCES:

V. REQUESTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM THE OTSEGO ROTARY TO
HOLD AN EASTER EGG HUNT AT MEMORIAL PARK ON APRIL 8, 2023

Commissioner Krueger moved to grant the request from the Otsego Rotary to hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt at Memorial Park on April 8, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

B. CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF OTSEGO'S
MISSION STATEMENT

City Manager Mitchell reviewed the history leading up to the adoption of a Mission Statement for the City. He explained that this has been eighteen months since we started the process and has worked closely with employees and department heads. He explained that it was important to choose the proper words that are inclusive and represents what the City of Otsego is striving for – Customer Service; Inclusion of – residents, business owners, visitors; Health & Safety; Stewardship; and Economic Vitality.

“The City of Otsego strives to provide excellent and friendly public services to its residents, business owners and visitors. With measures of success being public health and safety, quality recreation, inclusion, innovation, stewardship and economic vitality for all today and tomorrow.”

Commissioner Rayburn moved to adopt the City of Otsego's Mission Statement “The City of Otsego strives to provide excellent and friendly public services to its residents, business owners and visitors. With measures of success being public health and safety, quality recreation, inclusion, innovation, stewardship and economic vitality for all today and tomorrow”, seconded by Commissioner Smith. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION OF THE CITY OF OTSEGO'S
MOTTO

City Manager Mitchell explained a motto for the City should be fresh, relevant, and welcoming. A motto represents how the City will market itself. City Manager Mitchell commented that it is bold but, we stand behind it - “The Greatest Small Town in Michigan!”. Mayor Withee commented that at the RRC Meetings it was discussed that the motto “come to work, come to play, come to stay” is over used. Commissioner Smith commented that it is bold. Commissioner Rayburn commented that it gives us a goal to live up to. Commissioner Krueger moved to adopt the City of Otsego's Motto, “The Greatest Small Town in Michigan!”, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM THE CREATIVE ARTS
FESTIVAL COMMITTEE TO HOLD THE 36TH ANNUAL CREATIVE
ARTS FESTIVAL IN DOWNTOWN OTSEGO ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2023.

City Manager Mitchell commented that the date for the Creative Arts Festival will be the fifth Saturday of September this year instead of the fourth Saturday. Commissioner Rayburn moved to grant the request from the Creative Arts Festival Committee to hold the 36th Annual Creative Arts Festival in Downtown Otsego on September 30, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. AGREEMENTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH M_nS LAWN CARE SERVICES LLC FOR THE CITY PARKS PACKAGE, CITY MUNICIPALITY PACKAGE, & EXTRA PACKAGE FOR 2023, NOT TO EXCEED \$42,000

City Manager Mitchell stated that this is an annual approval. He commented that the calculation of the City staff to complete the work would cost \$94,000. He stated that the City received three quotes and M_nS Lawn Care was the low bid and they have been our lawn care provider for many years. Commissioner Smith asked where the funds come from. City Manager Mitchell explained that the funds come from the General Fund, which is divided up into percentages by department. At this time, DPW Supervisor Bosch answered questions of the Commission. Commissioner Krueger moved to authorize an agreement with M_nS Law Care Services LLC for the City Parks Package, City Municipality Package, & Extra Package for 2023, not to exceed \$42,000, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH STEENSMA TO PURCHASE A GENERATOR FOR THE CITY HALL, NOT TO EXCEED \$36,224.87

City Manager Mitchell stated that the generator at City Hall is the last DDA project. DPW Supervisor commented that the generator will be able to support a cooling or warming station for the community at City Hall. Commissioner Smith moved to authorize an agreement with Steensma to purchase a generator for City Hall, not to exceed \$36,224.87, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager gave updates on the following:

- Consumers Energy is in town cutting and trimming trees.
- Last Public Safety Millage Informational Meeting at the Library on Saturday at 1:00 p.m.
- He and Police Chief Misner attended Career Day at the Middle School and High School.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – has asked various questions of Finance Director Storbeck. He thanked Finance Director Storbeck for his report, as it makes it clear.

Pam Roth, 701 Kay Street – she inquired how much her water bill would go up. City Manager Mitchell suggested that she add five percent to her current bill. She asked what specific amounts would be going to the Fire Department, for a Fire truck, and Public Safety. City Manager Mitchell explained that the funds will be put into the Public Safety Fund. She commented that Otsego is a great town but, it is not a walkable town. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the Public Safety Millage and the ambulance service.

David Fouch, 359 W. Franklin – he asked if there had been a public update on the lead pipes in the City. WWTP Superintendent Keyzer stated that twenty samples were taken last year. A lengthy discussion took place. Mr. Fouch suggested that an update should be given. It was suggested to contact WWTP Supervisor Keyzer for specific questions regarding lead pipes.

Nick Breedveld, 1101 Barton – he commented that the Housing Study had good information in it. He asked if there was an update on the Main Street non-profit, commenting that he had seen papers filed by Together Otsego Prospers. Mayor Withee commented that he may have seen a Michigan classification, but not Federal. A brief discussion took place and City Manager Mitchell commented that Marty Bennett has asked to come to a meeting to give an update.

At this time, a discussion took place amongst the audience.

COMMISSIONER'S' COMMENTS

Commissioner Rayburn – he thanked Finance Director Storbeck, DPW Supervisor Bosch, County Commissioner Dugan, and WWTP Superintendent Keyzer for all of the good information they provided. He commented that the audience has good questions. He encouraged everyone to communicate that there will be a Public Safety Millage Informational Meeting on Saturday at the Library. He commented that the funds will go into the Public Safety Fund, and we do not have the hard numbers at this time, since it will take some time to get the numbers for the budget. He commented that it will be a learning curve.

Commissioner Moore – he thanked the audience for attending. The thanked Finance Director Storbeck, all of the Department Heads, City Manager Mitchell, and the Mayor for working on the Mission Statement and Motto. He reminded everyone that the proposed millage is to repeal the two mills – and be replaced with four mills, it is not for a Fire truck, and it is to keep operations. He commented that the Commission wants to work with the community and work to make Otsego “the Greatest Small Town in Michigan”.

Commissioner Krueger – she wished everyone a Happy 1st Day of Spring. She thanked the audience for attending. She thanked Finance Director Storbeck, WWTP Superintendent Keyzer, and DPW Supervisor Bosch for making the Water and Sewer Funds very understandable. She commented that she loved the Mission Statement and Motto. She thanked City Manager Mitchell for diligently working on the Mission Statement and Motto.

Commissioner Smith – he thanked Finance Director Storbeck and County Commission Dugan for their presentations. He thanked City Manager Mitchell for his work on the Motto and Mission Statement.

Mayor Withee – she thanked the audience for attending. She thanked Finance Director Storbeck WWTP Superintendent Keyzer, and DPW Supervisor Bosch for answering all of the questions. She told everyone to enjoy Spring!

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED – 8:32 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk