

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, September 18, 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; Police Chief, Brad Misner; DPW Supervisor, Mike Bosch; and Fire Chief, Brandon Weber.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Smith, the September 5, 2023, Regular Minutes were approved as submitted.

## **REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

### **I. PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **A. INTRODUCTION OF NEW DPW EMPLOYEES – DOUG PECK & BERT LOPEZ & NEW POLICE DEPARTMENT SRO EMPLOYEE PHIL ARNSMAN,**

At this time, DPW Supervisor Bosch introduced Bert Lopez who is a full-time employee at the DPW. DPW Supervisor Bosch and Mr. Lopez gave a brief overview of his work experience and involvement within the community. DPW Supervisor Bosch introduced Doug Peck who is the new part-time Transfer Station Attendant and commended him on doing a great job.

At this time, Police Chief Misner introduced Phil Arnsman, who is the new SRO for Otsego Public Schools. Police Chief Misner commented that Mr. Arnsman previously worked as a police officer for the City of Allegan and recently retired from the Allegan County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Arnsman gave a brief overview of his work experience and commented that he is excited to be here.

The City Commission welcomed all of the new employees.

#### **B. ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DUGAN**

Commissioner Dugan gave an update on County activities.

### **II. PUBLIC HEARING:**

### **III. PLANNING AND ZONING:**

### **IV. ORDINANCES:**

### **V. REQUESTS:**

#### **A. CONSIDERATION OF FOUR DAY - TEN HOUR WORK WEEK TRANSITION POLICY**

City Manager Mitchell explained the rationale behind the four-day ten-hour work week. He stated that the City can't match the private market wages and this is a way to give back to our employees, while being open longer hours for the customers. He stated that he has spoken with

both unions and the DPW started the new hours a few weeks ago, and the WWTP is starting the new hours today. He stated that City Hall hours would be 7:30 am until 5:30 pm, with staff only receiving a half-hour lunch. He answered questions of the Commission. He commented that all of the calls on Friday's will be treated like they currently are on the weekends. He also indicated that two holidays will be removed because they fall on Fridays – Good Friday and the day after Thanksgiving. Commissioner Moore moved to approve the Four-Day – Ten Hour Work Week Transition Policy, seconded by Commissioner Smith. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**B. CONSIDERATION OF PERSONNEL POLICY CHANGES IN REGARDS TO A FOUR – TEN HOUR WORK WEEK SCHEDULE**

Commissioner Krueger moved to approve the Personnel Policy changes in regards to a Four – Ten Hour Work Week Schedule, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**C. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM OTSEGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR USE OF WASHINGTON STREET AND MISCELLANEOUS CITY EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR EVENTS ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

City Manager Mitchell reviewed and explained the request of the road closures and how it will correlate with the Creative Arts Festival. Commissioner Krueger moved to grant the request from Otsego Public Schools for use of Washington Street and miscellaneous city equipment for their events on September 30, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**VI. AGREEMENTS:**

**A. CONSIDERATION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH OTSEGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR USE OF WASHINGTON STREET AND MISCELLANEOUS CITY EQUIPMENT FOR THEIR EVENTS ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2023**

Commissioner Smith moved to authorize Mayor Withee and Clerk Cronen to enter into an agreement with Otsego Public Schools for the use of Washington Street and miscellaneous city equipment for their events on September 30, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**VII. RESOLUTIONS:**

**VIII. APPOINTMENTS:**

**IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

The City Manager commented and gave updates on the following:

- \$20,000 – Fire Department State Grant for Equipment (helmets, gloves, turn-out gear)
- Volunteers are needed for the Creative Arts Festival

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

## **REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Ron Jaeck, 210 W. Franklin - thanked the Commission for doing the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of the meeting. He asked if he could get a map of the City. He commented that he appreciates all of the work that the Commission does.

## **COMMISSIONER'S' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Rayburn – he thanked the audience for attending. He congratulated the new employees. He commented that he hoped the four ten-hour work days work out. He wished Fire Chief Weber and Police Chief Misner good luck with the traffic control on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Smith – he welcomed the new employees to the City of Otsego and to what's ahead. He complimented new employee Doug Peck for a job well done when he visited the Transfer Station. He thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his consistency. He thanked City Manager Mitchell for his updates and reports.

Commissioner Krueger – she welcomed Bert Lopez, Officer Arnsman and Doug Peck. She commented that Fire Chief Weber is the ultimate grant writer and thanked him for all he does. She commented that it is hard to choose between the Creative Arts Festival and the Otsego Band Invitational. She suggested that maps be published and shared on social media. She thanked the following: the audience for attending the meeting and Police Chief Misner.

Commissioner Moore – he concurred with his fellow Commissioner's comments. He thanked the audience for attending. He commented that the Creative Arts Festival needs volunteers for the parade.

Mayor Withee – she welcomed Bert Lopez, Officer Arnsman and Doug Peck. She thanked the Bayberry residents for the block party. She commented that they invited the Commission and City Staff to the party. She stated that Commissioner Krueger, Commissioner Rayburn and herself attended. She thanked Clerk Cronen for helping put together the event in Wayland for the Allegan County Clerks to address the upcoming changes to the voting process.

## **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn. CARRIED – 7:44 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC  
City Clerk