

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, October 16, 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; 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 Moore, the September 18, 2023, Regular Minutes were approved as submitted.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS

None.

I. PRESENTATIONS:

A. ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER DUGAN

Commissioner Dugan gave an update on County activities. He answered questions of the Commission.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

IV. ORDINANCES:

V. REQUESTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF GRANTING CLERK CRONEN THE AUTHORITY TO SUBMIT AN 2024-2025 EARLY VOTING PLAN TO THE ALLEGAN COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE, AS PRESENTED

Clerk Cronen gave a brief overview of the Early Voting Plan and answered questions of the Commission. Commissioner Smith moved to grant Clerk Cronen the authority to submit the 2024-2025 Early Voting Plan to the Allegan County Clerk's Office, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. AGREEMENTS:

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2023-17 – A RESOLUTION FOR THE EARLY VOTING PLAN FOR CITY OF OTSEGO RESIDENTS – ESTABLISHING AN EARLY VOTING SITE

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

CITY OF OTSEGO
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-17

**EARLY VOTING PLAN FOR CITY OF OTSEGO RESIDENTS
ESTABLISHING AN EARLY VOTING SITE**

Whereas, Michigan electors adopted Proposal 2022-2 to amend the Michigan Constitution on November 8, 2022, which in part requires each municipality to have at least one early voting site for statewide and federal elections to accommodate early voting; and

Whereas, early voting consists of nine consecutive days of in-person voting starting the second Saturday before the election to the Sunday prior to the election, with a minimum of eight hours of in-person voting each day; and

Whereas, Public Act 81 of 2023 grants authority to the legislative body of a local municipality to establish an early voting site; and

Whereas, Public Act 81 of 2023 also requires that all early voting dates and times be posted forty-five (45) days prior to every election; and

Whereas, an Early Voting Plan must include all of the items listed in MCL 168.720g as amended by PA 81 of 2023 and be filed with Allegan County by the City Clerk by October 30, 2023; and.

Now Therefore be it Resolved that the Otsego City Commission concurs with the City Clerk's recommendation hereby establishes the early voting site for all Statewide and Federal Elections conducted in the City of Otsego to be held in the City Commission Chambers, 117 E. Orleans Street, Otsego, MI 49078.

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Lauri Krueger, Jason Smith, Wayne Rayburn, Chuck Moore.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

**B. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2023-18 – A RESOLUTION THE
AWARDING OF THE CYNDI TROBECK COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**

At this time, Mayor Withee read Resolution No. 2023-18, and presented the Cyndi Trobeck Community Service Award to Marty Bennett.

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

CITY OF OTSEGO
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION NO. 2023-18

THE AWARDING OF THE CYNDI TROBECK COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

WHEREAS, Cyndi Trobeck displayed a life of community service through multiple agencies and in many roles across the City of Otsego, and

WHEREAS, with hopes of honoring Cyndi's legacy and extend a deep appreciation for all community service volunteers within the City of Otsego, the Cyndi Trobeck Community Service Award is awarded to the individual who best embodies Cyndi's dedication to community with service above self, and

WHEREAS, in coordination with local volunteering agencies (Rotary, Otsego-Plainwell Chamber of Commerce, TOP) and Gary Trobeck, this year's winner is Marty Bennett, and

WHEREAS, Marty Bennett's service has been demonstrated with his long tenure as the Chairman of the Otsego Downtown Development Authority, the President of the Otsego-Plainwell Chamber of Commerce, pivotal role in the creation of Together Otsego Prospers (TOP), co-chair of the Gus Macker committee and the continual public service that he provides as the owner of *The Shoppers' Guide* with other community agencies within the City of Otsego, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Otsego, as an expression of thanks on behalf of the citizens of this City, commend Marty Bennett for his continuous and extraordinary service to the City of Otsego through community service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread in full on the minutes of the October 16, 2023, meeting of the Otsego City Commission and a plaque commemorating the occasion is presented to Marty Bennett.

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Lauri Krueger, Jason Smith, Wayne Rayburn, Chuck Moore.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MANAGER'S REPORT

The City Manager commented and gave updates on the following:

- Congratulated Marty Bennett for receiving the Cyndi Trobeck Community Service Award.
- Thanked County Commission Dugan for the House Assessment.
- Noted that the Police Department was in the news recently and did an amazing job on the case.
- Recognized two anniversary milestones – Finance Director Storbeck, 35 years of service; and Clerk Cronen, 30 years of service.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Mike Bosch – he congratulated Marty Bennett for the Cyndi Trobeck Community Service Award. He commented that Marty is involved in the Otsego community in so many ways.

Gary Trobeck, 218 Kalamazoo – he commented that Cyndi would be super happy that Marty Bennett received the Cyndi Trobeck Community Service Award. He congratulated Marty Bennett on behalf of the Trobeck and Cornell families.

COMMISSIONER'S' COMMENTS

Commissioner Moore – he thanked the following: County Commissioner Dugan for his report; and the audience for attending. He congratulated Marty Bennett.

Commissioner Krueger – she commented that she has known Marty Bennett for a long time and he has been an active pillar in the community for many years. She commented that he has put in many thankless hours over the years. She also thanked this family – Jackie, Grant, & Skyler.

Commissioner Rayburn – he congratulated Marty Bennett and his family. He stated that it is an honor to receive the award and thanked him for helping his community. He thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his report. He commented that the Transfer Station Attendant Doug Peck shows his appreciation for his job, does a great job, is positive, meticulous and a really nice guy. He thanked the audience for attending.

Commissioner Smith – he thanked County Commissioner Dugan for his report. He congratulated Marty Bennett. He thanked Clerk Cronen for all of the work she has been doing in reference to all of the new voting updates.

Mayor Withee – she congratulated Marty Bennett. She commented that she looks forward to working with him in many years to come. She thanked Clerk Cronen for what she does and commented that she was impressed and surprised by all of the details associated with what she does. She thanked the audience for attending.

ADJOURN FOR CLOSED SESSION – DISCUSSION REGARDING CITY MANAGER’S REVIEW

At 7:31 p.m., Commissioner Moore moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting to go into Closed Session to discuss the City Manager’s Review, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED.

RECONVENE REGULAR MEETING

At 9:05 p.m., Commissioner Krueger moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED.

ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn. CARRIED – 9:06 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk