

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, August 19, 2024.

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

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn, the July 17, 2024, Regular Minutes were approved as submitted. CARRIED

Commissioner Smith moved to add to the Agenda under Requests – B. Consideration of a request from the Otsego Public Schools to hold a Homecoming Parade on Friday, September 13, 2024, seconded by Commissioner Krueger. CARRIED.

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

None.

### **I. PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **A. ALLEGAN COUNTY COMMISSIONER GALE DUGAN**

County Commissioner Dugan gave a report on the County Board's recent activities. He answered questions of the Commission and audience.

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

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

### **IV. ORDINANCES:**

### **V. REQUESTS:**

#### **A. CONSIDERATION OF CITY MANAGER PLAN TO HIRE NEXT CITY FINANCE DIRECTOR**

City Manager Mitchell announced Finance Director Storbeck's retirement, as he will be leaving on December 5, 2024. He stated that he had put together an ad and plan for the hiring of the new Finance Director. He discussed where he would be posting the ad and his timeline. A lengthy discussion took place regarding the process of hiring the new Finance Director. It was the consensus of the Commission to have a Committee make a recommendation to the City Commission. He commented that he will post the open position in September, and hope to have someone hired by November 1, 2024. Commissioner Krueger moved to approve the City Manager's Plan to hire the next City Finance Director, seconded by Commissioner Moore. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### **B. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM THE OTSEGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO HOLD A HOMECOMING PARADE ON FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024,**

City Manager Mitchell explained that the requested date is the date of a headliner at the Allegan County Fair and have asked that the parade start south of Allegan Street (M-89). Commissioner Krueger moved to grant the request from Otsego Public Schools to hold a Homecoming Parade on Friday, September 13, 2024, beginning on the south side of Farmer Street, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**VI. AGREEMENTS:**

**VII. RESOLUTIONS:**

**A. RESOLUTION 2024-14 – A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOM FLATS AT RIVER STREET PROJECT**

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

**CITY OF OTSEGO  
MICHIGAN  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-14**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOM FLATS AT RIVER STREET RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT**

WHEREAS, Magnus Capital is pursuing a large quality residential project in the City of Otsego entitled HOM Flats at River Street, and

WHEREAS, The City of Otsego and Allegan County have recently conducted thorough housing studies with results demonstrating a dire need for housing units and especially affordable housing units, and

WHEREAS, the preparation of the former Rock-Tenn property (HOM Flats parcel) is a model example of multiple levels of government working together for demolition and redevelopment (Otsego City, Allegan County and Federal EPA) and is perfectly situated for this development, and

WHEREAS, Magnus Capital has been an engaged and reputable partner over the recent years through the development process, and have an impeccable reputation as property owners and community members in other communities, and

WHEREAS, the City of Otsego City Commission and Planning Commission members attended a tour of HOM Flats at 28<sup>th</sup> St. in Wyoming, Michigan and left with a firm understanding and appreciation of their quality of product, and

WHEREAS, the City of Otsego City Commission and Planning Commission have reviewed the preliminary site plan for HOM Flats and are excited and confident that there will be no significant delays in the permitting of the project, and

WHEREAS, the City of Otsego City Commission seeks quality diverse housing and views HOM Flats as a trajectory changing project for the City and its residents, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of Otsego City Commission is in full support of Magnus Capital and the HOM Flats at River Street Residential Project.

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

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:

1. He announced that former Planning Commission Member Paul Mitchell had recently passed away, and commented that he will be greatly missed.
2. Gus Macker is this weekend.
3. A charity basketball game will be held on Friday night for Wishbone
4. Creative Arts Festival requests will be at the next meeting.
5. Update on the dam repairs.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE**

Emily Jipp, Saugatuck – reintroduced herself and asked for support as she is running for Circuit Court Judge.

Mason Mills, Kalamazoo – he stated that he was with Representative Matt Hall's Office and was gathering information to take back to him.

**COMMISSIONER'S' COMMENTS**

Commissioner Moore – thanked Manager Mitchell for being proactive in the search for Finance Director Storbeck's replacement. He commented that it was well thought out.

Commissioner Krueger – she gave a shout-out to the Gus Macker crew and they go above and beyond. She thanked Scott Reitenour and Marty Bennett for their roles and for undertaking the event. She thanked the amazing volunteers. She also thanked all of the volunteers that help with Hometown Christmas and the Creative Arts Festival. She thanked the audience to attending.

Mayor Withee – she invited everyone to attend Gus Macker and commented that volunteers are still needed. She encouraged everyone to visit the TOP Facebook Page or their website and sign up. She commented that it is quite an event to see, as teams come from all over.

**ADJOURN**

Commissioner Smith moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Krueger.  
CARRIED. 7:49 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC  
City Clerk