



MINUTES
THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
86 W. CENTER ST. – DOUGLAS, MI
NOVEMBER 15, 2021, 7:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Councilman Seabert.
2. Roll Call: Present – Donovan, Miller, Naumann, North, Seabert, Van Loon, Lion (joined by Zoom)
Absent – None
Also Present – City Manager LaBombard, City Planner Wikar, City Treasurer Smith
3. Election of Officers:
 - A. Nominations for Mayor were taken by the Clerk
Seabert nomination of Lion – roll call vote nomination failed (yes) Seabert, Lion (no) Donovan, Miller, Naumann, North, Van Loon.
North nomination for Donovan – roll call vote nomination passed (yes) Donovan, Miller, Naumann, North, Van Loon, Lion, Seabert
Nominations for Mayor Pro Tem were taken by Mayor Donovan
Miller nomination of Lion – roll call vote nomination passed (yes) Donovan, Miller, Naumann, North, Van Loon, Seabert. (no) Lion

4. Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Donovan

5. Consent Calendar:
 - A. Approve Agenda for November 15, 2021
 - B. Approve Council Minutes as amended
 - C. Approve Invoices in the amount of \$86,924.77
 - E. Resignations / Appointments / Proclamations

*Motion by Van Loon, with support from Seabert, to approve the Consent Calendar as amended.
Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.*

6. Public Communication:
 - A. Verbal (Limit of 3 minutes)
Lawrence Gammons, Fremont St. – It has been over 12 months since a contract was presented to the City for the donation of the Pride Garden on Center St. A verbal agreement to replace the finials with balls and obtain an easement agreement with the apartment complex which adjoins the property was agreed upon, which have been completed. Nine months ago, I inquired if the City had agreed to the donation, I had wanted to close the agreement by the end of the year. I was informed the City would want to have

the Department of Public works do the landscaping care rather than a professional, reluctantly I agreed and paid for the contract to be rewritten. In August the new contract was presented to the City, it has been three month and I have only heard a one word reply from the City Manager regarding how things are going: "slow". I request that either the property be closed on or tell me so I can seek other plans.

B. Written – No written communication received.

7. Unfinished Business – None

A. 200 Blue Star Building EPA Cleanup Grant

City Manager LaBombard reported the City is in the final process of applying for the EPA Cleanup Grant for 200 Blue Star Hwy. The public has been invited to submit comments at the Brownfield Meeting and at this meeting, written comments will be taken until 9:00 a.m. November 29, 2021.

Public Comments:

Tracy Shafroth, Water St. – The City has not done anything about neighbor engagement or education in the last year. This is something the EPA encouraged communities to do prior to the starting portion of the scoring process as a way to learn about the project and to build engagement and education. We will need a community that knows about the project and feels a part of it. I am confused by the fact that there appears to be no inclination in looking for an alternative plan until we know we have a grant. I believe that as a City we can walk and chew gum at the same time. What is there to lose by opening up the process and getting new eyes on the project? Wouldn't it be a wonderful way to begin thinking about the potential of that site early in 2022? Wouldn't it be interesting to see what others might envision and wouldn't it each of us in our own lives, in terms of our homes and businesses, look for a new way after years of no movement on a property for the plan? Our community is changing, and we need to factor that in now. Next question, next point, what is the status of the MOU? You may have talked about this in the past, but I have not been able to attend all Brownfield meetings, as we look for new and different ideas it is imperative that the City cancel the MOU. We need a clean slate going forward and I would hate to think that any developers would not think the same conditions. In closing, I am an optimist and believe we can make lemonade from a brownfield, and that is hard, but we need to open up the process by involving the residents and start to gather new ideas. Now, not six or eight months from now, but by the end of the year, otherwise I think the project with or without the EPA grant will be severely compromised. Thank you very much.

B. Cow Bell Security Cyber Insurance.

This is a follow up discussion from the past meeting, the contract is for one year and covers any breach in data.

Motion by Seabert, with support from Van Loon, to approve the quote from Cowbell Cyber Liability and Data Breach in the amount not to exceed \$2,876.00. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

8. New Business:

A. Saugatuck Douglas Historic Center- Douglas Historical Marker Project

Julie Bizzis, representing the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center is launching a new historical marker program, placing permanent interpretive markers across Saugatuck-Douglas in the spring of 2022. Each marker will feature two interpretive panels, each with an exclusive sponsor for a \$2,000 commitment.

Motion by Seabert, with support from Miller, to approve the Historical Marker Project.

Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

9. Reports:

- A. Planning – 30 Hamilton Site Plan review has been completed. Centre St. Public Hearing was held and Planning determined the plan to be incomplete as presented, the agenda item was tabled pending further information.
- B. Kalamazoo Lake Sewer Water Authority – Fire hydrant flow testing completed. Campbell Rd project going well. Manager Van Dyke is currently working on a Sewer Water Agreement to present to each Municipality. The Authority is currently interviewing for a new Financial Officer.
- C. Brownfield Authority – Held a Public Meeting to receive comments regarding 200 Blue Star building and EPA Grant.
- D. Recycle Committee – Up to speed on initiatives, battery buckets going well, donation for reusable bags can be taken at the grocery store.
- E. Playground Committee – Phase I completed.

10. Staff Reports:

- A. Police – Chief Kent reported the October Activity for 2021. There were 157 Complaints Answered. No criminal arrests. No warrants. No Traffic Enforcements. 1, 143 Community Contacts.
- B. Department Public Works – Ricky Zoet addressed the current jobs the department has been working on. Bike path ballards removed, banners in place, leaves & brush pickup, rowing dock removed, and buoys removed and in storage.
- C. Planning – Improvement to motorized path almost complete, Beery field bathrooms currently being worked on.
- D. Financials -Treasurer Smith presented a one dollar bill that designated where resident property tax distribution goes. Non-PRE status residents - State Ed. (SET) 10.48% / Transit Auth. .82% / Saugatuck Schls, 38.73% / Dist. Library 1.3% / Int Schl Dis. 10.87% / Fire Dist 3.84% / County 11.03 % / City Operating 22.85%. Also discussed was the Revenue & Expenditure for the City.
- E. Clerk's Office – Thanked Council for believing Cyber Security is important to the City. The election went extremely well, the City passed with great remarks. Clerk has been chosen as a County Representative for the West Michigan Regional Clerks Association.

11. Manager Report

LaBombard reported working on the 200 Blue Star Hwy EPA Grant application, trail projects, Campbell Rd. water main, new Councilperson Naumann has been brought up to speed on all area projects, Grand Valley University students have volunteered to plant dune grass at the Douglas Beach. Thanked all staff.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Seabert, with support from Van Loon, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

Approved on

Signed: _____
Jerome Donovan, Mayor

Signed: _____
Pamela Aalderink, City Clerk

Certification of Minutes

I hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of the Village of Douglas held on November 15, 2021. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

Signed: _____
Pamela Aalderink, City Clerk

_____ Date