



The Village of Friendliness – Since 1870

This is the City Manager's week in review for the week of September 26, 2022.

Downtown Development Authority Meeting – The DDA met this week and reviewed the following items:

- Heard a presentation from Brian Coon regarding an advertising pilot program
- Received an application for the Business Incentive Program for Coastal Society for a proposed platform and shade kite requesting \$5,000.
- Discussed downtown gateway improvements to the intersection of Blue Star and Center Street
- Discussed DDA owned table and chair rentals
- Received a written update on the wayfinding program

Notices to Abate – Notices are being issued to locations with code enforcement issues such as junk cars, unregistered vehicles, and blight.

High Water Infrastructure Grant – The City received notice of a new grant opportunity from Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) called the State High Water Infrastructure Grant. \$14.25 million is available to address flooding, coastline erosion, urban heat, and storm water management. The grant requires a 20 percent match. The City has a few projects that may be good candidates for this opportunity. I will be coordinating with the City Engineer on some ideas in the coming weeks to determine if we should pursue this opportunity.

Welcome – Laura Kasper officially joined the Clerk's office at Douglas City Hall this week. I'd like to welcome Laura to the City. Laura will work with the City Clerk to handle incoming phone calls, greet visitors, work on elections, assist with licenses and certificates, and any other work assigned by the Clerk.

Sculpture Maintenance Proposal – I spoke with the Allegan County Community Foundation this week about a proposal from a generous donor to maintain and clean sculptures donated to the City as part of the "art about town" initiative. The City owns five sculptures that would be included in the cleaning and maintenance program. If approved, the first step in the program would be an inventory and inspection of the existing sculptures to determine if repairs are needed, followed by a recommended cleaning and waxing program if applicable. The sculpture "Almost Eagles" in front of City Hall was donated to the City as part of this program. The sculpture has been stored in the basement during tree removal and City Hall painting. It will be returned to its pedestal in the coming week.

That is all I have for now. Have a wonderful weekend.

Rich LaBombard
City Manager