

**BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2016
6:30 PM**

The workshop meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held at Bridgman City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, Michigan and called to order by Mayor Anderson at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Liskey, Boyd, Anderson, Catania, High,

COUNCIL ABSENT: Barnes, Ramso

STAFF PRESENT: Attorney Senica, Manager Ganum, Street/Fire Chief Knuth, Clerk Holm, Police Chief Unruh.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by council.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Wendy Lozeau, located at 3747 Lake St. stated that the Rambo Clock project was completed, the downtown planter project has been completed, and they are looking at doing fall decorations. The city has approximately \$300 leftover from the Rambo clock project and would like the city to use that leftover money for the fall decorations which will include hay, pumpkins, and mums.

Rick Fuller, located at 3729 Stelter Farm Dr. discussed the locations of the current planters and would like to see the project expanded next year to go further down Red Arrow Highway.

APPROVE/AMEND THE AGENDA:

Motion by Council Member Catania, seconded by Council Member High to approve the agenda as presented, motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Council Member Boyd, seconded by Council Member High to approve the meeting minutes of the August 15, 2016 City Council meeting, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Catania, seconded by Council Member High to approve the bills in the amount of \$149,830.34, motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Council Member Catania, seconded by Council Member High to approve the special event application submitted by Bike Michiana for Hospice for a bicycling event on October 2, 2016 as presented with a stipulation that they are made aware of the rules and regulations of the road, motion carried unanimously.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS:

City Clerk Holm presented council with information regarding the cost of publishing a synopsis after every council meeting. Per the City Charter, there is no requirement for publication of a synopsis and the

clerk is currently complying with the Open Meetings Act. Draft minutes and approved city council minutes are available to the public per the Act.

Motion by Council Member Catania, seconded by Council Member Boyd to discontinue publishing a city council synopsis in the paper, motion carried unanimously.

Calli Berg, Executive Director of the Great Bridgman Area Chamber of Commerce and Growth Alliance, introduced a request by the Sandpiper for an Industrial Development District and Tax Abatement. The Sandpiper is adding a fiber mill to the current building on the back side. A district needs to be established to allow the manufacturing in the downtown. It will not affect the zoning of the property or the use of the property. Ms. Berg is here to ask the council to set a public hearing for September 19, 2016.

Mayor Anderson set the public hearing for the Industrial Development District to be held at the next city council meeting on September 19, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

City Manager Ganum did a presentation on the property maintenance regulations and city service responsibilities specific to weeds, grass and vegetation. This presentation included a slideshow of pictures throughout the city showing numerous properties that are in violation of the ordinance as it is written. This is a starting point to re-evaluate the current ordinances, Ordinance No. 178 adopted in 2010 and Ord. No. 148 adopted in 2002 which regulates weeds, grass and vegetation and to re-write the ordinance to create a common sense law. City Manager Ganum informed the council of a recent complaint he received from a resident on Hidden Creek Lane regarding the vegetation from the previous Adco property located behind the subdivision which is encroaching onto their property. The resident is wanting the ordinance enforced, that the property should be kept at 6".

Kirsten Howell, located at 4660 Hidden Creek Lane spoke to the council on her complaint of the old Adco property not being in compliance with our local ordinances and passed out pictures for council to see. Ms. Howell would like to see the ordinance enforced or at least see a strip of property directly behind the fence maintained like the right-a-way currently is being done to create a buffer between the properties.

Council discussed the current ordinances and the need to update them. They were also in agreeance that something should be done for Ms. Howell and the property located behind her house.

Council Member Catania left at 7:58 p.m.

City Manager Ganum stated that the city is spending quite a bit of time and money mowing and maintaining right-a-ways in the city which is private property. The right-a-ways should be maintained by the property owners and there needs to be a way to enforce it. He would like to discuss further at another council meeting.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mayor Anderson read a letter from the Berrien County Sherriff's office that Chief Unruh gave her which thanks the city for the \$200 donation that was given from proceeds of Celebrate Bridgman.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Hannah Anderson, Mayor

Allyson Holm, City Clerk