

**BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2017
6:30 PM**

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on February 20, 2017 at Bridgman City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, Michigan and called to order by Mayor Anderson at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Liskey, Rose, Anderson, Catania, Fuller, High, Gipson

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ganum, Street/Fire Chief Knuth, Police Chief Unruh, Attorney Senica, City Engineer Nykamp, Treasurer Lambrix

Pledge of Allegiance was led by council.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Wendy Lozeau – 3747 Lake Street – requested that council acknowledge Connie Allee for her volunteer work with the community sign at Red Arrow and Lake Street. She also requested the city to put decorative lights on the west end of Lake Street.

APPROVE/AMEND THE AGENDA:

Motion by Council Member Catania, seconded by Council Member High to approve the agenda as presented for February 20, 2017, **motion carried unanimously.**

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Council Member High, seconded by Council Member Rose to approve the February 6, 2017 regular meeting minutes, **motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member High, seconded by Council Member Rose to approve the bills in the amount of \$88,258.62, **motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member High, seconded by Council Member Rose to approve the adoption of fiscal year 2017 budget amendments, **motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Catania, seconded by Council Member High to approve the appointment of Vince Rose to the Zoning Board of Appeals, **motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Gipson, seconded by Council Member High to approve the appointment of Joshua Paquette to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term ending May 1, 2020, **motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Gipson, seconded by Council Member Rose to adopt Resolution 2017-02:

**City of Bridgman
Berrien County, State of Michigan
Resolution 2017 - 2**

WHEREAS, one of the Michigan Department of Education’s four Values and Guiding Principles is “to be successful at becoming a Top 10 performing state in 10 years, Michigan must develop a coherent and cohesive strategy for the children, and implement that plan with continuity for multiple years. Education reform takes time; we must implement, use evidence and data to correct course, and continue with progress on key goals”; and

WHEREAS, the State School Reform/Redesign Office (SRO) has a mission statement which is “to turn Priority Schools into the highest performing schools in Michigan”; and

WHEREAS, the SRO has created a list of Priority Schools, thirty-eight of which are currently at risk for closure, including three within the Benton Harbor Area Schools district, those being Dream Academy, International Academy at Hull and STEAM Academy at MLK; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Revised School Code (MCL 380.1280c) empowers the State of Michigan to develop a list of Priority Schools and a process by which identified schools may be reformed; and

WHEREAS, an October 2016 report entitled, “Turnaround Practices in Michigan’s Priority Schools”, developed by The Institute for Strategic Leadership and Learning (INSTLL, LLC) for the SRO includes a data point finding which states that “Michigan law (380.1280c) regarding district and school improvement has been enacted in ways that has created an ambiguous policy environment for districts and schools.”; and

WHEREAS, State Representative Kim LaSata, Bainbridge Township, has stated that “schools should be reformed instead of closed” and State Senator John Proos, St. Joseph, has stated “My hope is that [Education Committee hearings] will shed light on how we best put public policies in place that will give all of our school districts the best chance to succeed for the students and for their families.”; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 27 of 2017, introduced on January 18, 2017 by Phil Pavlov, Senate Education Committee Chairman, would repeal Section 1280c of the Revised School Code; and

WHEREAS, at recent public forum called by the Board of Benton Harbor Area Schools, Reverend Kenneth Gavin encouraged communities and organizations, including governments in the area to pass a resolution supporting Senate Bill 27; and

WHEREAS, the City Council and City Manager for the City of Bridgman wish to support Benton Harbor Area Schools and the Benton Harbor community.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council and City Manager for the City of Bridgman stand with Benton Harbor Area Schools, the Benton Harbor community, and its most precious resource – its children; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Bridgman City Council and City Manager support the adoption of Senate Bill 27, which would save the Dream Academy, International Academy at Hull and STEAM Academy at MLK from closure.

Yeas: Liskey, Rose, Anderson, Catania, Fuller, High, Gipson

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Discussion on Beach House Concession Contract and Rental Agent Contract – Working Group Report

City Manager Ganum distributed a summary report prepared by Council Member Fuller on options for the beach house concession and rental agent contract. Ganum reported that working group is favoring a hybrid system which would use of food truck vendors on the weekends and limited concessions on weekdays. The working group will present a more detailed report at the next council meeting. City Attorney Senica recommended publishing for interested parties in compliance with the charter's 45-day requirement under section 2.2 subsection 12.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Council Member Catania would like the city to contact the railroad concerning the repair of the crossing on Lake Street.

Council Member Fuller discussed the merchants on the west end of Lake Street feeling disconnected with the rest of the downtown. Fuller requested that the city put lights on the poles at the west end of Lake Street, similar to the lights currently on the east end. City Manager will research options in lighting the length of Lake Street.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Catania, seconded by Council Member High to adjourn the meeting at 7:24 p.m., **motion carried unanimously.**

Hannah Anderson, Mayor

Debra Lambrix, Treasurer