

**BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
April 20, 2020
6:30 PM**

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on April 20, 2020 remotely by means of electronic conferencing and called to order by Mayor Rose at 6:31 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Linda Gedeon-Kuhn, Stacy Stine, Jan Trapani, Vince Rose, Georgia Gipson, Sarah Buist

COUNCIL ABSENT: Rick Fuller

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ganum, City Clerk Holm, Attorney Senica, Police Chief Unruh, Parks and Recreation Director Root, Treasurer Lambrix, and DPS Director Kading

Pledge of Allegiance was led by council.

Mayor Rose explained the meeting procedure and how the public will be able to comment under the Hearing of Citizens portion of the agenda which will be towards the bottom of the agenda.

APPROVE/AMEND THE AGENDA:

Motion by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn, seconded by Council Member Buist to approve the agenda for April 20, 2020

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Gedeon-Kuhn, Stine, Trapani, Rose, Gipson, Buist

Nays: None

Motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn, seconded by Council Member Buist to adopt **Resolution 2020-07** to Establish Rules for Remote Meetings

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Stine, Trapani, Rose, Gipson, Buist, Gedeon-Kuhn

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn, seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve the minutes from the March 16, 2020 regular meeting,

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Trapani, Rose, Gipson, Buist, Gedeon-Kuhn, Stine

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn, seconded by Council Member Trapani to approve the bills in the amount of \$146,017.04,

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Rose, Gipson, Buist, Gedeon-Kuhn, Stine, Trapani

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Buist, seconded by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn to adopt **Resolution 2020-08, Municipal Emergency Management Resolution to appoint a Local Municipal Emergency Preparedness Coordinator and Assistant Coordinators,**

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Gipson, Buist, Gedeon-Kuhn, Stine, Trapani, Rose

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn, seconded by Council Member Buist to approve the Agreement between the Berrien County Road Department and City of Bridgman for pavement marking in the amount of \$3,900,

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Buist, Gedeon-Kuhn, Stine, Trapani, Rose, Gipson

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Gedeon-Kuhn to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between White Lake Dock and Dredge (WLDD) and the City of Bridgman granting restricted access to Weko Beach in exchange for a commitment to build a 36 foot portion of the boardwalk retaining wall, **no second but discussion pursued, Gedeon-Kuhn withdrew motion.**

Park Director Root explained the history of being contacted by both White Lake Dock and Dredge (WLDD) and Triple D Excavating & Moore (TDEM) to find out if the city would allow restricted access on the north and south side of Weko Beach in exchange for a commitment to build portions of the boardwalk retaining wall. There are a lot of moving parts and if the association to the north does not grant permission and everything is not approved by homeowners, etc., it would be a moot point for the city. Both companies would have a bond to cover a cost if there is property damage or cannot fix it.

Attorney Senica explained that this is the first step for the contractors to move forward if the city allows access through the beach. Both MOU's are non-binding and can be terminated at any time. This is just one of many ducks to get in a row.

Council discussed the information at length and had several questions and concerns.

- The location of the boulders and if they would place them in the water or not. They would like to see a drawing of the location.
- If the revetments to the north and south would harm Weko Beach.
- If the city allows the access, would the heavy equipment do damage to the roads, etc.
- Reach out to PRISM to see if plans have been drawn up to some degree.
- Even though the city has no control of the work being done by the companies bringing in the revetment by barge, the city is concerned with facilitating something that may end up doing harm to Weko Beach.

Motion by Council Member Buist, seconded by Council Member Trapani to table the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between White Lake Dock and Dredge (WLDD) and the City of

Bridgman granting restricted access to Weko Beach in exchange for a commitment to build a 36 foot portion of the boardwalk retaining wall,

Roll Call:

Yeas: Gedeon-Kuhn, Stine, Trapani, Rose, Gipson, Buist

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn, seconded by Council Member Buist to table the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between Triple D Excavating & Moore (TDEM) and the City of Bridgman granting restricted access to Weko Beach in exchange for a commitment to build up to 150 feet of boardwalk retaining wall,

Roll Call:

Yeas: Stine, Trapani, Rose, Gipson, Buist, Gedeon-Kuhn

Nays: None

Motion carried.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS:

Consideration of postponement of planned increases to the water and sewer rates

Mayor Rose explained that the city is currently not applying penalties to the water/sewer bills or shutting resident's water off. People can pay what they can right now until they can get caught up. Lambrich explained the graph on how the billing cycles run and how much of the new rate will be applied each month. She explained that anyone can set up a payment plan and emphasized that the city will work with its residents. Council discussed the information presented, the possibility of doing it in a two-step phase, and the city's position if the increase is postponed. The council would like to get the word out for those residents that are having a hard time paying, and set up a payment plan. After further discussion, the council did not postpone the water and sewer rate increases.

City Manager's Report – verbal report during the meeting

Ganum explained the changes in staffing during these times and is proud of how everyone has adjusted. The Police and Fire Departments on the front line are doing a remarkable job as well. He shared some information on the upcoming Zoning Board of Appeals meeting for three variance requests made by Casey's General Store. Habitat is moving forward and hopefully the project goes through. The Farmer's market is going through this year and wants to re-open on May 10th.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Matt Helmkamp, 9060 Lakeway Lane in Dunewood – Spoke to the MOU's on the agenda. He explained that the residents that are wanting the revetment installed have tried to holdoff as long as they could, but soon some septic systems could be compromised. He stated that the homeowners have contracted with PRISM to create a design that does not affect the neighboring areas. If they use a barge to bring in the boulders, it will cost an additional \$50,000 per homeowner and would like the city to allow restricted access for the company to install these.
- Audience member had a question on the protocols set in place for the beach and campgrounds once the campgrounds are allowed to open up for the season and how the city will encourage everyone to follow social distancing guidelines.

- Audience member, Dell – When the Bridgman City Master Plan was under the planning process, there were public forums where experts from Michigan State spoke as consultants for the City. They had said that Bridgman was very fortunate that there were no revetments to the north and south which helps promote beach re-nourishment and that should be considered.
- Bob Liskey – Spoke on the MOU's on the agenda. The city should talk to the president of the association to the north of Weko to get their views before making a decision. He also spoke on reservations for the campgrounds and beach house and inquired how many we have from June to the end of the year. Root answered his questions.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Member Buist – Inquired about upcoming events such as the Street Dance and what the city is doing. Are events going to be cancelled or wait until the time gets closer to decide. Mayor Rose stated it will be dependent on the Governor's Orders next week and will need to take it month by month. Ganum stated Maker's Trail event is cancelled and the Fire Department is waiting to figure out what approach to take.
- Member Stine – Has been watching the reported cases by city and county and is impressed with Bridgman's response. Be proud and stick with it.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn, seconded by Council Member Gipson to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m.,

Roll Call:

Yeas: Trapani, Rose, Gipson, Buist, Gedeon-Kuhn, Stine

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Vince Rose, Mayor

Allyson Holm, City Clerk