

**BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**May 4, 2020**  
**6:30 PM**

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on May 4, 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, Rick Fuller, Georgia Gipson, Sarah Buist

**COUNCIL ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** City Manager Ganum, City Clerk Holm, Attorney Senica, Police Chief Unruh, Parks and Recreation Director Root, Treasurer Lambrix, and DPS Director Kading, Building Official Mattner, Engineer Nykamp

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. He is also adding an extra Hearing of Citizens at the beginning of the meeting.

**HEARING OF CITIZENS:**

- Gene Herrman, 4346 Willard St. – Has a problem with some of the logistics and concerned with property being damaged and possible lawsuits that could arise.
- Andy Shaw, Dunewood resident – Had questions with the access points, timeframe, impact with summer, and how it would affect the boat launch.
- Sarah Wood, 9162 Hemlock Lane – Is opposed to any revetment being built in Dunewood.
- Marian Macsai, 9455 Big Beach Trail – Is opposed to any revetment being built in Dunewood.
- Dennis Kreps, Library Director – Gave an update of how the library is working virtually with being closed. He explained how the library will gradually reopen when the time comes.
- John Froberg, 9176 Hemlock Lane – Is opposed to any revetment being built. Maybe the homeowners should try sandbags instead.
- Jim Rallis, 9955 Weko Dr. – Is opposed to any revetment being built and had a complaint with dogs on the beach.
- William Decker, 9137 Woodland Dr. – Is opposed to any revetment being built.
- Pamela Baumgardner, Big Beach Trail - Is opposed to any revetment being built and requests all plans be submitted to the citizens in some fashion.
- Gene Schoon, 4970 Kevan Dr. and Vice-President of Woodland – Concerns with the impact on Bridgman beaches and wants more information on how they will traverse from the city.
- Joan Guilfoyle, 5145 Dunewood Lane – Read from the MSU Extension when they were assisting Bridgman with the new Master Plan. The revetments could block the beach and generally effect the ecology of the lake. No permit application has been submitted to EGLE.
- David Lambke, 9396 Lakeview – Is opposed to any revetment being built and concerned with the general erosion.
- Stacey Kole, 9360 Dunewood Dr. – The revetments will impact their lakefront and property and would like to know if the city would be liable for any damage caused and possible litigation.
- Barry Pienton, Tulip Lane – Is opposed to any revetment being built and asked the city not to be an enabler of this group.

- Elaine Thomopoulos, Dunewood resident – This is more than a Township problem, it will affect the properties to the south in the city as well.
- Ben Cuthbert, 5111 Dunewood Lane – Is opposed to any revetment being built.
- Chris Reagan, Hillcrest Drive – Is opposed to any revetment being built.
- Bill Boies, 9568 Circle Dr. – The heavy equipment route would damage the beaches.
- Bob and Angel Cook, 9340 Hillcrest Dr. – Is opposed to any revetment being built and any use of Weko Beach for it.
- Hob Jordan, 9368 Lakeview Dr. – Is opposed to any revetment being built and council doing anything to facilitate this on Weko Beach.
- Julie Hacker, Oak Dr – Would like to see drawings or plans of what is proposed.
- Tom Misener – Concerned with the timeline of the project and the MOU for the company to do work for the city at no cost.
- Shelly Timm-Thompson, 9440 Big Beach Trail – Bridgman has a beautiful shoreline and most people built away from the shoreline. This request is due to people that didn't take precautions and build back from the shoreline.
- Ellen Walsh, 9326 Dunewood Dr. – Her family is opposed to any revetments being built.
- Tony Earley, 9278 Dunewood Dr. – He is one of the families wanting to install the revetment and does not want to do anything to harm the beach or property. Some of these homes septic systems are at risk and need the revetments installed. If the city does not allow the access, they will move forward to get the permits from EGLE.

Attorney Senica stated the city's only authority here is the use of Weko Beach. The city cannot control how the work is done as the property owners requesting the revetments are in the Township. If EGLE grants a permit, she assumes that EGLE would hold a public hearing for residents to speak on the matter. To speak on the Memorandum of Understanding, generally when you offer an agreement, they will pay you in return, and in this case, it was work to be down.

#### **APPROVE/AMEND THE AGENDA:**

**Motion** by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn, seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve the agenda for May 4, 2020

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nays:** None

**Absent for vote:** Fuller

**Motion carried.**

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

**Motion** by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn, seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2020 regular meeting with the addition of *Brad Mattner to staff present*,

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nays:** None

**Absent for vote:** Fuller

**Motion carried.**

**Motion** by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn, seconded by Council Member Buist to approve the bills in the amount of \$71,655.93,

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried.**

**Motion** by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn, seconded by Council Member Trapani to reappoint Dorothea Crocker and Eugene Herrman to the Planning Commission for a three-year term ending April 1, 2023,

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried.**

Root introduced Mary Nykamp, City Engineer, Brad Mattner, Building/Zoning Official, Eric Nelson with Prism, Devon Moore with Triple D Excavating, Dr. Guy Meadows, Professor of Sustainable Engineering and the Founding Director of Great Lakes Research Center at Michigan Technological University to speak on the Memorandum of Understanding between Triple D Excavating & Moore (TDEM) and the City of Bridgman.

- Eric Nelson – The applications have not been submitted to EGLE and cannot be submitted until the plan has been completed including the travel route. The creation of revetment has effects four times the length of the drift and will impact the shoreline downward. Another alternative would be by barge when the lake is calm and use Weko Beach as an access point to deliver materials. It was mentioned early possibility using sandbags instead. EGLE will not permit the use of sandbags, that is for short term use only until some other device is installed permanently.
- Mary Nykamp – The city has had heavy equipment down to the beach before and does not have any concerns with the culvert at Tanner Creek.
- Devon Moore – The trucks that would be used would be 50 tons total and the road can handle 500 – 900 tons.
- Brad Mattner – There has been a lot of thought putting this together. Nykamp had said there would be a study done before and after on the roads and parking lot to see if there was any impact.
- Dr. Meadows – The latest forecast is Lake Superior being high and higher than last year. 53% of the Great Lakes is in Lake Superior and flows downhill. Lake levels are expected to be 3 – 6 inches higher than last year and remain high for a year or two.

The council discussed the Memorandum of Understanding between Triple D Excavating & Moore (TDEM) and the City of Bridgman at length, taking into consideration all the public comments and the information presented. The biggest concern is the environment and contributing to something that might negatively impact Weko Beach.

**Motion** by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn, seconded by Council Member Stine to table the 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 of boardwalk retaining wall,

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nays:** None

**Motion carried.**

## **WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS:**

### **Codification Ordinance – introduction and overview by City Attorney**

Attorney Senica explained that the codification process is done every 15-20 years. This project has been ongoing since 2018 with the department heads, city manager and herself reviewing the General Ordinances and making corrections to update them. There is a 9-page attachment showing the changes made and council can review and ask questions. It will be brought up at the next council meeting to take action on adopting the codified ordinance.

### **City Manager's Report**

Ganum was recently involved in a webinar with the Michigan State Treasury and it will be likely that the fiscal impact to the State and local governments will be significant. There could be a 30% reduction in revenue sharing. In preparing the upcoming budget, things have been cut out to get to the bare bones. He received correspondence that the Memorial Day Parade has been cancelled and they will hold a private ceremony at the cemetery.

## **HEARING OF CITIZENS:**

- Gene Schoon – Two primary concerns, how the materials will be transported from the beach to the job site and the long-term impact of the revetments.
- Gene Herrman – Talked on the amount of water coming from Lake Superior, the road to the beach taking a beating and the creek being so close to the road.
- Andy Shaw – Thanked the council for listening and asked that they make a decision that is in the best interest for Bridgman.
- Joan Guilfoyle – The proposed revetments end one house from the city limits, and it should be a concern for Bridgman. She has presentations and information she can forward on to the council.
- Elaine Thomopoulos – The lake may recede in two years and maybe they should try sandbagging first.
- John Bonkowski, Bridgman resident – Engineers are problem solvers and more should be thought through. He has concerns with the unintended consequences to the south.
- John Froberg – Of those 9 homeowners wanting the revetments, only 1 is very close to the lake.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- Member Trapani – Learned tonight that it seems to be a limited amount of people that want these revetments and wonders if it is worth all of this.
- Mayor Rose – There are 8 or so people that want this, but the council needs to look out for the best interest of the city.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** by Council Member Gedeon-Kuhn, seconded by Council Member Buist to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.,

**Roll Call:**

**Yeas:** Buist, Gedeon-Kuhn, Stine, Trapani, Rose, Fuller

**Nays:** None

**Absent for vote:** Gipson

**Motion carried.**

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Vince Rose, Mayor

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Allyson Holm, City Clerk