

**BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL
WORKSHOP MEETING
JUNE 4, 2018
6:30 PM**

The workshop meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on June 4, 2018 at Bridgman City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, Michigan and called to order by Mayor Anderson at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Robert Liskey, Georgia Gipson, Vince Rose, Hannah Anderson, Jim Catania, Rick Fuller, Ken High

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ganum, City Clerk Holm, Attorney Senica, Police Chief Unruh, Engineer Nykamp, Fire Chief Buist

Pledge of Allegiance was led by council.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Pauline Wendzel is running for the 79th District Representative and introduced herself to the council. She grew up in Watervliet on a fruit farm and currently resides there. She would like to focus her campaign on infrastructure, vocational training, less regulations, and bringing younger people back into the area.
- Lauren Kniebes with Lazy Ballerina explained the Liquor License Application that is on the agenda for tonight. The only change they are requesting is to do production on site in Bridgman. She said this should have been done originally, but since they are pretty much maxed out for space in St. Joseph, they wanted to bring some of the production here to Bridgman. They will continue to do wine tasting as well.

APPROVE/AMEND THE AGENDA:

Motion by Council Member High, supported by Council Member Catania to approve the agenda for June 4, 2018 as presented, **motion carried unanimously.**

PUBLIC HEARING

FY 2019 (July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019) City of Bridgman Budget

Motion by Council Member High, seconded by Council Member Rose to close the regular meeting at 6:36 p.m. and open the public hearing for the FY 2019 Budget, **motion carried unanimously.**

No comments or questions were had from the public.

Motion by Council Member Catania, seconded by Council Member High to close the public hearing at 6:37 p.m. and resume the regular meeting, **motion carried unanimously.**

PRESENTATION:

Presentation: Introduction of the Bridgman Youth Advisory Council

Ganum gave a background of how the Youth Advisory Council was created. This began as an idea three years ago. After discussing the idea with the Superintendent, it has since evolved to the first Bridgman Youth Advisory Council which consists of eight students. Ganum introduced the students and their teacher Mr. Nicka.

Summer Janes, President of the YAC gave a presentation on the proposed Bridgman Lagoons Nature walk.

- This will provide an outdoor space to learn about the history and wildlife of the region.
- There will be seating areas, plaques, walkways, and areas for picnics.
- Multiple benches can be purchased by donations and the donator can have their name placed on the bench.
- They are going to contact a Michigan College or University to recruit someone to come down and do an ecological survey. The college student might do it at no charge and use the information collected for a thesis paper.
- They are going to contact a place in Grand Rapids to get a price on what the purchase of plaques would be.
- Out of 250 students, there were 138 responses. Most of those liked the idea that is being presented tonight.

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Council Member Rose, seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve the May 21, 2018 regular meeting minutes, **motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Catania, seconded by Council Member High to approve the bills in the amount of \$36,708.35, **motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member High, seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve the purchase of a 2019 Ford F-350 truck and dump bed in the amount of \$53,785 from Siemens Ford in Bridgman, **motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member High, seconded by Council Member Rose to adopt **Resolution 2018-11 A Resolution Authorizing the Bridgman Fire Department's Application for a Special License to Serve Alcohol During Celebrate Bridgman**, **motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Gipson, seconded by Council Member Fuller to adopt **Resolution 2018-12 A Resolution to approve a small wine maker license for Lazy Ballerina at 4209 Lake Street**, **motion carried unanimously.**

ENGINEER'S UPDATE

- **Donna Drive and Vista Drive Improvement Project** – The contractors are making good progress and are still on schedule for completion on June 22nd. The drainage and curb work are completed. Some of the sidewalks and driveway aprons are completed. The base coat for the

road will be put down on Wednesday. After the base coat is laid, the concrete crew will return to finish the sidewalks and aprons. The final coat of asphalt will go on at the end.

- **DPW Building Project** – The old siding is off, and insulation has been put up. There are some minor changes such as additional light fixtures added. The first pay request will be at the next council meeting.
- **Baldwin Road Lift Station Project** – There has been a slow down in the manufacturing and the submersible pump is not available until mid-July. They are going to do their due diligence to make sure that this is a manufactures problem and not the contractors.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Grass and Weed Ordinance

Ganum went through a slide show presentation summarizing the process of drafting a new ordinance. In the fall of 2016 the city rescinded the grass and weed ordinance. Since then, the majority of the residents mow their lawn without having a law on the books. It is only 2-3% of the residents that don't mow regularly and need to be chased down. The city has received a number of complaints in the last few weeks regarding long grass. He has personally visited some of those residents and asked them to mow.

- A definition of a weed is simply, any plant that is growing at a site where it is not wanted.
- Excessive vegetative growth can cause health and respiratory problems, create a breeding place for mosquitoes, mice, etc., provide a place to conceal refuge or trash, create an unpleasant odor, and could be a fire hazard.
- Since there are a variety of natural environments in Bridgman, the city should consider exemptions for areas that are wetlands, woods, nature preserves, undeveloped areas, storm water best management practice areas, floodplains, or agricultural crops such as hay and pasture. He showed pictures of those different areas.
- There are differences in character between residential/commercial/industrial and interface between the uses.
- If the property is an acre or more, a 20' swath can be cut along the border of any adjacent rights-of way or any developed property with buildings, rather than cutting the entire property.
- All lawns within the right-of-way adjacent to privately owned property should be maintained by the owner of that property.
- The city will develop a draft ordinance, communicate the draft with the residents, adopt the new ordinance, and then enforce it.

The council discussed the information presented along with questions and concerns on the following:

- How the properties along Lake Street west of Red Arrow that have both lawns and woods/dunes on the same property be addressed.
- If someone wants to revert their lawn back to wildflowers, they should keep the perimeter of the property maintained.
- How the weeds are going to be identified in the ordinance.
- How to enforce Lake Street along the commercial/business district to prevent weeds in flower beds and along the buildings.

Attorney Senica explained that the new ordinance can have language in it stating the rights-of-way will be maintained by the property owner. There can be certain areas exempt from the ordinance as stated above. Some properties might have part of it exempt, while the lawn area would need to follow the ordinance. She can also carefully draft the ordinance with wording that would help keep the business downtown area free of weeds.

Attorney Senica and city staff will work on drafting a new ordinance.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

No one wished to be heard.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Member Catania has concerns with people running the stop signs at the intersections of Lake/Church and Lake/Gast. He would like to look into obtaining stop signs that have lights around the perimeter installed. Chief Unruh will look into it. Catania inquired about the trees being lit up on Lake Street all year round. Ganum stated that there are problems with the outlets. City staff will seal them with epoxy to hopefully fix the problem and not short out.
- Member Liskey inquired about the dead rose bushes in the corner planters. He asked about the status of a couple buildings in town. Ganum said the replacement of the rose bushes are under way. The owners of the Antique store are preparing the building for rent. The old U-turn building has new owners. The owner is working with an attorney to prepare a lease agreement for a future tenant.
- Member Fuller pointed out that the tree in front of Accents looks dead and inquired on the status of the boat ramp. Ganum said the ramp was supposed to be painted this last weekend and should be wrapping up soon to be installed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Catania, seconded by Council Member High to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m., **motion carried unanimously.**

Hannah Anderson, Mayor

Allyson Holm, City Clerk