

**BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2022
6:30 PM**

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on February 7, 2022, at City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, MI 49106 and was called to order by Mayor Rose at 6:30 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT: Sam Stine, Jan Trapani, John Bonkoske, Vince Rose, Pam Hahaj, Georgia Gipson

COUNCIL ABSENT: Stacy Stine

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ganum, City Clerk Holm, Police Chief Unruh, Building Official Mattner, Attorney Senica, Assessor Baumann, DPS Director Kading, Engineer Nykamp, Treasurer Lambrix

The pledge of allegiance was led by council.

APPROVE/AMEND THE AGENDA:

Motion by Council Member Trapani, seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to approve the agenda for February 7, 2022, as presented, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Paul Jancha Jr. – He is currently a Berrien County public defender and is running for the 5th District Court Judge seat. He introduced himself and shared some background information on himself and why he is running.
- Tara Heiser, 9326 Kramer Drive – She has been working closely with the Bridgman Schools Superintendent Shane Peters for a campaign called “Learn by Heart”. You can submit a “thank you” to an educator and enter a raffle as a way to show support to the teachers and staff. There has been over 300 thank you stories so far and they are looking at extending out to the first responders in Bridgman and Lake Township soon. She shared a few ideas that she has with public art around Bridgman between the City and the Schools.
- Annie Brown – A South Haven resident running for State Representative in the 38th District. She introduced herself and shared some background information on herself and why she is running.

PRESENTATIONS:

Matt Holland, Gabridge and Company, FY 2021 (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021) City Audit

Matt Holland went over the audit opinion and a few highlights from the recent audit:

- Issued an unmodified opinion – highest level of assurance
- Emphasis of Matter GASB 84
- No deficit fund balances
- No major budget deficiencies
- Highlighted the City’s fund balance across all funds and the General Fund
- Statement of Net Position
- Statement of Activities
- The City’s Pension information and total Pension Liability

Mayor Rose stated that Lambrix and City staff have done wonderful over the years and the council thanked her for a job well done.

Mark Hurray, Chair of the Bridgman Planning Commission to report on the status of the Bridgman Master Plan goals and objectives

Hurray shared the Master Plan Goals and Objectives that the Planning Commission recently reviewed at length to see if these goals are still achievable, or if they should recommend actions for the City Council to act upon. They have been color coded as red – illogical/stagnant, yellow – needs work, and green – working towards and/or achieved. There was a total of 6 different goals with a total of 89 sub-goals. The council thanked Hurray and the board for a job well done and talked about prioritizing the top five and five easiest goals to complete. Hurray did explain that the latest Master Plan update was done with the help of LIAA in 2018 and was brought to the Council in 2019 for adoption. The Planning Commission will be looking at updating the Master Plan again in the next couple of years and will look into reducing the number of goals and seeing what can still be achieved that is relevant.

Hurray also informed the council that there are a couple people here tonight that approached the Planning Commission at their last meeting with information on a new business they have created. These individuals are here tonight and going to share the same information with council.

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve the minutes from the January 3, 2022 regular meeting, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Bonkoske, seconded by Council Member Hahaj to approve the bills in the amount of \$301,002.43, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Sam Stine, seconded by Council Member Hahaj to appoint Julie Strating to the Corridor Improvement Authority for a partial term ending October 2024, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Bonkoske, seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve the Corridor Improvement Authority Tax Increment Financing Plan #2 (2022 – 2031), **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Sam Stine to approve the purchase of a Taylor Series Soft Serve Machine in the amount of \$23,937.70 to replace the existing ice cream machine at the Weko Beach concession, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

WORKSHOP ITEMS AND REPORTS:

Building and Zoning – Annual Report 2021

Mattner went through his report and highlighted the number of building, zoning, and electrical permits that were issued in 2021 along with the valuation of the work and the money that the City received from permit fees. He is trying to get the plumbing and mechanical inspectors in-house instead of through the State which will bring in additional funds through permit fees and allow him to work better with local inspectors, especially if there are problems. He also shared that he is working with the Coastal Academy, working with EGLE with Critical Dunes, and the FEMA Flood Plain Management. He is also working on getting the International Property Maintenance Code updated to 2021 from 2018 and working to add a Planned Unit Development to the City's Ordinances.

Fire Department – Annual Report 2021 (and December 2021 Report)

Chief Buist was not able to attend the meeting tonight as he is at training right now. If council has any questions, Ganum can field them to Buist. Council did not have any questions or comments.

Police Department – Annual Report 2021 (and January 2022 Report)

Chief Unruh answered a few questions and highlighted the following:

- There were far more complaints this last year than the previous year along with more traffic enforcement.
- He is hoping to keep an officer down at the beach this summer and possibly add more days to the patrol.
- Andrew Kuhn recently passed away and was one of the original reserves for the Bridgman Police Department. He still does not have any detail for arrangements and asked that everyone keep his family in their prayers.
- The council discussed people and dogs walking out onto the ice and if there is a way to ticket them. Attorney Senica explained that even with signs posted on the dangers of walking out on shelf ice, it would be hard to ticket them. The City could go after the cost of civil recovery when the fire department has to go out on a rescue though.

Director of Public Services Report – December 2021

Mayor Rose thanked the DPS crew for their hard work during the recent snowstorm and what a great job they all did.

Assessor's Report – December 2021 and January 2022

Baumann explained that the 2021 Taxable Value of 1.033% is separate from the Assessed values listed in his report. Next year the Taxable Value will probably cap out around 5%.

Treasurer's Report – Galien River Sanitary District Bond

Mayor Rose thanked Lambrix for all of her hard work.

Engineer's Report – (verbal)

Nykamp explained the upcoming Lake Street project slated for 2023. Field work started in early January and will be completed in March or even sooner depending on the weather. The bulk of the design work will be done in April and May and then she will submit the plan and specs to MDOT in July. MDOT will then schedule their meeting and provide comments for the engineers to review. The final plan will be sent in in mid-September and the bidding process will be done in December with construction beginning in the spring of 2023. She explained the sewer project that will be done concurrently, and the cost associated with both projects. The Lake Street Road project will be primarily funded from an 80/20

TwinCATS grant that the City received. For both projects, the City's portion will total a little over \$500,000.

City Attorney's Report – (verbal)

Attorney Senica did not have anything specific to report but if council has any questions after the presentation coming up during hearing of citizens, she can answer questions then.

City Manager's Report

Ganum commended the City's DPS crew for doing an extraordinary job during the recent snowstorm. City Hall was only closed for ½ a day while the County and some other municipalities were closed for 1 ½ days. Bridgman is the best at clearing streets within the County. The new Village of Stevensville Manager reached out to him to have their crew come down to talk with the City's crew to maybe learn a few tips.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

Jason Cleveland, 9485 Big Beach Trail and John Hopkins, 10819 Jericho Rd. – Cleveland passed out a packet of information to the council regarding a new business that they have started called J&J Transportation. They explained how this business would securely transport cannabis and cannabis products. They went through the following highlights:

- They are wanting to purchase property in the city around Red Arrow/Rambo Road area to build a 60x60 building that would hold two vehicles to start with. They will probably grow to six or eight vehicles over time. This building would be a secure facility with cameras and alarms to park the empty vehicles in per State law. Legally they can hold product in the vehicles for up to 96 hours, but their intention is to only store the vehicles empty.
- Both the building and vehicles would be non-descript without any signs or logos placed on them.
- If they hold a transporter license, they would not be able to hold any other type of marijuana licenses. They would need to hold two transportation licenses though, one for recreational marijuana and one for medical marijuana. The City can charge an annual fee for each license which is usually \$5,000.
- There are very few secure transport companies in the State of Michigan, especially in the Southwest region.
- They presented their business at the last Planning Commission meeting and asked that they make a recommendation to the City Council to allow for Secure Transport Marijuana Licenses.
- They further went through some highlighted information in the packet they handed out and answered any questions that the council had. The council was generally in favor of the information presented as long as a proposed Ordinance change only allows for Secure Transport Marijuana Licenses at this time.

Dennis Kreps, Bridgman Public Library Director – The library is purchasing a back-up generator and he went over a few upcoming programs.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Member Bonkoske – He is part of the Coastal Resiliency group with EGLE along with Ganum, Hurray, Mattner, Ball and a few others that have been meeting biweekly and explained what it is all about to council. There is a total of six terrific educational videos that should go on the website when they are all done meeting as a group.
- Member Trapani – Residents occasionally share concerns with how the City looks, but when she drove through town around the holidays, she explained how beautiful the City looks with all the lights and decor. There are always room for improvement, but to her the City looks great.
- Mayor Rose – Asked council how they would feel about meeting once a month instead of twice a month. Council discussed their thoughts with pros and cons of both ways. He just asked them to think about it and take it under consideration. He thanked everyone for coming.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member Gipson, seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m., **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Vince Rose, Mayor

Allyson Holm, City Clerk