

**BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
March 15, 2021
6:30 PM**

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on March 15, 2021 remotely by means of electronic conferencing and called to order by Mayor Rose at 6:30 p.m.

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

COUNCIL ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ganum, City Clerk Holm, Police Chief Unruh, Treasurer Lambrix, DPS Director Kading, Parks and Recreation Director Ball, Fire Chief Buist

The pledge of allegiance was led by Claire Dargus, a 4th grader at Bridgman Elementary School.

Mayor Rose explained the meeting procedure and how the public will be able to comment under the Hearing of Citizens.

APPROVE/AMEND THE AGENDA:

Motion by Council Member Bonkoske, seconded by Council Member Trapani to approve the agenda for March 15, 2021 as presented,

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Bonkoske, Trapani, Rose, Stacy Stine, Gipson, Sam Stine, Hahaj

Nays: None

Motion carried.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Nick Schmidt, Manager of the Bridgman Open Air Market, along with Rudy Schaffer, Assistant Manager – The market last year went far above expectations with 45 vendors that filled the bank parking lot. This year there are already 77 vendors signed up. They are currently looking at possibly using another space that would hold more vendors. They do have some issues with safety in the current location. With a lot of people crossing Lake Street, a suggestion was to put in a crosswalk at the intersection of Baldwin Road and Lake Street. The council discussed the safety concerns and possible other locations that they could use. Ganum stated whether or not the market will use that space, the city's engineer should still look into that area to promote pedestrian safety and the market.
- Carolyn Miller – Suggested the Market use the two library parking lots with good signage instead of the bank parking lot.
- Cory Thompson – Suggested the Market use Toth Street Park for more space.

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Council Member Trapani, seconded by Council Member Sam Stine to approve the minutes from the March 1, 2021 regular meeting,

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Trapani, Rose, Stacy Stine, Gipson, Sam Stine, Hahaj, Bonkoske

Nays: None
Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to approve the bills in the amount of \$43,172.37,

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Rose, Stacy Stine, Gipson, Sam Stine, Hahaj, Bonkoske, Trapani

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to appoint James Kole to the Board of Review with a term ending December 2021,

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Stacy Stine, Gipson, Sam Stine, Hahaj, Bonkoske, Trapani, Rose

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Sam Stine to approve the request for sealed bids for replacement of the Fire Department Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) compressor,

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Gipson, Sam Stine, Hahaj, Bonkoske, Trapani, Rose, Stacy Stine

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Motion by Council Member Bonkoske, seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve the City Manager's revised employment agreement as presented,

Roll Call:

Yeas: Sam Stine, Hahaj, Bonkoske, Trapani, Rose, Stacy Stine, Gipson

Nays: Nays

Motion carried.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION ITEMS AND REPORTS:

City Manager's Report

- The CARES Act funding will be distributed to almost every local government. The city will receive \$218,409 from this fund. He does not know the limitation on the spending but is pretty sure it will be flexible. This money will go into the bank until the city decides how to use it. The city's revenue sharing is also better than anticipated this year.
- Ganum will be gone the first week in April and asked council what they thought about cancelling the first Monday meeting in April.

Motion by Council Member Stacy Stine, seconded by Council Member Gipson to cancel the April 5, 2021 regular meeting,

Roll Call:

Yeas: Hahaj, Bonkoske, Trapani, Rose, Stacy Stine, Gipson, Sam Stine

Nays: None

Motion carried.

- Baumann explained how the appeal process works with the Board of Review. There were not a lot of appeals this year. He explained the process for veteran exemptions.
- Ganum explained the Tax Implement Financing (TIF) Plan. He showed a map on what properties are encompassed within the TIF. He explained how the funds are captured and how money can be spent in that district. You begin with a base year, then the taxes collected after the district is formed can be used for improvements within the District. Currently the Corridor Improvement Authority's budget is \$13,000 a year. Once Casey's is built, it will add an additional \$17,000 to the budget annually. This money does not last forever. At some point the board would be dissolved and the money would go back to the city.
- Hannah Anderson, Chair for the Corridor Improvement Authority (CIA) – Shared information from the last CIA meeting where Arthur Havlicek, President & CEO of the Southwest Michigan Regional Chamber presented the board with a concept of creating a Social District in downtown Bridgman. This concept would help some of the local businesses from the impact of COVID-19. Anderson explained how this district would be created, where it would be located, and what people would be allowed to do within the district. Both the CIA and the CGA are receptive to this new idea and Anderson wanted to share with Council the information that was presented. There will probably be a recommendation to council from both the CIA and the CGA shortly, along with a presentation to council from Mr. Havilicek for consideration. The CIA is in the process of updating their Capital Improvement Plan which needs to be completed by May. A recent survey just ended, and she went through what the results were and what people are wanting to see in Bridgman. She also touched on the upcoming painting project that Anna Roeder will be starting next month and shared the photos of the projects.
- Ganum shared an article on how remote work is reshaping America's Urban Geography, especially in smaller cities.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Teri Freehling, County Commissioner – She has been pursuing a way to find a solution to bridge the digital divide. The County has a Broadband Internet Task Force and encourages everyone to take the survey and learn more about the internet expansion efforts throughout the County.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Trapani, seconded by Council Member Sam Stine to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.,

Roll Call:

Yeas: Bonkoske, Trapani, Rose, Stacy Stine, Gipson, Sam Stine, Hahaj

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Vince Rose, Mayor

Allyson Holm, City Clerk