

BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
July 6, 2021
6:30 PM

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on July 6, 2021 at City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, MI 49106 and was called to order by Mayor Rose at 6:30 p.m.

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

COUNCIL ABSENT: Georgia Gipson

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ganum, City Clerk Holm, Police Chief Unruh, Assessor Baumann, Parks Director Ball, Fire Chief Buist, Building Official Mattner

The pledge of allegiance was led by council.

APPROVE/AMEND THE AGENDA:

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to approve the agenda for July 6, 2021 as presented, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Jay Malinowski – Spoke about the tower clock not working. It was built in 2001 and paid for by donations. He feels it would be a disservice to do anything other than fix the clock.
- Bill Boyd – He stated the reason the tower clock does not work is due to neglect. When the generator went down, that clock was also burnt. A whole new mechanism needs to be replaced in the fire station, not in the tower clock itself.
- Arthur Havilicek – Wanted to thank the council in person for allowing a Social District to be created downtown. It went live this weekend. Lazy Ballerina is the only licensee right now, but Transient should be licensed soon, and he is still working on Tapistry. He also has some ideas and plans for the space between Accents and Eric's.
- Lindsey Salmon – She is a freshman at Bridgman High School and has personally seen the effects of marijuana in the schools. She feels marijuana is a gateway drug and would not like to see any marijuana businesses in Bridgman.
- Nancy Malinowski – read a letter aloud from Christy Stine who is against any marijuana businesses in Bridgman.
- Samantha Smith – a 2011 graduate from Bridgman. She explained her story of how her parents got started in the cannabis industry and would like to see Bridgman allow marijuana facilities so her family could have a business in town.

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Council Member Trapani, seconded by Council Member Sam Stine to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2021 regular meeting, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to approve the bills in the amount of \$74,968.65, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Stacy Stine, seconded by Council Member Sam Stine to adopt **Resolution 2021-11 A Resolution to Adopt Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions, voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Attorney Senica stated the city currently has a local Building Official and Electrical Inspector, but the Plumbing and Mechanical Inspectors are through the State of Michigan. The ordinance before the council tonight would allow the city to enforce all four areas which would allow for quicker response times for the residents. The city would get additional funds by having all permit fees in house. She explained the changes that she made from the ordinance that was included in the packet and the full process of changing authority for the Plumbing and Mechanical Inspectors to a local level. The rate structure has not been created yet, but Mattner explained the compensation for the inspector(s) is usually an 80/20 permit fee structure of pay.

Motion by Council Member Trapani, seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to adopt the first reading of an ordinance to accept and assume enforcement and administration authority for the Stille-Derossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act, Public Act 230 of 1972, pursuant to MCL 125.1508b(7), and to grant building code enforcement and administration authority to the City of Bridgman with the changes Attorney Senica presented, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

WORKSHOP ITEMS AND REPORTS:

City Attorney's Report (verbal)

Attorney Senica stated that there has not been any action on HB 4722 since May. There is another House Bill, HB 4985 that is stuck in committee right now. She is not sure what will happen with either one at this time.

City Manager's Report

Ganum hit on a few items in his written report and added a few highlights as well:

- Shared the legislative analysis of HB 4722 and showed the City of Bridgman on the list in opposition to the bill.
- The manhole project on Snow Road has been completed and cost almost \$70,000.
- A kick-off meeting was held on June 30th for the Affordability and Planning Grant. By this time next year, the city will have information to share with the council.
- The city is currently looking for a DPS worker.
- Showed a graph of the city's liability insurance cost increase from 2012 to current. The city has a squeaky-clean record, has been very happy with our agent so far, but may decide to shop around.
- Ryan Kilpatrick will be at the first council meeting in August.
- The council discussed sump pumps in residential houses being connected to the city's storm sewer lines and different ideas of how to correct this problem.

PRESENTATION:

Presentation – Mark Hurray, Chairperson of the Bridgman Planning Commission, to share the result of the City of Bridgman Marijuana Survey

In 2018 the State of Michigan approved recreational marijuana which the residents of Bridgman were overall in favor of the proposal. Hurray went through the marijuana survey results which was very close

between being in favor of a marijuana facility or being in opposition. He went through the different license types and the revenue that is received from the state for each dispensary license that you have. The Planning Commission would like to know if the city council has enough information needed from the survey, or if they would like the board to continue collecting more information. The board could do a large public meeting at the beach house, or they could contact other communities that have marijuana businesses to get feedback on how it is affecting their communities. The council discussed the information presented at length and decided the following:

- They would like to receive more information from other communities which would include talking to the police, schools, and medical personnel.
- They would like to hear what businesses within our own community thinks.
- The survey that was created did not have enough information in it. If you answered the first question “no”, it took you to the end of the survey. More information needs to go out to the residents before another survey is taken.
- The city should send out a hard mailer to all the residents in Bridgman to get a more accurate number count.

The council would like to have the Planning Commission do the above listed items and come back with more information. Mayor Rose thanked Chair Hurray and the Planning Commission for their hard work thus far.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Nancy Malinowski – Consider doing a townhall meeting to allow more residents the opportunity to give their input on marijuana.
- Bill Boyd – The council needs to take into consideration the pride of living in this community, having a marijuana business is not all about the money. More time needs to be spent on this before making a decision.
- Eugene Herrman – The votes in favor for recreational marijuana outweighed the opposed, but that does not mean that everyone would like it in their back yard. If marijuana becomes legal on the Federal level, the State might not keep handing down money to local municipalities.
- Rick Fuller – Asked the council questions regarding the city’s short term rental ordinance and if the city has one. He had a conversation before the meeting with someone that is staying in a short-term rental 3 houses from Rite Aid on Lake Street. If the city has an ordinance on this, it should be enforced. Attorney Senica stated the police department is complaint driven. When it is brought to the city’s attention, it is looked into.
- Mark Smith, lives on California Road and is the owner of Green Door Dispensary and several other businesses – He agrees that taking marijuana businesses into consideration should be done slowly. He has information to share with the council on his businesses in the other communities if they would like to have it. He invited the council members to come and check out his businesses. If the city were to allow a marijuana facility in Bridgman, he would like to open a business here.
- Austin Hine – He works for Green Door and would love to educate people more about marijuana and the businesses, to go through what is strictly written to be transparent.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Member Bonkoske – Encouraged everyone to look and see what houses in Bridgman are being used as a short-term rental. The city needs to be prudent, transparent, and attempt to fix the issues that arise.

- Members Sam Stine, Stacy Stine, and Hahaj have all received numerous complaints on the weed spraying that was recently done in the curb and gutters that up to 6” of their lawns along the edge are dead in some areas.
- Member Sam Stine thanked Hurray and would love to hear more from stakeholders in the marijuana industry and around that industry.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member Trapani, seconded by Council Member Hahaj to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m., **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Vince Rose, Mayor

Allyson Holm, City Clerk