

BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
July 19, 2021
6:30 PM

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on July 19, 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, Vince Rose, Stacy Stine, Sam Stine, Pam Hahaj, Georgia Gipson

COUNCIL ABSENT: Jan Trapani

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ganum, City Clerk Holm, Attorney Senica, Police Chief Unruh, Parks Director Ball, Fire Chief Buist, Building Official Mattner, Director of Public Services Kading, Treasurer Lambrix

The pledge of allegiance was led by council.

Mayor Rose read aloud the Public Participation Rules and Procedures that was adopted by the City Council on December 19, 2016.

APPROVE/AMEND THE AGENDA:

Motion by Council Member Stacy Stine, seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to approve the agenda for July 19, 2021 as presented, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Rita Depedro, 9770 Niagara Row – She is impressed with the City’s strategic plan and how the city went about it. She isn’t sure if the council is measuring the goals and objectives in the plan though. There are some streets throughout the city that needs total resurfacing, and she isn’t sure where that stands as a priority. She also inquired about RVs parking in driveways and behind Haymarket and didn’t know if the city had a policy on that.
- Nancy Malinowski, Stelter Farm – Thanked the council for what has been done so far in Bridgman. The wooden community sign on the corner of Lake/Red Arrow is in dire need of painting. The flags put out along Lake Street for the 4th of July she felt was blah and the city could do better. She shared a few pictures with council on what other cities have done.

PRESENTATION:

Presentation – Berrien County Trail System and Master Plan – Marcy Hamilton

Marcy Hamilton, Senior Planner with the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission – She went through her power point presentation on the initiative of the Berrien County Trail System and Master Plan. The Friends of Berrien County Trails is a citizen-based non-profit that is striving to connect Berrien County with a network of trails. She shared a map of the current major trail systems throughout the state and a map of what the vision of connective trails would look like in Berrien County. She went through the process and purpose, the existing and planned trail inventory, the summary of public engagement input, and recommendations for future trails and funding. They are asking municipalities for contributions,

usually between \$1,000 and \$5,000 towards their goal. Hopefully funding will be secured by September. More information on the trail systems can be found on their website.

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Sam Stine to approve the minutes from the July 6, 2021 regular meeting, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Stacy Stine, seconded by Council Member Hahaj to approve the bills in the amount of \$75,965.56, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Attorney Senica asked the council to defer on the second reading and enactment of the ordinance presented tonight. The City is waiting to get approval from the State first to make sure our inspectors are licensed, and the City is moving faster than the State. This ordinance would repeal the current ordinance which she does not want to do that at this time. She asked council to table Resolution 2021-12 and Resolution 2021-13 as well.

Motion by Council Member Bonkoske, seconded by Council Member Sam Stine to table the second reading and enactment of an ordinance to accept and assume enforcement and administration authority for the Still-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, the adoption of Resolution 2021-12 to approve a Mechanical Permit fee schedule, and the adoption of Resolution 2021-13 to approve a Plumbing Permit fee schedule **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Sam Stine, seconded by Council Member Stacy Stine to approve the Leak Adjustment Policy and Leak Adjustment Form to ensure water and sewer customers pay for sewer services only when such services are actually being utilized, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to approve the agreement between the Friends of Berrien County Trails and the City of Bridgman to prepare a Berrien County Trails Master Plan, with City participation of \$2,000, and authorization of the City Manager to execute the agreement, **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. Both the MML (Michigan Municipal League) and the MTA (Michigan Township Association) is staying on top of these house bills, and if either one would go to a vote, they would let everyone know.

City Manager's Report

Ganum added a few items in addition to his written report:

- Ganum has been looking into a strategic plan session for the council that is overdue. One speaker that was highly recommended was too expensive for the city. He has been talking with other city managers, and the Holland City Manager has facilitated numerous strategic meetings.

He has offered to come down to Bridgman to facilitate a meeting here. Ganum will line something up and give the council a timeline and schedule.

- Ganum shared an email that came through the website about the need to repaint the yellow curbs in town. Coincidentally the very next day the jail crew was out painting the curbs. The Berrien County Road Department will be out in the next two weeks to paint the centerlines, bike lanes, and skip lines.
- Mayor Rose inquired about the status of the Tanner Creek project. Kading said their engineer said it would be a two-week project which they are on the second week right now. Ganum said the city will be receiving a bill for the completed work.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Bill Boyd – Asked if the pile of bush by Tanner Creek is going to be cleaned up. He has concerns with the Oak wilt and bugs like to grow in those piles.
- Rita Depedro – She has done strategic planning in the past and would be more than happy to volunteer her time to help with the city council. She will give Ganum her name and number after the meeting.
- Leah Clint, 11249 Lange Road – Asked the council if allowing short term rentals in the city is going to be brought up again anytime soon. The council engaged in a conversation about short term rentals and their viewpoints on it.
-

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Member Hahaj inquired about the status of the boat ramp. Ganum said the DPS crew will start making repairs when they are finished with brush pick-up tomorrow. Barring no issues, it will hopefully be back open to the public by this weekend.
- Member Sam Stine did reach out to someone in the Berrien County Health Department regarding the previous discussion the council had on marijuana. The lady said she will get back to council with more information.
- Mayor Rose thanked Ball for how well kept and clean the beach is. He also thanked Chief Unruh for putting in extra hours with two officers on leave and his part time officers for filling in where they can.

CLOSED SESSION:

Motion by Council Member Sam Stine, seconded by Council Member Stacy Stine to go into closed session under MCL 15.268 Sec. 8(d) To consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease that real property is obtained,

Roll Call:

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

Nays: None

Absent: Trapani

Motion carried.

The council came out of closed session at 8:04 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member Bonkoske, seconded by Council Member Sam Stine to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m., **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Vince Rose, Mayor

Allyson Holm, City Clerk