

**BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
August 16, 2021
6:30 PM**

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on August 16, 2021, at City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, MI 49106 and was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Stacy Stine at 6:30 p.m.

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

COUNCIL ABSENT: Vince Rose, Georgia Gipson

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ganum, Attorney Senica, City Clerk Holm, Police Chief Unruh, Parks Director Ball, Fire Chief Buist, Assessor Baumann, Director of Public Services Kading and 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 August 16, 2021, as presented, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Bill Boyd – Thanked the council for getting the tower clock fixed.

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Sam Stine to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2021, regular meeting, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Bonkoske, seconded by Council Member Sam Stine to approve the bills in the amount of \$105,735.96, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Sam Stine to approve the proposal from B&Z Company in the amount of \$9,800 to repair leaching basins on Beechnut Street and regrade and repave the area to match the inlets, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

WORKSHOP ITEMS AND REPORTS:

City Attorney's Report (verbal)

Attorney Senica stated that she has nothing additional to report on short-term rentals. She may have an update before the next meeting, if so, she will email the council.

City Manager's Report (written and verbal)

- Ganum went over the details of the recent flooding that happened in the city on August 10, 2021:
 - This was a 200-year rain that produced more than 6" of rain in a matter of a few hours.

- The DPS crew located debris in several locations along the drainage system which they removed.
- The Drain Commissioner along with their engineer came down to look at the Bedortha Drain and discussed a plan of action of what needs to be done. This drain flows into Tanner Creek which recently had some work done to it. Oselka Construction has mobilized their equipment and they will be making their way down the drain to make necessary repairs.
- There is a bottleneck along the Bedortha Drain on a property located along Vista Drive. A permit was pulled correctly 20 years ago by the Drain Commission to install a 36" culvert to allow access to the rest of the property. The Drain Commission dug that out and will be installing a 60" one in place of it.
- The substation along Red Arrow Highway was flooded and Ganum explained the process of those lines getting re-routed to get power restored.
- Ganum went through the process of contacting the Emergency Operations Center and the steps that were taken over the next few days.
- Some of the positives that happened before the flooding, was the work that had just been done to Tanner Creek, the DPS had just completed the cleaning out of all catch basins and street sweeping was done the day before.
- In preparing for the next emergency, the city will develop internal citywide emergency operation protocols/procedures.
- The city contacted Republic to do a special large trash pick-up for all the damaged materials in resident's basements. The earliest they could come is on August 25th. There was a large dumpster that was dropped off behind City Hall for those that wish to dispose of materials sooner.

The council discussed the situation and information provided at length. Attorney Senica stated there is not much a resident can do about the county drains. Residents can petition the drain commissioner to add a drain or make a drain larger, but it is quite a process and can cost millions of dollars that the homeowners would have to pay by special assessment. Ganum also updated the council on the following:

- Casey's pulled building permits late last week and they will be breaking ground in September. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony that council will be invited to.
- The MOU for the Firefighters Grant that council approved, the grant match was less than expected. The city's share has been reduced to \$1,109.28.
- The Berrien County Board of Commissioners is holding a meeting on Thursday at the Chikaming Township Fire Department. One of the topics will be to discuss the linear park along Red Arrow Highway.
- Currently the fifth Monday meeting with Lake Charter Township is tentative. Ganum would like to have one, but the Township will decide at their meeting tomorrow if they would like to have one.
- Ganum shared a letter from a citizen commenting on how beautiful the flower plantings are in the city this year.
- Ganum shared a picture of Midland Blooms which they have been doing for 30 years. They have 500 volunteers that handle 5 miles of flowers along the roadway. This is something that would be nice to do in Bridgman on a smaller scale. He will poll residents in the next Community Buzz.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Rita Depedro – Talked about the city’s storm sewers and what kind of planning the city is going to do with the County for future developments such as Casey’s. Ganum stated that there was extensive work done with the city engineers for the storm water drainage on that property. The drain commissioner also reviews it. Casey’s property is right next to a sensitive wetland area, and Ganum shared a floodplain map outlining areas that could flood throughout the city.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Member Bonkoske – Gave kudos to Ganum and thanked Member Sam Stine for letting Ganum know so early about the flooding. Ganum did a great job going out and talking to citizens and keeping the council up to date. A job well done.
- Member Sam Stine – Agrees with Member Bonkoske’s statement with Ganum and the responsiveness that was done. He shares distain for the Berrien County Drain Commission, not the city. He found every person on the city’s team very responsive and wished the Berrien County Drain Commission and AEP were more like that.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m., **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Stacy Stine, Mayor Pro-Tem

Allyson Holm, City Clerk