

BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 28, 2023, at 6:30 pm
City Council Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on August 28, 2023, at City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, MI, 49106 and was called to order by Mayor Jan Trapani at 6:30 pm EST.

2. Roll Call

Mayor Trapani instructed the city clerk to take roll call.

Present: John Bonkoske, William Boyd, Georgia Gipson, Pam Hahaj, Vince Rose, Sam Stine, and Jan Trapani
Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Juan Ganum, City Clerk Sheila Reitz, City Treasurer Debbie Lambrix, Police Chief Dan Unruh, Assessor John Baumann, Parks and Recreation Director Sara Ball, Building Inspector Brad Mattner, Attorney Sara Senica, and Wightman Engineer Mary Nykamp.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Trapani.

4. Approve/Amend the Agenda for August 28, 2023

Motion by Council Member Rose and seconded by Council Member Stine to approve the agenda as presented. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

5. Early Voting Presenttion by Sharon Tyler, Berrien County Clerk

Clerk Tyler addressed the City Council regarding early voting. Clerk Tyler explained that Berrien County is offering to enter into an agreement with local municipalities to implement and conduct early voting in Berrien County.

6. Bridgman Trails Planned Unit Development Presentation by Chris Lannert, owner, The Lannert Group

Mr. Lannert addressed the Council Members regarding his current project located at Lake Street and Church Street. He asked the Council for their consideration on several ordinance restrictions that apply to his planned unit development (PUD). (See Exhibit A)

7. Hearing of Citizens

- A resident expressed their gratitude toward the Greater Bridgman Area Council for Growth and Advancement (CGA). She asked the Council to consider placing a "Welcome to Bridgman" sign at exit 16.
- A resident and business owner spoke about the positive impact that the CGA has had and asked the Council to consider continually funding the CGA organization.
- A resident asked the Council to support the CGA.

8. Action Items

A. Approval of the minutes from the July 10, 2023, regular meeting and the August 18, 2023, special meeting.

Motion by Council Member Hahaj and seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to approve the July 10, 2023, regular meeting minutes and the August 18, 2023, special meeting minutes as presented. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

B. Approval of the bills in the amount of \$383,010.47.

Motion by Council Member Gipson and seconded by Council Member Stine to approve the payment of invoices in the amount of \$383,010.47. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

- C. **Second reading of Ordinance 2023-215 to partially amend section 470-54@, 'Standards for Street and Roadway Design', to allow for the submission of street design plans to the city engineer and fire chief for review and approval in any planned unit development.**

Motion by Council Member Rose and seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve Ordinance 2023-215 as presented. **Voice vote, motion carried 6-1, with Boyd voting no.**

- D. **Consideration of approving a service agreement between the Greater Bridgman Area Council for Growth & Advancement (CGA) and the City of Bridgman, including dissemination of \$15,000 (\$5,000 for Cornerstone Alliance and \$10,000 in unrestricted funds for administrative operation and general furtherance of economic development in Greater Bridgman).**

Motion by Council Member Gipson and seconded by Council Member Stine to approve the service agreement between the Greater Bridgman Area Council for Growth & Advancement (CGA) and the City of Bridgman as presented. Discussion was held.

Roll Call Vote:

AYES: Bonkoske, Gipson

NAYES: Boyd, Hahaj, Rose, Stine, Trapani

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

Motion failed 5-2

9. Workshop Items and Reports

A. Police Chief's Monthly Report-

Chief Unruh reported that a new officer will be joining the Bridgman City Police Department on Friday, September 1, 2023. He is in the interview process with the possibility of sending a new recruit to the Academy in January 2024.

B. Assessor's Monthly Report-

Assessor Baumann reported on the Consumer Price Index and inflation rate multiplier. He reported that the taxable value growth for the city could be less than the rate of inflation again this year.

C. City Clerk's Report-

Clerk Reitz gave a brief presentation on early voting and the costs associated with the implementation should the City decide to pursue early voting as a single municipality. Discussion was held among Council Members. Council Members unanimously decided to pursue the option of entering an agreement with Berrien County to implement and conduct early voting in coordination with the County Clerk. Clerk Reitz will present a resolution declaring the intentions of the City of Bridgman at the next meeting scheduled for September 5, 2023.

D. Parks and Recreation Director's Report-

Parks and Recreation Director Ball reported that the Toth Park playground equipment has arrived. The construction project will begin in the next couple of weeks.

E. Medi 1 Report-

Levi Kiester, Medic 1 representative, reported that the priority 1 and priority 2 call response times remain very good. There were approximately 30 calls last month. Medic 1 has started covering territory in north Berrien County. Kiester also reported that Pride Care in Cass County has discontinued service.

F. City Attorney's Report-

City Attorney Senica had nothing to report at this time.

G. City Manager's Report-

City Manager Ganum referred to his Manager's Report in the council packet. He highlighted the storm drain issue. He informed Council Member's that a sink hole has appeared next to the railroad tracks. Mary Nykamp, Wightman & Associates engineer, spoke about the issue.

City Manager Ganum briefly explained the remaining details to be completed on the Lake Street Improvement project.

He stated that there is a ground-breaking ceremony for the Corewell Health building project on August 30, 2023 at 3:45 pm and a Weko Beach Clean Up Day scheduled for September 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.

10. Hearing of Citizens

- A resident addressed the Council regarding the bike lane on Lake Street.
- Three residents expressed their dissatisfaction and disappointment with the Council's decision not to approve funding for the CGA.

11. Council Comments

Council Members commented on topics included in the meeting.

12. Adjournment

Motion by Council Member Hahaj and seconded by Council Member Rose to adjourn at 8:42 pm. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Jan Trapani, Mayor

Sheila Reitz, City Clerk