

BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING
September 5, 2023, at 6:30 pm
City Council Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on September 5, 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: William Boyd, Georgia Gipson, Pam Hahaj, Vince Rose, Sam Stine, and Jan Trapani

Absent: John Bonkoske

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

3. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Trapani.

4. Approve/Amend the Agenda for September 5, 2023

Motion by Council Member Hahaj and seconded by Council Member Stine to amend the agenda to include the Public Hearing for the Harbor Habitat Planned Unit Development as presented. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

5. Recognition of Nick Schmidt for establishing the Bridgman Open-Air Market

Mayor Trapani presented a certificate of appreciation to Nick Schmidt for his dedication and commitment to the Bridgman Open-Air Market as he steps down as the director.

5A. Public Hearing- Harbor Habitat PUD

Mayor Trapani opened the public hearing at 6:34 pm. The Mayor asked if there were any written correspondence pertaining to the public hearing. Clerk Reitz read the correspondence received.

- Email correspondence from Charlie Brown, resident, opposing the development of six (6) houses on the property for Harbor Habitat Planned Unit Development project. He would not oppose a single home or even two (2), but not six (6) on a small parcel. (EXHIBIT A)
- Darrell Schroeder, 9788 Vineyard Street, opposed having six houses built in such a small area. He also requested that all construction vehicles use Maple Street for access to the project as Vineyard Street cannot handle the weight load of these vehicles.

Mayor Trapani closed the public hearing at 6:36 pm.

6. Hearing of Citizens

- A resident asked when the pillars and water intake were going to be painted.
- A resident who serves on the Shoreline Resilience Committee mentioned the upcoming Weko Beach Clean Up Day scheduled for September 23, 2023. He also thanked the City Manager, the Parks and Recreation Director, and the Building Inspector for their dedication to the city.
- A resident expressed his disappointment with the city council members for stopping funding to the Greater Bridgman Area Council for Growth and Advancement (CGA).
- A seasonal camper at Weko Beach Campground expressed interest in having a conversation regarding the seasonal camper fees before the fees are increased.
- A resident expressed gratitude regarding the safety at Weko Beach. He stated that the seasonal campers are an asset, and he has concerns about converting the seasonal sites to daily sites.

- A resident thanked the council for their willingness to serve the community. She also thanked everyone who worked on the courtyard project. She would like to see more projects in the future that add to the beauty of the downtown environment. She also asked if there were any more infrastructure projects in the near future for other streets in the city. Lake street looks beautiful.

7. Action Items

A. Approval of the minutes from the August 28, 2023 regular meeting.

Motion by Council Member Rose and seconded by Council Member Stine to approve the August 28, 2023, regular meeting minutes as presented. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

B. Approval of the bills in the amount of \$138,023.75.

Motion by Council Member Hahaj and seconded by Council Member Stine to approve the payment of invoices in the amount of \$138,023.75. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

C. Consideration of approving Resolution 2023-15, Intent to Enter into an Agreement with Berrien County to Implement and Conduct Early Voting.

Motion by Council Member Stine and seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve Resolution 2023-15 as presented. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

D. Consideration of approving the purchase of a pick-up truck for the Parks and Recreation Department for an amount not to exceed \$40,000, and consideration of transferring an existing 2021 Ford F150 from the Parks and Recreation Department to Water Department.

Motion by Council Member Hahaj and seconded by Council Member Stine to approve the purchase of a pick-up truck for the Parks and Recreation Department for an amount not to exceed \$40,000, and consideration of transferring an existing 2021 Ford F150 from the Parks and Recreation Department to Water Department. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

8. Workshop Items and Reports

A. Police Chief's Monthly Report- Chief Unruh had nothing more to add to his written report.

B. City Attorney's Report- Attorney Senica had nothing more to add at this time.

C. City Manager's Report-

City Manager Ganum gave an update on the storm water drainage in the city. The infrastructure is in good condition. The issue appears to be a capacity issue.

He informed the Council that Representative Joey Andrews is conducting a "Listening Tour" regarding short term rentals in the area. Manager Ganum gave a brief update on the latest draft of a bill that would limit short term rentals in commercial areas.

A report will be coming in the near future regarding the roof damage and repair of the fire department roof.

D. Discussion related to a Special Assessment District to pay for the costs of offering and providing City-wide trash and recycling collection service.

City Manager Ganum led a discussion of items to be considered by the City Council pertaining to a Special Assessment District to offset the costs related to citywide trash and recycling collection services. Discussion was held.

9. Hearing of Citizens

- A resident thanked the city for their foresight pertaining to short-term rentals. He also congratulated the Bridgman Public Schools for being ranked 34th in the State.
- A resident thanked Chief Unruh and the police department for their great service and response to issues. He also stated that he was not a fan of short-term rental properties.
- A seasonal camper thanked Parks and Recreation Director Ball for doing a great job at Weko Beach.
- A resident thanked the city council and the city employees for all their efforts.
- A resident expressed gratitude to the council members and voiced his concern about the lack of affordable housing in Bridgman. He stated that he did not think that paying \$320,000 for a home was affordable.

10. Council Comments

- Council Member Boyd stated that he would like to see more color incorporated in the Christmas decorations this year.
- Council Member Stine thanked Mr. Schoon for his work with the Shoreline Resilience Committee. He stated that he was also concerned about affordable housing being an issue in Bridgman. Council Member Stine stated that the ranking of the High School was due to the efforts of the whole community. He stated that it is essential to always find a balance between businesses, residents, and visitors.

11. Adjournment

Motion by Council Member Rose and seconded by Council Member Stine to adjourn at 7:30 pm. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Jan Trapani, Mayor

Sheila Reitz, City Clerk

Sheila Reitz

From: Charlie Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 5:34 PM
To: Sheila Reitz
Subject: Public hearing

[You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Hello, I am writing in regards to a letter about a planned unit development on parcel Id 11-56-0019-0145-14-1. I have owned 9891 vineyard st which is directly across the street from this development property in question since 2005. The city has maintained and mowed this property since I moved to 9891 vineyard st. I strongly disagree with making this development of 6 houses on a property so small. Every house and property on vineyard street has .50 acres of property or more and all have one single house on them. This should not be allowed to happen. I would not oppose a single home or even two but I cannot support 6 houses on a small parcel.

Thank you,

Sincerely
Vernon Charlie Brown
9891 vineyard st
Bridgman Mi

Sent from my iPhone

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.