

**BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
September 7, 2021
6:30 PM**

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on September 7, 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: Jan Trapani, John Bonkoske, Vince Rose, Pam Hahaj, Georgia Gipson

COUNCIL ABSENT: Sam Stine, Stacy Stine

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

The pledge of allegiance was led by council.

APPROVE/AMEND THE AGENDA:

Motion by Council Member Trapani, seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve the agenda for September 7, 2021, as presented, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- No one wished to be heard.

PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation – Christopher Quattrin, Berrien County Drain Commissioner – update on drain improvements within Bridgman

Mr. Quattrin explained the 500-year flood that happened on August 10th with 7” of rain falling in less than 4 hours. There are always lessons learned on what can be done better in the future. He came down to City Hall that day and met with Ganum and Kading from the city, along with a few others to figure out a plan of action. Oselka Construction was able to mobilize quickly, and they had two groups working on areas along Tanner Creek and the Bedortha Drain to remove obstructions. Within 24 hours the water had receded. Quattrin went through a series of maps which showed the County Drains within the City, post storm flooding and obstructions, mitigation work that has been completed, remaining mitigation work, and possible large scale future improvements. (These maps are attached to the minutes) He explained all maps at length and answered council questions.

He also explained the difference in a 10, 25, 50, 100, and 500-year flood and the amount of rain that falls withing a 24-hour period. Most of the drains in the City were built on a 10-year rain event and there have been heavier rain events as the years pass. He tries to run a 50 – 100-year drain line in all work that is currently being done.

He explained the limitations he faces with work that can be done to the County Drains. Without a petition being filed, he can only perform maintenance along the drains or when an emergency occurs. Petitions may be filed to improve existing drains to alleviate flooding or drainage issues. A landowner

can start this process by obtaining 5 signatures within that drainage district. The City can also start the petition process to make improvements as well. After a petition is filed, a Board of Determination hearing will be held to determine if the project is necessary or not. He explained how the cost of assessment for work to be done on the drains would be spread by a percentage between the landowner, the municipality, and other entities.

The council had a lengthy discussion on all the information provided.

Presentation – Erin Hudson, Executive Director of Harbor Habitat for Humanity – update on home construction project

Ms. Hudson provided a brief update to the council on where the Harbor Habitat for Humanity project stands and how things are progressing. The pandemic did slow the project down as the donations are down, there are a limited number of volunteers on a site, and the material costs have gone up significantly which would take the project out of the realm for affordable housing. A \$125,000 house would cost more like \$200,000 right now.

They are currently working on the closing of the property, getting the conditional rezoning application submitted, and then split the property accordingly. There is a possibility that they will build 6 single family houses instead of 3 single family with 2 duplexes. Phase 1 includes building the 3 houses along Vineyard St. Phase 2 includes extending Willow St. 500 ft. and build the remaining houses along Willow St. Extending Willow St. to Baldwin Rd. would be ideal but it would cost over \$1 million to do so. She explained the road standards and why the cost to build the road is so high. They are currently looking at grants and other means to fund the road extension. They are eager to get started on Phase 1. She is hoping once the matter on the back end is done, then the prices of lumber will have dropped enough to start building right away.

ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to approve the minutes from the August 16, 2021, regular meeting, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Gipson, seconded by Council Member Hahaj to approve the bills in the amount of \$95,500.12, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to adopt Resolution 2021-13 to adopt the City of Bridgman Policy and Procedure for Assessor Inquiries and Meetings, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Bonkoske, seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve a construction contract between Triple D Excavating & Moore, Inc. and the City of Bridgman in the amount of \$109,373.50 to replace the south dune retaining wall at Weko Beach and authorization of the city manager to execute the contract, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Motion by Council Member Gipson, seconded by Council Member Trapani to purchase a 2021 UTV (Utility Terrain Vehicle) in the amount of \$10,317 from Leaders RPM for use by the Parks and Recreation Department, **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

WORKSHOP ITEMS AND REPORTS:

City Attorney's Report (verbal)

Attorney Senica said that she has nothing new to report to council.

City Manager's Report (written and verbal)

Ganum went over the following items in his written report and supplemental report:

- The installation of the Moby mat at Weko Beach has received many positive comments which he shared a few with the council. There were also comments to install more for next season. This is something that should have been done years ago and the city will continue to add more.
- He shared a request from a non-profit organization that wants to hang purple ribbons on the city light poles in October for domestic violence month. He has wrestled with allowing this or not because once you say yes to one group, it is hard to say no to another group on very difficult issues. He contacted a property owner on Lake Street and told them about the request. The property owner said they would allow the organization to put something on their property and asked for information to get in touch with the organization.
- He shared two different design ideas for new holiday banners. The current ones have a blue background which makes it difficult to see, where the proposed banners have a red background. Council was happy with either of the designs presented.
- The Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLRF) was approved. The city will be receiving 50% of the approved \$231,000 within 30 days.
- The special curbside collection and 30 cubic yard roll off container behind City Hall for the flooding that happened on August 10th cost the city \$3,646 with 23.29 tons of trash being collected. In comparison, the city generated 27.66 tons of trash during the May 2021 bulk item collection, costing \$5,478.
- The DPS crew has reconstructed two of the three steps which lead from the boardwalk at Weko Beach down to the sand. He showed a picture which also has handrails added for safety.
- The Berrien County Board of Commissioners took their board meeting to Chikaming Township Hall on August 19th. During the meeting they took a bus ride along Red Arrow Highway from south of Bridgman City limits to New Buffalo and talked about the lane reconfiguration down to three lanes. The County wants to extend the current project from the State line to Bridgman and beyond that. He shared where the council can obtain more information.

HEARING OF CITIZENS:

- Kirsten Howell, 4660 Hidden Creek – Informed council that she filed a complaint in June with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) against Right Way. The City hired that company to spray herbicide along the curbsides of the road and she claims her dog became sick from that spray. During MDARD's investigation, they contacted the City and found that Right Way Control Services had four violations in accordance with State regulations. She cited each violation in detail.
- Bill Boyd – Inquired about the recent rains and if there has been any extra water seeping into the sanitary systems. Lambrix stated that the city has not received the August bill from the Galien River Sanitary District Authority yet to see if there was an influx in the last bill.
- Terri Freehling, Berrien County Board of Commissioner – Informed the council that the County is conducting a survey regarding updating their Master Plan and Strategic Planning. She asked that everyone take the time to complete the survey as any and all input is welcome.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

- Member Trapani informed council that the Bridgman American Legion is celebrating its 100th year anniversary in October and inquired if the city could do something to commemorate the milestone. Member Hahaj stated there will be a dinner at the Legion on October 16th, Member Trapani's band will be playing that night, at it will be open to the public at 6 p.m. Attorney Senica suggested that the city could do an official resolution to celebrate. Ganum stated he can invite Commander Mutz to the October 4th city council meeting to present him with that resolution.
- Mayor Rose wanted to thank Mayor Pro-Tem Stine for filling in for him at the last council meeting. He also wanted to thank Chief Unruh and his police officers for filling in for one of the full-time officers out on leave and for keeping Bridgman safe. Chief has put in many hours, and he thanked him again.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Council Member Hahaj, seconded by Council Member Gipson to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m., **voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

Vince Rose, Mayor

Allyson Holm, City Clerk

