

Bridgman City Council
Regular Meeting
September 19, 2022
6:30pm

1) CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on September 19, 2022, at City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, MI 49106 and was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Stacy Stine at 6:30pm.

2) ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Jan Trapani, Stacy Stine, John Bonkoske, Pam Hahaj, Georgia Gipson

COUNCIL ABSENT: Vince Rose, Sam Stine

STAFF PRESENT: City Manager Ganum, Parks Director Ball, Police Chief Unruh, Treasurer Lambrix, Attorney Senica, Fire Chief Joel Buist

3) PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by council.

4) APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Bonkoske seconded by Council Member Hahaj to approve the agenda as printed.

Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

5) HEARING OF CITIZENS

Michelle Hannon, stated she is a Democrat running for County Commissioner. She stated she is an incredibly active community member and plans to attend precinct meetings on a routine basis. Affordable housing is her main priority, and she supports community efforts toward maintaining local control of ordinances. She also believes in a region wide transportation system. Citizens in this district need representation and she is here to give a voice to members of this district.

Sarah Skinner stated she is the new Library Director and started on September 1st. A native of Berrien County she graduated from Western Michigan University with a undergrad degree and Valdosta State in Georgia with a master's degree in library science. She is very excited to work with everyone in the Bridgman community and invites everyone to come on in and see her.

6) ACTION ITEMS

6A. Motion by Council Member Trapani seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve the minutes of September 6, 2022, regular meeting as printed.

Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

6B. Motion by Council Member Bonkoske seconded by Council Member Hahaj to approve the bills in the amount of \$57,689.43 as amended to include a payment to Chuck Corliss in the amount of \$220.00 for his playing of Taps at Weko Beach.

Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

6C. Motion by Council Member Hahaj seconded by Council Member Trapani to approve Manager Ganum as the Bridgman delegate for the Michigan Municipal League Convention.

Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

- 6D. Motion** by Council Member Hahaj seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to adopt a modified fee schedule for Weko Campground to be implemented for camping season 2023 (Monday May 1, 2023, through Sunday October 1, 2023).
Reservations for next camping season will be opened on January 1, 2023.

Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

- 6E. Motion** by Council Member Trapani seconded by Council Member Hahaj to approve the purchase of four rustic cabins from Country Cabins in the amount of \$22,935 for the South Campground at Weko Beach & Campground.

Questions were asked regarding the total cost to buildout the 4 cabins to be ready for next season. Parks Director Ball stated that there will be additional costs, but all costs were included in this year's budget.

Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

- 6F. Motion** by Council Member Bonkoske seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve Resolution 2022-11 for Petition for Maintenance and Improvement of the Bridgman Drain #061 and Resolution 2022-12 for Petition for Maintenance and Improvement of the Bedortha Drian #030 by the Berrien County Drain Commissioner.

All Council agrees that fixes need to be done, but not in the form of a petition without cost estimates to fix the project.

Voice vote, motion failed.

Ayes: None.

Nays: Gipson, Stacy Stine, Bonkoske, Hahaj, Trapani

Motion by Council Member Bonkoske seconded by Council Member Gipson in support of the project for maintenance and improvement of the Bridgman Drain #061 and Maintenance and Improvement of the Bedortha Drain #030 by the Berrien County Drain Commissioner.

Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

7) WORKSHOP ITEMS AND REPORTS

- 7A.** Discussion of allocation of funds (\$5000) towards annual dues for Cornerstone Alliance for Economic development services.

A discussion was held on the history of the contribution's previously split between Lake Charter Township and the City of Bridgman. The Greater Bridgman Area Chamber and Growth Alliance (CGA) is asking for a contribution of \$5000 from the City of Bridgman and \$5000 from Lake Charter Township towards the economic development to be applied towards the costs of Cornerstone Alliance.

Motion by Council Member Stacy Stine seconded by Council Member Gipson to contribute \$5000 to the CGA. Which be then given to Cornerstone Alliance for economic development.

Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

7B. Discussion of allocation of funds (\$2000) towards the 2022 Holiday Village event.

Motion by Council member Hahaj seconded by Council Member Gipson to contribute \$2000 to the holiday village event.

Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

7C. Fire Chiefs report: The results of the 2022 Hydrant flushing of the City's 211 fire hydrants. Chief Buist recapped the hydrant flushing process, 8 guys –60 hours to flush the 211 hydrants. This maintenance helps to ensure that the hydrants are there when they are needed most.

The City of Bridgman and Fire Department are looking into a fire hydrant maintenance agreement for hydrants located on private property.

7D. Director of Public Services Monthly Report- August 2022: Written Report.

7E. City Attorney's Report: Attorney Senica discussed Oak Wilt problems effecting other communities and the opportunity for Bridgman to share its future presentation via zoom with other municipalities. She also stated that potential ordinances may help residents and businesses understand how easy Oak Wilt can spread, could be a beneficial tool in slowing Oak Wilts progression.

7f. City Manager's report: Manager Ganum reported that an Oak Wilt discussion will be coming sometime this winter, after the January issue of the Bridgman Buzz to help disseminate Oak Wilt facts to public officials, residents, and businesses. The Police Department is seeking a new full-time officer and the Water Department is seeking a Water Plant Operator. Ganum explained that he has investigated a contractual Operator option as an alternative to hiring a full-time employee. The length of the licensing process for a Water Operator is inside of 12 months and closer to 6 months. Anyone interested in applying must be able to obtain water plant license within 12 months. Tara Heiser is a marketing and communication expert who has presented the City with a contract option for her services to manage the City's social media pages. The City needs to do a better job of communicating with its residents. The City doesn't have an independent Facebook page, and is currently utilizing other department pages to help spread the word about City events. I'm not asking the council to make any decisions tonight, but this is as essential as economic development.

8) HEARING OF CITIZENS

No one wished to be heard.

9) COUNCIL COMMENTS

Bonkoske: Proposed that Council meet on the 1st Monday of the month except for when we need to switch to a different day for holidays or elections.

Motion by Council Member Bonkoske seconded by Council Member Gipson to change monthly meetings to the first Monday of the month or to the first Tuesday following a holiday or the second Monday following an election day.

A calendar of scheduled meetings will be forthcoming following the election in November.

Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

10) ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Council Member Trapani seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 pm.

Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

Stacy Stine, Mayor Pro Tem

Sarah Karl, City Clerk

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