



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

July 23, 2025

The City Council met for a Workshop Meeting at 4:00 p.m.
City Hall
102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Anderson at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Present: Mayor Anderson, Mayor Pro-Tem Stanton and Councilmembers Dean, Gardner, Muncey and Peterson.
Absent: Clark.

Motion by Gardner, second by Stanton to excuse councilmember Clark. Via voice vote, motion carried 6-0.

Others Present: City Manager Cummins, Attorney Witte, DPW Superintendent Herbert, Treasurer Bredeweg, and Clerk Wolters.

Agenda Changes: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

Karen Sheridan commented on item #6c.
Nancy Kimble commented on item #6c.

Approval of Minutes:

Regular City council Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2025.

Closed Session City Council Meeting Minutes – July 14, 2025.

Motion by Gardner, second by Stanton to approve the regular city council meeting minutes and the closed session city council meeting minutes, both of July 14. Via voice vote, motion carried 6-0.

Discussion Items:

Allegan County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Services Agreement and Presentation:

Services Overview:

- 60 uniform personnel
- 9 township contracts
- 4 School Resource Officers (SROs)
- Detective Bureau includes:
 - 4 general case detectives - 1 domestic violence investigator - 1 digital forensics investigator
- Specialty Units:
 - SWAT team (multi-jurisdictional)

- Canine team
- Dive team
- Evidence technicians
- Accident investigators
- Traffic team
- Honor guard
- Crisis negotiator team
- Field training officers

Auxiliary Units:

- Reserves
- Marine patrol
- Animal Control

Call Volume:

- Consistent around 1,200 calls per year

Contract Details:

- Current contract is 75.5% city/25% county split
- Four deputies assigned to Saugatuck
- Coverage using the closest available car concept
- Willing to adjust service levels based on community needs

Council Discussion:

- Council members appreciated deputies' visibility and community engagement
- Praised deputies for being friendly and approachable

Coverage Concerns

- Concerns about 24/7 coverage
- Sheriff's department clarified they don't provide constant on-site coverage
- Confirmed that closest available patrol car will respond to calls
- No major incidents reported when deputies were not immediately available

Marine Patrol

- Discussed funding and staffing challenges
- County committed to maintaining marine patrol budget
- Difficulty finding part-time employees to fill shifts

School Resource Officer

- Discussed potential for future SRO at Saugatuck Public Schools
- Currently using a security director (Brett Ensfield) as an interim solution

Review Slow No Wake Survey Results and Options:

Survey Results:

- 700+ respondents
- Nearly 50/50 split on the issue
- 48% in favor of the entire lake being no wake
- 47% are against making the entire lake no wake
- About 5% of lake users engage in water skiing/tubing
- Over 75% prefer cruising and sightseeing

Council Member Perspectives:

- Not in favor of making the entire lake no wake
- Supports maintaining recreational use
- Interested in exploring alternative solutions
- Concerned about boat wakes near docks
- Increase signage - Noted lack of no wake signage in certain areas
- Explore more navigational aids- Potentially create a high-speed channel in future

Practical Considerations:

- Current lake depth limitations naturally restrict boat activities
- State law requires slow speed within 100 feet of shoreline
- Enforcement challenges exist

Spear Street Update –Streetlight Removal Request:

Background:

- Streetlight has not been in use for 30 years
- Residents requested its removal
- Consumers Energy no longer offers deactivation service
- Removal cost is approximately \$500

Council Member Perspectives:

- Wants to prevent setting a broad precedent - Consider developing a comprehensive streetlight policy
- Interested in exploring dark sky initiatives
- Suggested alternative: installing a cul-de-sac LED light
- Supports this specific removal due to unique circumstances

Proposed Next Steps:

- Add to Monday's agenda
- Explore dark sky initiatives through Parks and Public Works Committee
- Install dead-end signage if light is removed

Public Comments:

Paul Whitfield commented on item #6c.

Correspondence: None.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Muncey:

- Congratulated Scott Herbert on his wedding anniversary
- Promoted "Music in the Park" event - Whiskey Bound would be performing
- He will be blowing bubbles at the event

Councilmember Dean:

- Looking forward to Music in the Park

Councilmember Stanton: None.

Councilmember Gardner:

- Asked everyone to look at the Spear Street light by his home to see the difference with the new shield
- Thanked all of the Allegan County Sheriff department staff for their presentation

Councilmember Peterson:

- Appreciates the Allegan County Sheriff's department service and commitment to this town and thanked them for all their hard work
- She remembers the brutal start of the police separation years ago

Mayor Anderson:

- Thanked all of the Allegan County Sheriff's department staff, especially Sergeant Haas for his ongoing communications and great relationship with City Manager Cummins.

Adjournment:

Motion by Stanton, second by Dean to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried 6-0. Mayor Anderson adjourned the meeting at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk