



City Manager Report

August 19, 2025

Deer Management

- Last Monday, City Council approved changes to the City's weapons ordinance. The updates balance the community's safety with options for responsible wildlife management.
- Firearms Regulation – The discharge of firearms remains prohibited within City limits, except for law enforcement officers in the line of duty and approved deer culls. This change allows the City, in coordination with state and county authorities, to manage deer overpopulation more effectively.
- Archery Regulation – Archery hunting is still not permitted citywide. However, the ordinance now allows City Council to consider requests to designate specific areas by resolution if appropriate (e.g., larger parcels). This ensures flexibility while prioritizing safety.
- Modernization & Alignment – Outdated or unused provisions were removed. The ordinance now aligns more closely with state and federal laws, ensuring clearer and more consistent enforcement.

Holiday Lighting

- Last Monday, City Council approved a three-year contract renewal with Chips Groundcover for holiday lighting with a display similar to previous seasons plus additional lighting added to Water Street from Culver Street to Mary Street and Hoffman Street from Water Street to Butler Street.
- Electrical upgrades for existing and additional lighting are needed, and staff are working to finalize that cost and obtain necessary approvals for the work.
- Staff have also submitted a grant application to the Convention and Visitors Bureau to help with the cost of expanding the lighting.

Kalamazoo River Greenway Gains New Partners

- Five municipal and community partners have pledged funding to begin implementing conservation and recreation projects along the Greenway.
- View the press release from the Outdoor Discovery Center here:
<https://mailchi.mp/2439c1ba1274/for-immediate-release-2024-macatawa-water-festival-16309429>

Blue Star Trail

- The Friends of the Blue Star Trail recently held a fundraiser. A big thank you to the Friends and all their supporters for their work and donations to make completing the trail a reality.
- City Council recently approved a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Trust Fund Agreement amendment to extend the timeline for the \$300,000 grant into next year.
- The tribe's on-site assessment remains scheduled for later this month. An entire day is set aside for this, and the tribal nations have invited the Township Manager and I to attend. I look forward to learning from them.

Park Street Grant

- In December, City Council approved the submission of a grant application to the EGLE Water Resources Division in the amount of \$40,000 for planning and conceptual design of improvements to the Park Street Corridor and committed that the local match shall be provided if the project is funded.
- EGLE notified us recently that our application was submitted for federal review and approval and they may reach out with questions.
- While it's not a final approval or decision, it is promising that we are still being considered!

Village Square Grant

- I recently met the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grant coordinator on site at Village Square. We went over our grant application to improve the basketball and tennis court area, and the grant coordinator was able to see the needs firsthand.
- We hope to hear about initial scoring in the next month or two.

AT&T

- AT&T advised they are still working on proposed revisions to the lease that would include a one-time capital contribution that City Council previously requested. It is promising that AT&T is willing to finalize a lease considering they wanted to hold off until they had more formal Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approvals (which they do not have yet).

Director of Planning and Zoning

- Grayson Moore has been selected as the City's new Director of Planning and Zoning. He will officially begin his role on September 2.
- Grayson brings a strong background to the City and a passion for inclusive, community-driven planning. He holds a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from Wayne State University and most recently served as a consulting Planner and GIS Coordinator with the firm Carlisle Wortman Associates. In that role, he collaborated with numerous Michigan communities to support plan reviews, master plans, zoning ordinance updates, GIS mapping, and community engagement

efforts. His experience also includes work in zoning enforcement and economic development with the City of Plymouth.

- The interview panel included the Mayor, Chair of the Planning Commission, Chair of the Zoning Board of Appeals, Vice-Chair of the Historic District Commission, and the City Manager.

Oval Beach Featured in New York Times!

- Check out the recognition here: <https://tinyurl.com/nhetkayc>

Upcoming Meetings

Full meeting packets are posted on the City website and Facebook prior to each meeting.

When available, they can be viewed by selecting the board/commission:

- August 21 at 6:30p – Planning Commission
- August 25 at 6:30p – City Council Regular Meeting
- August 26 at 10a – Parks and Public Works
- September 3 at 4p – City Council Workshop
- September 4 at 6p – Historic District Commission