



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 24, 2025

The City Council met to have a Regular Council Meeting at City Hall.
102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Anderson at 6:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance:

Present: Mayor Anderson, Mayor Pro-Tem Stanton and councilmembers Clark, Dean, Gardner and Peterson.
Others Present: City Manager Cummins, Zoning Director Thompson, Treasurer Bredeweg and Clerk Wolters.

Mayor Comments:

Mayor Holly Anderson began by welcoming Commissioner Lovers, who was listening in on the phone and would join a future meeting. She shared a personal story about a friend in Holland who was saved by someone who had recently completed CPR training, highlighting the importance of CPR training. She mentioned that Holland is a heart-safe city and encouraged everyone to take CPR courses and get recertified, noting that it saved her friend's life. She also expressed appreciation for the DPW crew completing CPR training.

City Manager Comments:

City Manager Cummins provided updates on several key items:

- **Community Update:** Council Commissioner Lubbers dropped off a community update for Allegan County. He plans to speak at the next meeting and is available to answer questions.
- **Lead Service Line Verification:** Contractor work to verify lead service lines will resume this week. No disruption to roads is expected, but some right-of-way areas or concrete might be impacted. The work is expected to wrap up in the next few weeks, with further in-home verifications possibly in May. The project will be closed out from a grant perspective once the report is updated.
- **Road Funding:** At the Michigan Municipal League Capital Conference, it was noted that there are hopes for increased road funding through the current legislative session and the governor's budget. The State House passed a bill that, if approved, could result in a 150% increase in road funding for municipalities, with bipartisan support from local representatives.
- **Boat Slips Availability:** For the first time, there are four boat slips available. A second round of the boat lottery is scheduled, with applications accepted until the end of the week. While local property taxpayers are prioritized, non-residents can also apply if slips remain.
- **Interurban:** Cummins briefly mentioned the Interurban update but deferred to Councilmember Muncey for a more detailed report on changes.

Agenda Changes: None.

Guest Speakers:

Saugatuck Public Schools Community Recreation Director Scott Kierzek presented the history and overview of the recreation program for the community.

Public Comment on Agenda Item Only:

Nancy Kimble commented on Resolution No. 250324-A.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2025.
- B. Resolution No. 250324-B: A Resolution Providing City Council's Public Comment to the United States Army Core of Engineers on Northshore of Saugatuck, LLC's Permit to Build a Boat Launch.
- C. Award 2025-2027 Pavement Markings Agreement to Advanced Pavement Marking in the amount of \$81,085.35.
- D. Spear Street Launch Ramp Management Agreement.
- E. 2025 Boat Slip Management Agreement.

Motion by Dean, second by Peterson to approve the consent agenda. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Staff Reports, Boards, Commissions & Committees:

The City Manager, Treasurer, City Clerk, Director of Planning & Zoning, Department of Public Works, Engineer and Police submitted status reports of current activities since the last regular council meeting for their respective departments.

Fire District Administration:

Dan Fox presented the fire district administrative board report for February, covering several key points:

Response Times:

- Slightly increased by about 50 seconds, primarily due to weather conditions.
- 21 motor vehicle incidents (covering January and February).

EMS Data:

- Reviewed January and February statistics.
- Discussed compliance with county medical determinations.
- Average response times were around 11-12 minutes.

Key Discussions:

- Approved \$17,500 for a new security access system for fire district facilities.
- Received a clean audit review from auditors.
- Recovered over \$2,000 from two different incidents.
- Reviewing plans to upgrade water and sewer services at the fire station.

Notable Incident:

- Responded to a fire at the Saugatuck drugstore on February 15th.
- Successfully contained the fire with minimal damage.
- Received a thank you text from the store's owners for a professional response.

Additional Highlights:

- Discussed potential water and sewer service upgrades.
- Noted ongoing challenges with EMS personnel recruitment.
- Highlighted the importance of the Life EMS partnership in managing medical calls.

The presentation provided a comprehensive overview of the fire district's activities and performance in February.

Interurban Board:

Councilmember Muncey provided the following update:

Ridership Growth:

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- The local bus system carried over 76,000 passengers last year, reflecting significant growth due to the area's increasing population, including people from surrounding townships like Lake Township.

New Pilot Programs:

- Fennville Service: Starting April 7, a new demand-response service will operate between Saugatuck and Fennville for \$5. This will be a trial program for a year, with a bus stop planned at 116 South Maple Street in Fennville.
- Ganges Township Service: A new program will transport people from Saugatuck or Fennville to Fen Valley Vineyards, Virtue Cider, or Modales Wines.
- Lake Town Township: Initially planning service for one precinct, Lake Town has now expanded the agreement to cover all precincts, with service starting May 1. The township will pay \$7 per rider, and in 2026, the service will be included in their millage vote for continued funding.

Funding and Future Needs:

- The service expansion is dependent on pilot programs and partnerships with local municipalities.
- State Funding Concerns: There's a potential 75% cut in state funding, so there may be a need to seek voter approval for a one-mill tax increase in 2026 to maintain and expand the service. The current millage is at 2.5 mills, down from 1 mill 20 years ago when the program was more reliant on state and federal funding.

Additional Features:

- Inner Urban buses are pet-friendly, bike-accessible, and provide services like food delivery and prescription pick-up for \$2.

Kalamazoo Lake Sewer & Water Authority:

Councilmember Clark provided an update on the hydrant flushing scheduled for April 21 to 28 by Kal Lake. The purpose of this process is to maintain the hydrants, remove accumulated rust and iron, test the system, and improve water quality. While this maintenance is beneficial, residents may experience rust-colored water during the process. Clark emphasized the need for community outreach and suggested sharing a flyer to inform residents. He recommended posting the flyer on the city's website and assisting in getting the information out through media channels ahead of time.

Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority:

Councilmember Chris Peterson provided updates on two items:

No Wake Survey:

- The survey questions have already been drafted by Lisa No (surname uncertain) and will be reviewed at the next workshop for further discussion.

Harbor Cleanup Proposal:

- A proposal from Dick Waskin and Edgewater was received, requesting \$4,000 from each of the three entities to support harbor cleanup efforts. If there are no concerns, the \$4,000 can be included in the draft budget. Otherwise, the proposal can be discussed further at a workshop. Peterson believes the cleanup initiative should move forward, as all three entities have agreed to it.

Zoning Board of Appeals:

The next meeting will be in April.

Historic District Commission:

Councilmember Gardner provided an update on the special session:

Art in the Park Proposal:

- The Historic District Commission reviewed and approved the proposal for the art installation in Cook Park. The main concern raised was about the intensity of the lights for the installation. There was discussion to ensure the lighting is subtle and aligns with the park's ambiance, avoiding overwhelming visitors. This feedback will be shared with the artists as the project moves forward.

Planning Commission:

Councilmember Clark provided an update on two key planning projects:

Zoning Map Review:

- The planning team is working on potentially reducing the number of zones in the community. They will start by identifying commonalities across different zones and looking for immediate improvements. The process will take time, and the council will hear more about it as progress is made.

Tri-Community Master Plan:

- There's a consensus among the planning committee to create a tri-community master plan that may include modules for specific community needs or goals. Douglas has already begun or completed their update, but the goal is to collaborate with the planning commissions from all three communities to see if they can agree on this approach, especially to benefit visitors.

Parks and Public Works Committee, Mayor Anderson:

Mayor Pro-Tem Stanton announced that the Parks and Public Works committee will meet March 25th at 10:00 a.m. The main focus of the meeting will be to review the community suggestions for renaming the airport property. The committee plans to narrow down the list of suggestions to a few good options to present to the city council for a final decision.

Tri-Community Non-Motorized Trail Study Committee:

Councilmember Dean noted the updates are included in the City Manager reports and answered questions from fellow councilmembers.

Water System Operations Contract Advisory Committee:

Councilmember Garner noted the last meeting was after the last workshop and they are getting closer.

Wildlife Management Committee, Councilmember Dean:

Councilmember Dean is waiting on the next meeting date and they are working on a draft resolution.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Motion by Stanton, second by Dean to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$90,303.73. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:**Resolution No. 250324-A: A Resolution Authorizing Submission of a Recreation Passport Grant Application:**

Motion by Clark, second by Muncey to adopt resolution number 250324-A, a resolution authorizing submission of a recreational passport grant application. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 250324-A: Michigan Gas Utilities Corporate Franchise Agreement:

Motion by Dean, second by Stanton to approve ordinance number 250324-A, a Michigan gas utilities corporate franchise agreement. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Ordinance No. 250324-B: Short-Term Rental Licensing Ordinance Amendment:

*Motion by Dean, second by Muncey to table this item. Via roll call vote, motion carried 5-2.
Yes – Dean, Gardner, Muncey, Peterson, Stanton. No – Anderson, Clark.*

Resolution No. 250324-C: A Resolution Approving a Change in the City's Schedule of Fees to Add a Late Short-Term Rental Application Penalty Fee:

Motion Muncey, second by Stanton to approve resolution number 250324-C, a resolution approving a

change in the city's schedule of fees to add a late short term rental application, penalty fee. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Councilmember Dean left the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Culver Street Parking Lot Operation Agreement:

Motion by Stanton, second by Peterson to approve the 2025 culver street parking lot agreement. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

2025 Street End and Dock License Rates and Agreements:

Motion by Gardner, second by Muncey to approve the 2025 municipal License Agreement rates as presented and authorized the mayor and city clerk to sign such agreements for 2025 as presented. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

Public Comment:

Bobbie Gaunt thanked the council.

Kevin Tringali commented on a short – term rental on Lucy Street and Saugatuck recreation.

Brad Lubbers commented on the Interurban.

Correspondence:

Council Comments:

Councilmember Peterson expressed appreciation for the great discussion on short-term rentals, though she would be absent but hoped to listen in. She suggested using available tree slabs to create benches for Village Park. She recommended that the Sheriff's Department and the Fire Department collaborate so that the Sheriff's statistics could be similar reporting. She suggested that the council should begin discussing parking and Wi-Fi issues to explore available options for these concerns.

Councilmember Gardner did not comment.

Mayor Pro Tem Stanton expressed appreciation for the council's decision to table the issue to ensure that it captured the input of those affected by the changes. He believes the delay will lead to a better ordinance in the future, as things become more set in stone and the staff becomes better organized. He also congratulated Kevin on a district championship, praising the girls' performance as phenomenal this year.

Councilmember Muncey shared information about Tony Shippa, who has been working with the community on CPR and AED training, including training the Inner Urban and other local groups. He is now focusing on fundraising for more AEDs and improving their accessibility in the area. Tony, with extensive experience in EMS and the fire department, is organizing a group to help fundraise for AEDs, which cost around \$1,000 each. He suggested placing AEDs in public locations like restrooms or on buses to improve accessibility. Muncey encouraged anyone interested in helping to reach out to Tony at tonyshipa@hotmail.com.

Councilmember Clark reminded the council of a previous discussion regarding a fire department recommendation to put a barricade in front of the tent and the need to revisit ordinances, particularly around safety, including parade safety. He suggested adding it to an upcoming workshop, noting that Chief Jana Keaney is willing to provide input. Clark also shared a personal memory of attending square dances in Village Square Court in Saugatuck, which is featured in old photographs at the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, though he humorously noted that it likely won't return.

Mayor Anderson noted it was a good conversation, short and sweet.

Adjournment:

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*Motion by Peterson, second by Stanton to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried 6-0.
Mayor Anderson adjourned at 8:56 p.m.*

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk