



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

April 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:

Mayor Anderson allowed Councilmember Clark to participate in the meeting via Zoom and accommodated his request for an exemption.

Present: Mayor Anderson and Councilmembers, Clark, Dean and Gardner.

Absent: Pro-Tem Stanton, Councilmembers Peterson and Muncey.

Motion by Gardner, second by Dean to excuse councilmembers Stanton and Peterson from today's meeting. Via voice vote, motion carried 4-0.

Others Present: City Manager Cummins, DPW Superintendent Herbert, Zoning Director Thompson, Treasurer Bredeweg, Deputy Clerk Williams and Attorney Witte.

Agenda Changes: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only: None.

Approval of Minutes:

Regular City Council Meeting Minutes – April 14, 2025:

Motion by Dean, second by Gardner to approve the minutes from our city council regular meeting on April 14, 2025. Via voice vote, motion carried 4-0.

Discussion Items:

Mt. Baldhead Restroom Replacement Bids:

Engineer Jon Moxey presented the bid summary for the project (Mount Baldhead Area):

- Total Bids Received: 7 — a strong turnout considering the current construction market.
- Top 3 Bids: All near \$300,000 — within the expected range of \$250K to \$350K.
 - Conducted standard reference checks, as not all low bidders were previously known.
 - Compared the two lowest bidders.

The council discussed.

Draft of Proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026:

Ryan Cummins presented a comprehensive budget overview focusing on several key points:

1. Budget Process
 - Started with community surveys and strategic planning sessions
 - Involves department heads submitting budget requests
 - Prioritized maintaining, repairing, and replacing existing infrastructure
2. Financial Highlights
 - Healthy general fund balance of over \$6.2 million
 - Proposed budget would reduce general fund savings by about 20%
 - No new debt service required for proposed projects
3. Revenue Sources
 - Property tax revenues expected to increase despite Headley amendment rollbacks
 - Proposed fee increases for short-term rentals and water infrastructure
 - Continued conservative estimates for interest income
4. Key Investment Areas
 - Infrastructure projects (roads, water, sewer)
 - Blue Star Trail construction
 - Mount Bald Head Park improvements
 - City Hall design options
 - Staffing support for Department of Public Works
5. Strategic Approach
 - Funding nearly all established priorities
 - Maintaining adequate city services
 - Investing in existing and new infrastructure
 - Keeping reserves well above policy requirements

Cummins emphasized the importance of strategic investment and community engagement in the budgeting process.

Public Comments: None.

Correspondence: None.

Council Comments:

- Councilmember Clark expressed gratitude for being allowed to attend virtually and plans to attend in person on Monday. He praised the level of detail in the presentations and supports the focus on infrastructure, especially as it relates to budgeting and upcoming capital projects. Clark appreciated the engagement from everyone and described it as a good meeting overall.
- Councilmember Gardner thanked City Manager Cummins and staff on the presentation, the discussion was good and is looking forward to more conversations.
- Councilmember Dean thanked City Manager Cummins and staff for a wonderful budget presentation. He thanked all council members via zoom for taking the time to join.
- Mayor Anderson thanked all and noted the great work. She appreciated the discussion around Mt. Baldhead.

Adjournment:

Motion by Gardner, second by Dean to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried 4-0. Mayor Anderson adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk