



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

July 13, 2026

The City Council met to have a Regular Council Meeting at City Hall at 6:30 p.m.
102 Butler St., Saugatuck, MI 49453.

Call to Order:

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

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance:

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

Absent: Muncey.

Motion by Peterson, second by Gardner to excuse Muncey from the meeting. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

Others Present: City Manager Cummins, Attorney Witte, Zoning Director Moore, Treasurer Bredeweg and Clerk Wolters.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Holly Anderson noted that it was a beautiful day in Saugatuck and expressed how nice it was to see people out enjoying themselves with great weather. She praised the city's "amazing staff". She also described staying for a post-workshop construction tour, saying it was a "blast" and fascinating to see how the infrastructure works. She specifically mentioned viewing the structures designed to keep water away from a resident's yard, remarking on how impressive the engineering was and calling this kind of behind-the-scenes experience one of the perks of serving in her role.

City Manager Comments:

City Manager Ryan Cummins opened by expanding on the Maple Street project, noting that work is progressing well and remains on schedule, with the main portion of the water main installation either completed or imminently so, and underground work targeted for completion by the end of August. He reported that stormwater infrastructure work has begun at Mason and Allegan, with additional tie-ins still to be completed at Blue Star, Allegan, and other locations. He addressed ongoing mail delivery challenges in the construction zone and described a possible backup plan using centralized mail bank boxes if access issues persist. Cummins then updated the council on efforts to bring reliable internet to Oval Beach, explaining Frontier's fiber installation delays due to pole attachment approvals from Consumers Energy, the exploration of alternatives (including Comcast, which would require the city to pay construction costs), and the current use of Starlink and a Clover-based offline credit card system for operations at the beach. Finally, he reported that the city's pension plans are significantly overfunded (rising from roughly 114% to 134%), and that staff is considering reducing—but not eliminating—surplus contributions to maintain a strong funding position while retaining flexibility to adjust if market conditions or actuarial assumptions change.

Agenda Changes: None.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Item Only: None.

Consent Agenda:

Approval of City Council Workshop Minutes – July 8, 2026.

Special Event – Art Coast Food and Wine Festival.

Special Event – Saugatuck Sidewalk Sales.

Special Event – Mt. Baldhead Challenge.

Special Event – Chili Cookoff.

Motion by Dean, second by Stanton to approve the consent agenda as presented. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Motion by Stanton, second by Gardner to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$779,910.61. Via roll call, motion carried 6-0.

Public Hearing: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

Consent Agreement for Fire Department Sewer Connection and Request to Waive Fees:

Motion by Peterson, second by Gardner to approve the Saugatuck Fire District's request to connect to the city's sanitary sewer system via the Maple Street sanitary sewer main and waive applicable connection fees and approve the consent agreement for sanitary sewer service. Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

Right of Way Permit Application - 997 Elizabeth Street:

Motion by Stanton, second by Peterson to deny the request based upon the review criteria established in 94.34(H). Via roll call vote, motion carried 6-0.

Staff Reports, Boards, Commissions & Committees:

Monthly department activity reports were provided by the City Staff, Engineer and Police Sergeant.

Public Comment:

None.

Correspondence:

None.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Stanton reported that the branding and logo committee met again and determined they need additional time to complete their work, noting they are refocusing and will meet again this week. She also commented on how busy town has been, reminding everyone to stay hydrated and seek shade in the hot weather, and observed that it will be an especially busy week for local businesses as the city is between the Fourth of July and Venetian festival weekends.

Councilmember Dean stated that he had no additional comments for the evening.

Councilmember Clark highlighted the success of the Fourth of July parade and weekend, describing it as a great event. He emphasized the importance of recognizing and thanking first responders, city staff, volunteers, and participants for their efforts in making both the parade and the entire weekend so successful, and asked that appreciation be passed along to staff, who carried much of the workload.

Councilmember Gardner echoed Joe Clark's positive remarks about the Fourth of July parade, saying it is always fun to ride on top of the truck and experience the community from that vantage point. He shared that he heard a number of comments from people along the route and relayed specific compliments he received about the post-parade activities at the gazebo, including games such as cornhole, noting that residents asked him to pass along their appreciation for those efforts.

Councilmember Peterson closed with a personal note, sharing that she and her husband Ernie had just celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary. The council responded with congratulations and warm acknowledgment of this milestone.

Mayor Holly Anderson thanked the staff and volunteers who help keep the city running smoothly and make community events possible, with a special mention of Ashley Siebelink and April Gundy, noting how actively they have been recruiting volunteers. She encouraged council and residents alike to support volunteer efforts—such as for the parade—and recognized how important these contributions are to the success of city events. She then moved to adjourn the meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion by Stanton, second by Dean to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Anderson adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk