



CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING June 8, 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, Muncey, Peterson and Stanton.

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Cummins, Attorney Witte and Clerk Wolters.

Mayor's Comments:

Mayor Holly Anderson praised the Community Pride Board and roughly 75 volunteers for a successful Pride Week in Douglas and Saugatuck.

City Manager Comments:

City Manager Ryan Cummins reported on progress with the Maple Street construction project, noting that the water main was being installed in three sections, chlorination and activation were underway on the first section, and connections (including replacement of galvanized laterals) would follow. He suggested arranging a council site visit to see the work firsthand. Cummins also highlighted a major increase in recycling tonnage after moving from monthly to every-other-week pickup, emphasizing the environmental benefit of diverting more material from landfills.

Agenda Changes:

Councilmember Peterson moved consent agenda item #9Eh (*Planning Commission Member: Chris Raphael with a Term Ending July 1, 2027*) to 13c.

Guest Speakers: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Item Only:

Steve Manns and Dan Fox provided public comments.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of City Council Workshop Minutes – June 3, 2026.
- B. Approval of City Council Closed Session Minutes – June 3, 2026.
- C. Resolution No. 260608-A Designation of Street Administrator.
- D. Palette Sign Banner Request – Chamber Music Festival.
- E. Appointments and Reappointments to Boards and Commissions:
 - a. Fire Board: John Mayer with a Term Ending June 30, 2032
 - b. Zoning Board of Appeals Regular Member: James Bouck with a Term Ending July 1, 2029
 - c. Zoning Board of Appeals Regular Member: Kate McPolin with a Term Ending July 1, 2027
 - d. Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Member: Matt Holley with a Term Ending July 1, 2029
 - e. Planning Commission Member: Steven Manns with a Term Ending July 1, 2029
 - f. Planning Commission Member: Craig Baldwin with a Term Ending July 1, 2029
 - g. Planning Commission Member: Mark LaChey with a Term Ending July 1, 2029

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

Approval of Accounts Payable:

Motion by Stanton, second by Gardner, to approve the accounts payable in the amount of \$176,174.60. Via roll call, motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing:

Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

Public hearing called to order by the mayor at 6:43 p.m. on June 8, 2026, at Saugatuck City Hall located at 102 Butler Street. Saugatuck, MI 49453.

Members present: Anderson, Clark, Dean, Gardner, Muncey, Peterson, Stanton.

No public comments.

Council discussed.

City council to take action under agenda item 13a.

Public hearing was adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

- A. Resolution No. 260608-B - Adopting the General Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026-2027:

Motion by Dean, second by Muncey to approve Resolution 260608-B to adopt the General Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026-2027. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

- B. Resolution No. 260608-C - Granting Local Governmental Approval for a Liquor License to be Located at 510 Butler Street (Wickwood Inn Bed & Breakfast Establishment) and Associated Special Land Use Request for the Service of Alcoholic Beverages.

Motion by Muncey, second by Stanton to approve Resolution 260608-C, granting local governmental approval for a liquor license to be located at 510 Butler Street, the Wickwood Inn Bed & Breakfast Establishment, and to approve the associated Special Land Use request for the service of alcoholic beverages. This motion is based on compliance with Section 154.092(P) and the positive findings related to the Special Land Use standards contained in Section 154.082, as documented in

the staff memorandum dated May 15, 2026. The following conditions apply:

- 1. The applicant shall secure the appropriate license from the State of Michigan Liquor Control Commission.*
- 2. Alcoholic beverages shall only be served to overnight guests of the Wickwood Inn at the approved maximum occupancy.*
- 3. Alcohol service shall remain incidental and accessory to the bed and breakfast use.*
- 4. Outdoor service of alcohol shall not be permitted after 10:00 PM.*

Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

- C. Appointment of Planning Commission Member: Chris Raphael with a Term Ending July 1, 2027**
Motion by Clark, second by Stanton to appoint Chris Raphael as planning commissioner with term ending July 1, 2027. Via roll call vote, motion carried 4-3. Yes – Anderson, Clark, Dean, Stanton. No – Gardner, Muncey, Peterson.

Staff Reports, Boards, Commissions & Committees:

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

Public Comment:

Steve Manns and Dan Fox provided public comments.

Correspondence:

Marilyn Migliore

Jane Ann

Council Comments:

Councilmember Peterson thanked Planning Commission Chair Steve Manns for the respectful and gracious way he handled the difficult Planning Commission appointment process. Peterson emphasized her high regard for Manns' integrity and acknowledged that it had been a challenging period. He closed by briefly hoping the rain would hold off and had no additional comments.

Councilmember Gardner also thanked Steve Manns, noting his long-standing respect for Manns. He praised Manns' integrity, dedication, and service on the Planning Commission, and said he looked forward to continuing to serve alongside him. Gardner additionally thanked Dan Fox for his extensive service on the Fire District Board, noting that John Mayer would have "big shoes to fill," and expressed strong support for Mayer's appointment. He reiterated how much he values his own Planning Commission role. He then invited the public to join the Saugatuck Free Wheelers group bike ride on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. from Blue Star Barns, explaining will lead a no-drop ride east toward New Richmond and back through Douglas, with refreshments planned afterward.

Mayor Pro-Tem Clark expressed appreciation for all members of the city's committees and commissions—past, present, and future—recognizing the significant time and commitment their service requires. He specifically thanked Dan Fox for his regular reports from the Fire Board and said Fox would be missed in that role. Clark also praised city staff for building a strong budget and, importantly, for delivering excellent financial results for the city, crediting staff's hard work for Saugatuck's strong fiscal position.

Councilmember Dean is proud of both staff and council for their fiscal responsibility and the newly approved budget. He congratulated reappointed and newly appointed board and commission members, and thanked Steve Manns and Dan Fox for their gracious comments and willingness to work constructively with new appointees. Dean said he looks forward to getting to know more of the volunteers who are stepping up to serve, and to understanding their policy views, particularly on major planning issues such as the master plan, because he feels accountable to constituents who elected him on certain neighborhood-protection positions.

Councilmember Muncey echoed gratitude for everyone serving on boards and commissions and highlighted how fortunate Saugatuck is to have so many volunteers in a small community. He noted that, in his experience on various committees and task forces, applications generally come in well, with only occasional slow periods. Muncey reiterated that he lacked sufficient information about Chris Raphael to feel comfortable supporting his appointment, and that more background or a conversation might have changed his vote. He then promoted the “Heart of the Community” Community Cake Walk fundraiser on Saturday, June 27 at Riverside Church, explaining that it supports placing AEDs throughout the community. He encouraged residents to bake or donate cakes, help with outreach and event staffing, and support the effort, providing Patty Berry’s phone and email for those wishing to get involved.

Councilmember Stanton said most of her thoughts had already been expressed by others and focused her comments on appreciation. She thanked everyone who volunteers to serve on boards and commissions, acknowledging how time-consuming the work is and how much it matters. She emphasized that openings arise regularly and encouraged those who apply but are not selected initially to remain engaged and consider future opportunities to serve.

Mayor Anderson closed council comments by again thanking all board and commission members, with a specific tribute to Dan Fox for his “incredible service” on the Fire District Board. She described Fox’s passion and integrity as exemplary and said he is a model for John Mayer and others who serve. Anderson also thanked Steve Manns, acknowledging their disagreement over the appointment but stressing how much she values his perspective and dedication. She highlighted that one strength of this council is that members often strongly disagree yet maintain mutual respect, do their homework, listen to each other, and deliberate thoughtfully. In her view, that combination of diverse perspectives and serious, respectful debate is what makes for good government.

Adjournment:

Motion by Dean, second by Stanton to adjourn the meeting. Upon voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Mayor Anderson adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Jamie Wolters, City Clerk