



CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES

September 23, 2026

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:

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

Absent: None.

Agenda Changes: None.

Guest Speaker: None.

Public Comment on Agenda Items Only:

Alec Payleitner commented on agenda item #7a.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Muncey, second by Stanton to approve the minutes as presented. Via roll call vote, motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items:

Parking Study Presentation - Summary, Recommendations, and Action Plan:

John Dorsett of Walker Consultants presented the Parking Improvements Task Force study. City Manager Ryan Cummins described it as the result of about a year of work by Walker Consultants, the engineers at Fleis & Vandenbrink, city staff and the Task Force, along with public engagement. The study's main message was that Saugatuck should make better use of the parking it already has rather than build more.

Inventory and accessibility. Dorsett said the inventory map counts 1,868 public spaces on the east side of the City, and 561 of them have time limits. 13 spaces are used for restaurant seating. The biggest gap the team found was accessible parking. The CBD has only 13 ADA spaces, and the team recommends raising that to at least 30. That figure comes from the federal Public Right-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG), which provide guidance for on-street parking rather than a legal requirement. The new spaces would mostly go toward the southern end of downtown, where there are more businesses. The team also suggested 15-minute spaces near the drugstore and possibly at restaurants for takeout pickups.

Occupancy and survey data. A count on a Saturday in May found the CBD 87% full at 5 p.m. In July it was completely full at 6 p.m., while the Hill and the north and south residential zones still had plenty of open spaces.