

**BRIDGMAN CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 9, 2023, at 6:30 p.m.**  
**City Council Meeting Minutes**

**1. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on January 9, 2023, at City Hall, 9765 Maple Street, Bridgman, MI 49106 and was called to order by Mayor Jan Trapani at 6:30 pm EST.

**2. Roll Call**

Mayor Trapani instructed the city clerk to take roll call.

Present: Council Members John Bonkoske, William Boyd, Sr., Pam Hahaj, Vince Rose, Mayor Pro Tem Sam Stine, and Mayor Jan Trapani

Absent: Council Member Georgia Gipson

Staff Present: City Manager Juan Ganum, Treasurer Debbie Lambrix, Clerk Sheila Reitz, Police Chief Dan Unruh, Parks Director Sara Ball, Assessor John Bauman, and Attorney Sara Senica.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Trapani.

**4. Approve/Amend the Agenda for January 9, 2023**

**Motion** by Council Member Stine and seconded by Council Member Hahaj to approve the agenda as presented. Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

**5. Hearing of Citizens-** No citizens wished to be heard at this time.

**6. Presentation of American Electric Power Foundation grant award by Mona Livingston, Community Affairs Manager, Indiana Michigan Power**

Mona Livingston, representative from American Electric Power Foundation, presented the City with a \$75,000.00 check for improvements to Toth Park. City Manager Ganum thanked the American Electric Power Foundation for the additional funds through the grant program. Ganum also extended a thank you to Julie Starting for her help in writing the grant for the project.

**7. Presentation of City of Bridgman Fiscal Year 2022 Audit- Gabridge & Company, PLC**

Matt Holland, representative from Gabridge and Company, PLC, presented the audit findings of the City for fiscal year 2022. The City received an unmodified opinion, the highest level of assurance. Mr. Holland stated that the City was in good standing.

Council members congratulated City Treasurer Lambrix on a job well done and thanked her for her services.

**8. Action Items**

**A. Approval of the minutes from the December 5, 2022, regular meeting**

**Motion** by Council Member Boyd and seconded by Council Member Stine to approve the December 5, 2022, regular meeting minutes. Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

**B. Approval of the bills in the amount of \$172,773.10**

**Motion** by Council Member Hahaj and seconded by Council Member Stine to approve the payment of invoices in the amount of \$172,773.10. Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

**C. Consideration of adopting Resolution 2023-01 to approve the Berrien County Hazard Mitigation Plan.**

**Motion** by Council Member Hahaj and seconded by Council Member Stine to adopt Resolution 2023-01 to approve the Berrien County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

**D. Consideration of adopting Resolution 2023-02 to update the City of Bridgman Poverty Exemption Eligibility Requirements for 2023.**

**Motion** by Council Member Hahaj and seconded by Council Member Stine to adopt Resolution 2023-02 to approve the City of Bridgman Poverty Exemption Eligibility Requirements for 2023. Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

**E. Consideration of adopting Resolution 2023-03 to support the Berrien County Trails Master Plan.**

**Motion** by Council Member Stine and seconded by Council Member Hahaj to adopt Resolution 2023-03 to support the Berrien County Trails Master Plan. Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

**9. Workshop Items and Reports**

- A. Police Chief's Monthly Report- Report was included in the Council packet.
- B. Fire Chief's 2022 Annual Report- Report was included in the Council packet.
- C. Assessor's Monthly Report- Report was included in the Council packet.
- D. Building Official/Zoning Administrator's 2022 Annual Building and Zoning Report- Report was included in the packet.
- E. CGA President's Report- Council Member Bonkoske stated that the recent Holiday Village was extremely successful. He also stated that the CGA is pursuing grants, and members are going to economic development training. There is a large marketing effort working with the Chamber.
- F. City Attorney's Report- No report was given.
- G. City Manager's Report- City Manager Ganum informed the Council that there would be upcoming board appointments at the next Council meeting. The openings will be published in the MailMax and posted in various locations in the City per the City Charter.

The Housing Committee will meet on January 12, 2023. There will also be a meeting regarding Toth Park on January 20, 2023.

Other items of information included information regarding dates for the Strategic Planning meeting and a tour of the Water Plant is being organized for those Council members who may be interested.

City Manager Ganum also informed the Council that the definition of the word "Urban" has been changed according to the U.S. Census Bureau. The new classification determines that an urban area is now one with 5,000 people rather than 2,500. This is significant to note as it may affect which funding grants can be applied for in the future.

## **10. Hearing of Citizens**

Julie Strating, Bridgman City, thanked the City for the financial support for community events. She also urged the Council to consider utilizing social media to present information to citizens.

Tara Heiser, Bridgman City, also spoke about the need for social media. She urged Council members to explore proposals for those services, in addition to the proposal she has previously submitted.

## **11. Council Comments**

Council Member Boyd commented that he would like to have the Council reorganize into individual committees for the betterment of the city.

Council Member Bonkoske commented that the City needs to utilize social media for an outreach of communications and urged the Council to be proactive and to act.

## **12. Adjournment**

Motion by Council Member Stine and seconded by Council Member Hahaj to adjourn at 7:27 pm. Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.

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Jan Trapani, Mayor

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Sheila Reitz, City Clerk