

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

7A1

**1. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Bridgman City Council was held on March 6, 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: John Bonkoske, William Boyd, Georgia Gipson, Pam Hahaj, Vince Rose, Sam Stine, and Jan Trapani

Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager Juan Ganum, City Clerk Sheila Reitz, City Treasurer Debbie Lambrix, Fire Chief Joel Buist, Police Chief Dan Unruh, Parks and Recreation Director Sara Ball, Assessor John Baumann, Attorney Sara Senica, and City Engineer Mary Nykamp.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Trapani.

**4. Approve/Amend the Agenda for March 6, 2023**

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

**5. Hearing of Citizens**

- Two residents spoke about the singing of Taps at Weko Beach and invited others to join them.
- Three (3) residents spoke about the issue of dogs on the beach.
- A citizen spoke about the sign being an eyesore on the Dominion property next to McDonalds.
- A citizen spoke about the issue of speeding on Lake Street, bonfires in the woods, and whose responsibility it is to clean up fallen tree debris.

**6. Sharing Good News**

City Manager Ganum introduced the idea of this new agenda item to the Council Members. He shared a success story involving a graduate of Bridgman High School.

Council Member Hahaj mentioned how nice the Lake Street Community Church looked with all the work that has been done on it.

**7. Action Items**

**A. Approval of the minutes from the February 6, 2023, regular meeting.**

**Motion** by Council Member Bonkoske and seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve the February 6, 2023, regular meeting minutes. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Approval of the bills in the amount of \$129,590.92.**

**Motion** by Council Member Rose and seconded by Council Member Stine to approve the payment of invoices in the amount of \$129,590.92. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

**C. Consideration of approving a 3-year contract with Gabridge & Co. to perform the annual audit for fiscal years 2023-2025 at a rate of \$16,900 per year.**

**Motion** by Council Member Hahaj and seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve a 3-year contract with Gabridge & Company to perform the annual audit for fiscal years 2023-2025 at a rate of \$16,900 per year. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**

- D. **Consideration of approval of Resolution 2023-06 approving a recreation passport grant application, with the City's financial commitment not to exceed \$150,000 for renovation of the East campground restroom facility at Weko Beach Campground.**  
**Motion** by Council Member Gipson and seconded by Council Member Stine to approve Resolution 2023-06, with the City's financial commitment not to exceed \$150,000 for renovation of the East campground restroom facility at Weko Beach Campground. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**
- E. **Consideration of approval of Resolution 2023-07 approving a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application, with the City's financial commitment not to exceed \$129,300.**  
**Motion** by Council Member Bonkoske and seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve Resolution 2023-07, with the City's financial commitment not to exceed \$129,300. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**
- F. **Consideration of introduction and first reading of Ordinance 2023-214 to adopt the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code by Reference.**  
Attorney Senica asked the Council Members to just consider Ordinance 2023-214 as an introduction and not the first reading as updates will be forthcoming. No action was taken.
- G. **Consideration of approving a proposal from Wightman for an approximate amount of \$109,000 for construction engineering services associated with the Lake Street Improvements Project.**  
**Motion** by Council Member Hahaj and seconded by Council Member Stine to approve the proposal from Wightman for an approximate amount of \$109,000 for construction engineering services associated with the Lake Street Improvements Project as presented. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**
- H. **Consideration of approving the sale of the Fire Department's Fire Prevention Smoke House to Berrien County Youth Fair for the amount of \$500.**  
**Motion** by Council Member Stine and seconded by Council Member Gipson to approve the sale of the Fire Department's Fire Prevention Smoke House to Berrien County Youth Fair for the amount of \$500. **Voice vote, motion carried 6-0-1, with Council Member Boyd abstaining.**
- I. **Consideration of approval of a Special Events Application submitted by St. Joseph Today for the Makers Trail Festival on June 10, 2023, at Weko Beach.**  
**Motion** by Council Member Gipson and seconded by Council Member Bonkoske to approve a Special Events Application submitted by St. Joseph Today for the Makers Trail Festival on June 10, 2023, at Weko Beach as presented. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**
- J. **Consideration of accepting a proposal from MM Concrete Solutions in the amount of \$6,695 to resurface the Weko Beach House basement bathrooms.**  
**Motion** by Council Member Rose and seconded by Council Member Stine to approve the proposal from MM Concrete Solutions in the amount of \$6,695 to resurface the Weko Beach House basement bathrooms as presented. **Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.**
8. **Workshop Items and Reports**
- A. **Medic 1- Quarterly Report by Levi Kiester, City's Representative to Medic 1 Board of Directors**  
Levi Kiester gave an update on Medic 1 to the Council Members. He stated that priority response times are well within the State times and that costs for non-founding communities are being evaluated.
- B. **Police Chief's February 2023 Monthly Report**  
Chief Unruh directed the Council Members to see the Safety Zone information that was included in the council packet. He stated that the three (3) reserve officers should graduate in April 2023 and one (1) cadet should be graduating in May 2023.
- C. **Fire Chief's Report**  
Chief Buist informed the Council Members that the Fire Department could no longer host the street dance.
- D. **Assessor's February 2023 Monthly Report**  
Assessor Baumann stated that notices have been sent out.

#### **E. Parks Director's Report**

Director Ball presented the two options for playscapes at Toth Park. She stated that a survey would be available for the public to voice their preferred option. The timeline to begin installation would be this Fall. Director Ball said that she would be implementing a volunteer service day for residents who wished to volunteer their time to help maintain the beach and the surrounding areas.

#### **F. City Attorney's Report**

Attorney Senica had nothing to add at this time.

#### **G. City Manager's Report**

City Manager Ganum gave the Council Members an update on the topics included in the report in the council packet. He stated that the Oak Wilt Seminar was well attended. The crowd funding campaign for the courtyard project went live on Monday, March 6, 2023. A rate study will be forthcoming from Michigan Rural Water Association. Ganum also introduced the "Rising Kites" program in honor of World Down Syndrome Day which is March 21, 2023. People may order kites and bouquets of flowers from this charitable organization.

City Manager Ganum informed Council Members that the May 2, 2023, Special Election was postponed until August 8, 2023. The Lake Michigan College Trustees voted to remove the college's millage proposal for clarification purposes. The college will place new ballot language on the August 8, 2023, election ballot. The college millage proposal was the only item scheduled to be on the ballot in May 2023.

A photo of one of the City's water trucks showing the rust damage on the truck's frame was shown to Council Members. The truck is unsafe to drive at this time. Leasing options are being looked at versus purchasing a vehicle at this time.

There are upcoming appointments to be made to the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals. All applications will be forwarded to all members of the City Council for review with Mayor Trapani's recommendation for appointments.

City Manager Ganum informed Council Members that he is now serving on the State Board for Workers Compensation.

#### **9. Hearing of Citizens**

- A citizen spoke about the beach boardwalk benches and stated she would be willing to volunteer in any capacity needed. She also spoke about the graffiti at the top of the dune walk.
- A citizen spoke about missing stair planks on the dune.

#### **10. Council Comments**

- Council Member Bonkoske suggested that the council come up with selection criteria when reviewing applications for service on various boards for the city.
- Council Member Boyd stated that the street drain on Mathieu Street is still open. He asked why the city utilizes two engineering firms.
- Council Member Rose asked Fire Chief Buist if the fire department was going to host any fundraising events and if so what kind? He thanked Police Chief Unruh for all the hard work that he and his officers were doing. Council Member Rose mentioned that he would like to see some sort of Veterans Memorial honoring our service members on the boardwalk at Weko Beach. He also suggested that cameras being installed at Weko Beach may help catch and control people with dogs on the beach.
- Council Member Gipson suggested that the student flags that were not selected to be banners be placed in local businesses so that all the students' artwork could be displayed.

#### **11. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Council Member Boyd and seconded by Council Member Stine to adjourn at 7:53 pm. Voice vote, motion carried unanimously.