

Village of Howard City
Council Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2023

President Heckman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: VanWagner, Smith, Hagstrom, Williams, Heckman, MacTavish, and Bassett. Absent: None.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Motion by Smith seconded by MacTavish to approve the agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Sheriff Deputy presented the January police report. Motion by Smith seconded by MacTavish to accept the consent agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Public Comment: None.

Motion by Williams seconded by MacTavish for Council to enter into executive session to discuss the attorney memorandum for marihuana and manager evaluation at 7:12 pm. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by VanWagner seconded by Bassett to go to open session at 7:57 PM. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

As a roll call vote was needed to go into executive session for the manager review, the review will be moved to the end of the meeting.

The Village attorneys from Bloom Sluggett were present to discuss options for marihuana dispensaries in the Village. The discussion was tabled until the March 20, 2023, meeting to give Council time to do research and bring back ideas.

Council gave permission for Deb Becker-Fountain and Jean Toner to plan the 5th Annual Music Festival on August 5, 2023.

Motion by Williams seconded by MacTavish to set a Public Hearing for SRF Grant for March 20, 2023, meeting. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

The proposed fee schedule was presented to Council to once again look at and make suggestions for additions or deletions in order to approve the schedule at the February 27, 2023, budget public hearing meeting. President Heckman stated he will do some research at other municipalities to see if they are charging for the use of ballfields.

Motion by Williams seconded by MacTavish to pay bills as presented for a total of \$101,318.06. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Bruce Williams was present to inform Council that the Village of Howard City has a Chamber of Commerce once again. The Chamber is still putting together membership packets and applications.

Mr. Falcon informed Council about approaching Sietsema Farms to discuss their sewer usage. Council agreed to allow Mr. Falcon to approach Sietsema's and bring back any findings to Council.

Mr. Falcon stated he spoke with the owner of Got It Rentals and was assured the building would be completed within the next couple of months.

Mr. Falcon presented Council with the proposed 2022-2023 Budget Amendments and asked for Council to contact him if there are any questions.

Mr. Falcon presented Council with the proposed 2023-2024 Budget and asked for Council to contact him if there are any questions. Mr. Falcon highlighted a few of the bigger items such as: installing the trash

compactor; replacing the server; remodeling the Village Office including the Council room with new chairs and table; replacing the Village Office building roof, the office roof of the DPW building, and roofs of both well houses; hydrant replacement; street signs; Ensley Street repair from North to Tamarack Creek Bridge and Washburn South to Lake Montcalm; resurfacing N. Sherman, Grant, Lincoln, Rathburn, and part of Williams Streets; new storm sewer on alley to Shaw Street; possible vehicle for DPW including plow package; manhole rehabilitation; lift station cleanings; jetter parts; lift station pumps replacement; possible SCADA for water and/or sewer; mower for DPW; and a possible smaller vehicle for DPW for parks.

Mr. Falcon requested a closed session for his evaluation at 8:44 pm pursuant to MCL 15.268A, a 2/3 roll call vote was made by Hagstrom seconded by Smith. Roll Call Vote: Bassett, aye; Hagstrom, aye; MacTavish, aye; Smith, aye; VanWagner, aye; Williams, aye; Heckman, aye. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by MacTavish seconded by Williams to go to open session at 8:54 pm. Roll Call Vote: Bassett, aye; Hagstrom, aye; MacTavish, aye; Smith, aye; VanWagner, aye; Williams, aye; Heckman, aye. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Public Comment: Dave Saucier confirmed the budget public hearing meeting was next Monday, February 27, 2023, at 7:00 pm. Mr. Saucier also inquired about cost to replace hydrants and asked what was done with old hydrants.

Trustee Smith inquired if there is money in the budget for tree removal as there are several in the Village that need to be taken down – corner of Grant and Emory and Pine Streets. Mr. Falcon stated he would take a look and that some money has been budgeted for tree removal.

President Heckman thanked everyone for their patience and thanked the Board as there was a lot of information presented tonight and a lot of discussions will need to be held pertaining to marihuana and budget. He requested each Trustee do some research and bring back to the March meeting to discuss.

Motion by MacTavish seconded by Williams to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 pm. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Melissa Kuzmik, Clerk

Randy Heckman, President