

Village of Howard City  
Council Meeting Minutes  
December 14, 2020

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

The Village Clerk swore in the re-elected officials, Randy Heckman, President; Cheryl Smith, Trustee; Paula Hagstrom, Trustee; and Ron Bassett, trustee.

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

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

Public Comment: Tom Kropenwcki, 210 Music Row asked about putting up 40"x20" non-permanent signs at the intersection of Ensley and Shaw Streets for the business district businesses. Council asked Mr. Falcon to work with the business owners to discuss options.

Joseph Levondoski requested the Council look at the curfew ordinance for minor children due to the vandalism and break ins that have been occurring over the past few months. Mr. Levondoski also inquired if the Village has an ordinance regarding businesses so the Village can keep an eye on what is actually happening in the business spaces.

Motion by Williams seconded by VanWagner to open the CDBG Grant closing public hearing at 7:15 pm. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Public Comment: None.

Motion by Williams seconded by Hagstrom to close the public hearing at 7:16 pm. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by Hagstrom seconded by Smith to close the CDBG Grant. Roll call vote: Bassett, aye; Hagstrom, aye; MacTavish, aye; Smith, aye; Williams, aye; VanWagner, aye; Heckman, aye. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

After discussion to possibly add another 15-minute parking sign in front of the post office, Council decided to leave the parking as-is with no additional limited parking.

Motion by Hagstrom seconded by Smith to accept the 2021 Village Council Meeting Schedule. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by Williams seconded by VanWagner to accept the 2020-3 Amendment Authorized Official Civil Infraction Ordinance. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by Williams seconded by VanWagner to approve the Fair Housing Policy as presented. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by VanWagner seconded by MacTavish to approve the 2020-4 Fair Housing Ordinance. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Council would like to bring back ideas regarding the Business Permit that was presented to the January meeting to discuss changes/additions to the application/permit form.

Motion by Williams seconded by MacTavish to pay bills with the additions presented by the Treasurer of \$2,869.64 for a total of \$294,785.53. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Mr. Falcon announced the winners of the decorating contest. By narrow margins for the indoor competition, ACE Home Health Care barely beat Tri County Chiropractors and for the outside competition, Droski Insurance Agency barely beat Pease Insurance Agency. The Village truly appreciates the participation of our businesses in order to bring some joy to the community.

Council approves allowing the Montcalm County Health Department to use the fire bay for vaccines if needed.

Mr. Falcon informed Council that we have interviewed many individuals for the part-time DPW position. All those that were offered the position(s) declined to accept. We are currently down to two (2) DPW workers. When our third DPW worker comes back off disability, they will do so with work restrictions for several months. This is a good time to re-evaluate what our current needs are, the future needs of the Village and perhaps make this position offer full-time.

Mr. Falcon informed Council that union negotiations will be re-opening with the DPW with the first meeting to be held on January 13, 2021.

Public Comment: Ron Baker announced that there are two new County Commissioners who will begin in their positions beginning in January 2021. Mr. Baker also stated that Sheriff Williams has hired three new deputies to help fill out his program.

Trustee Bassett inquired about barking dogs and what can be done about them. Mr. Falcon suggested to contact the Sheriff Department when the barking gets out of control.

Motion by Smith seconded by Bassett to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 pm. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

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Melissa Kuzmik, Clerk

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Randy Heckman, President