

PROPOSED
Village of Howard City
Council Meeting Minutes
September 21, 2026

President Heckman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Heckman, Smith, Hagstrom, Wert and MacTavish, Williams. Absent: Toner.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Motion by Smith seconded by Hagstrom to accept the consent agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Public Comment: Dave Saucier 655 Orton – Requesting update on depot completion date.

Jennifer Sternisha 5468 Wooldridge Rd. Belding, MI spoke on behalf of her husband Ed Sternisha reading a statement he prepared requesting information why the signs are being removed and asked for a fair resolution.

Doug Vredevelde of Vredevelde Hafner, LLC. Presented his review and findings for the 2025-2026 financial audit of the Village. He reported that the Village is in a good financial position and gave the Village of Howard City an unmodified (clear) audit.

President Heckman gave update on open positions for the DDA and Planning commission.

Motioned by Smith seconded by Wert to approve renewing the subscription of a ¼ page advertisement in the Michigan Trails Magazine. The cost of \$850.25 to be split 50/50 between the Village and the DDA. CARRIED (6-0)

Motion by Wert seconded by MacTavish to close Council Meeting at 7:19 p.m. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Motion by Wert seconded by MacTavish to open the ZBA Public Hearing at 7:19 p.m. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Motion by Wert seconded by Hagstrom to accept the Planning Commission's approval recommendation of a land use variance with conditions of parcels at 754 N. White Street 59-047-426-017-00 & N. White Street 59-047-426-006-00. Motion CARRIED (5-0-1) with Smith Abstaining.

Motion by Wert seconded by Smith to close the ZBA Public Hearing at 7:35 p.m. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Motion by Wert seconded by MacTavish to re-open Council Meeting at 7:35 p.m. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Motion by MacTavish seconded by Williams to approve the bills as presented totaling \$366,790.81 with additions presented by the Treasurer of \$3714.80 for a total of \$370,505.61. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Mr. Falcon spoke about the front door of 125 E. Shaw Street. The one bid we obtained came in a bit on the higher end, so Council directed Manager Falcon to look at other door companies and bring additional information back to Council in October's Meeting.

Public Comment: Jennifer Sternish gave a recap of Ed Sternish career and future engagements.

Trustee Smith asked for an update on the 210 Music Row Fall Music on Main Street event.

Trustee Wert requested that the Village increase their Social media communication from the Village.

President Heckman thanked the Harvest Festival Committee for their hard work preparing and supporting this year's festival. He also requested the council members to complete their evaluations for Mr. Falcon.

Motion by Wert seconded by MacTavish to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm. Motion CARRIED (6-0)