

Village of Howard City
Council Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2021

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

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

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

Public Comment: A Village Business owner inquired about temporary signage. He will work with the Village manager for times, dates and places he can put them out. Mr. Smith expressed concerns over his sewer bill at his business (335 S. Ensley). Additionally, he was upset that his water bill at his residence (327 S. Ensley) showed water flow on his bill, as he has had it shut off to his residence for over a year now.

Motion by Williams seconded by VanWagner to adopt Resolution #2021-9 Special Land use 615 N. White Street. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by Williams seconded by MacTavish to adopt Resolution #2021-10 Special Land Use 131 E. Edgerton Street. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by Hagstrom seconded by MacTavish to adopt Resolution #2021-11 Social District Area with the Forager Restaurant, 101 E. Edgerton Street, and Donald and Kristen Veltman owners of Howard City Lanes, 118 E. Edgerton Street, authorized to apply to the State of Michigan for a Social District Area Permit. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Motion by VanWagner seconded by Bassett to pay bills as presented totaling \$241,334.09. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Mr. Falcon asked the Council if they would require a Business License Fee for non-profit businesses. Council would like permit paperwork filled out and have on file but wish to have the Village waive the permit fee for all non-profits. Motion by Williams seconded by Hagstrom to require all non-profits to fill out the business permit paperwork and for the Village to waive associated fees with the permitting process to those non-profits. Motion CARRIED (6-0) Smith abstained.

Mr. Falcon informed Council that a utility billing error was discovered at 335 Ensley. Mr. Smith, the owner of the business at this location, has been charged for Residential sewer rates since he opened his business. However, in accordance with Chapter 52, Section 52.45 of the Village Ordinance, this business should be charged at the higher rate under the "other classes of users within the Village" section. The Village acknowledges this error and has begun billing accordingly. While the Village reserves the right to do so, they will not be seeking at this time any uncharged fees that may have accrued due to this error.

The Council would like Mr. Falcon to discuss the Stormwater Project with IPR regarding their bid. The Council recognizes an increase is necessary to complete this project. However, If the Village Manager and IPR are unable to come to an agreement, Mr. Falcon has the right to terminate our contract with IPR and re-bid the project.

Mr. Falcon informed the council about a produce stand operating on Orton Street. He asked Council if the produce stand should be required to get a business license, vendor permit, or transient merchants permit. Discussion tabled until further notice.

Public Comment: A question was asked if there will be a Farmers Market again. Mr. Falcon stated that he is in discussion with an individual who is interested in running it next year. Ron Baker invited the Council to attend the next Commissioner hearing, where they will be voting to adopt the budget presented.

Trustee Smith would like the Sheriff Department to issue more citations to people speeding through the Village.

Trustee VanWagner asked Mr. Falcon to keep an eye on how many boats accumulate in the parking lot at the old Whites building.

Mr. Falcon and Mr. Heckman thanked the Harvest Festival Committee on what a great job they did this year.

Motion by MacTavish seconded by VanWagner to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm. Motion CARRIED (7-0)

Sara Taylor, Utility Billing Clerk

Randy Heckman, President