

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Leeming called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:02 pm. She led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Matt Cooper, Denise Donohue, Dave Hunsaker, Trevor VanDyke, Frank Waters, Jennifer Whitman, and Mayor Leeming

Excused: None

STAFF:

Daniel Coss, Lisa Grysen, Bruce Ferguson, and Brian Goodenough, City Attorney

AUDIENCE:

Stella Gallagher

AGENDA:

Motion by Whitman, seconded by VanDyke and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that **the agenda be approved as presented.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Donohue and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2022, Regular City Council Meeting as presented.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stella Gallagher, 110 N. Logan, is thankful that her leaves have been picked up and that she really loves living in the City of DeWitt.

CITY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

16th Annual Christmas Market

The Christmas Market was very well attended and a good time was had by all. The DDA appreciates all the volunteers and hopes to see everyone back next year! A few photos of the event are included in your General Information Packet.

THE LOFTS PROJECT @ 110 SOUTH BRIDGE STREET

The project is progressing along and has received a commitment from the MEDC for funding. The State Tax Commission has approved the Commercial Rehab Certificate that City Council authorized at the August 8th meeting. The plans for a building permit have been submitted and the building official is currently reviewing those. Construction is anticipated to start in January 2023.

TOYS FOR TOTS – CITY HALL COLLECTION LOCATION

The community dropped off 116 toys for the annual Toys for Tots box at City Hall. This is the most toys that have been collected at City Hall. A big **THANK YOU!!** to the community for their support of this program.

REZONING REQUEST – MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING

The Memorial Association has entered into a purchase agreement for the building. The buyer will be requesting a rezoning for the property. The proposed use is expected to be very similar to the current user. The Planning Commission is scheduled to hear the rezoning request at their January 26 meeting and will make a recommendation to City Council.

General Information Packet

- General Ledger Report 11/25 – 12/08
- November Assessor Report
- Invoice Cloud Activity Report

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Committee Appointment - Appointment to Board/Commission:

The following citizens are being appointed/re-appointed to the respective committee or commission assignment for the specified term:

Planning Commission (4-Year Term)

Greg Ware	705 Larchmont	1/15/2027
Patrick Cook	503 Brunswick Dr.	1/15/2027
Mike Lee	117 Rivergate Ln.	1/15/2027

Parks Recreation Cemetery & Tree Commission (4-Year Term)

Joseph Costigan	608 Senna Trail	1/15/2027
Floyd Lenneman	403 Snapdragon	1/15/2027

Motion by VanDyke, seconded by Whitman and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to confirm Mayor Leeming’s appointments to the various Boards and Commissions listed above.**

2. Resolution(s) of Support for DNR Spark Grant Projects:

City Council was provided with seven (7) different Resolutions of Support for the seven different park projects, as discussed at the November 28 City Council meeting.

The Spark Grants require a resolution of support to be submitted for each application. In addition to the resolution for each project Council will have to prioritize each project.

The City will be allowed to submit three (3) grant applications. The DNR has updated its FAQ’s to limit each municipality to a maximum of three projects for the Spark Grant Program.

Each resolution will need to be adopted as a stand-alone resolution for each New Business 2-4. The motion should also include the level of priority City Council wishes to place each project.

City Council was provided with the scoring criteria the DNR will be using for the Spark Grant Applications.

Based on the categories of the scoring criteria; Riverside Park, Sports Park, and McGuire Park appear to have the highest probability of scoring the most points out of all seven projects. Each of those projects will open new opportunities for different park users, have the highest percentage of the population within .5 miles, and involve new construction with universally accessible facilities.

Any project that receives funding from the Spark Grant program must be spent by December 31, 2026.

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Vandyke and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to adopt the prepared resolution of support for McGuire Park and assign priority number 1 to this project.**

3. Resolution(s) of Support for DNR Spark Grant Projects:

City Council was provided with seven (7) different Resolutions of Support for the seven different park projects, as discussed at the November 28 City Council meeting.

The Spark Grants require a resolution of support to be submitted for each application. In addition to the resolution for each project Council will have to prioritize each project.

The City will be allowed to submit three (3) grant applications. The DNR has updated its FAQ's to limit each municipality to a maximum of three projects for the Spark Grant Program.

Each resolution will need to be adopted as a stand-alone resolution for each New Business 2-4. The motion should also include the level of priority City Council wishes to place each project.

City Council was provided with the scoring criteria the DNR will be using for the Spark Grant Applications.

Based on the categories of the scoring criteria; Riverside Park, Sports Park, and McGuire Park appear to have the highest probability of scoring the most points out of all seven projects. Each of those projects will open new opportunities for different park users, have the highest percentage of the population within .5 miles, and involve new construction with universally accessible facilities.

Any project that receives funding from the Spark Grant program must be spent by December 31, 2026.

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Vandyke and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to adopt the prepared resolution of support for Riverside Park and assign priority number 2 to this project.**

4. Resolution(s) of Support for DNR Spark Grant Projects:

City Council was provided with seven (7) different Resolutions of Support for the seven different park projects, as discussed at the November 28 City Council meeting.

The Spark Grants require a resolution of support to be submitted for each application. In addition to the resolution for each project Council will have to prioritize each project.

The City will be allowed to submit three (3) grant applications. The DNR has updated its FAQ's to limit each municipality to a maximum of three projects for the Spark Grant Program.

Each resolution will need to be adopted as a stand-alone resolution for each New Business 2-4. The motion should also include the level of priority City Council wishes to place on each project.

City Council was provided with the scoring criteria the DNR will be using for the Spark Grant Applications.

Based on the categories of the scoring criteria; Riverside Park, Sports Park, and McGuire Park appear to have the highest probability of scoring the most points out of all seven projects. Each of those projects will open new opportunities for different park users, have the highest percentage of the population within .5 miles, and involve new construction with universally accessible facilities.

Any project that receives funding from the Spark Grant program must be spent by December 31, 2026.

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Vandyke and carried by unanimous vote of the Council to adopt the prepared resolution of support for Sports Park and assign priority number 3 to this project.

5. DeWitt Charter Township Letters of Support for DNR Spark Grant Projects:
DeWitt Charter Township will be submitting three (3) applications to the MI DNR Spark Grant Program.

City Council was provided with copies of the Letters of Support the Township Board of Trustees is requesting the Mayor and City Council to approve.

The Board of Trustees will be considering Letters of Support for the City of DeWitt applications at their regular meeting on Monday, December 12, 2022.

Motion by Donohue, seconded by Vandyke and carried by unanimous vote of the Council to authorize Mayor Leeming to sign three (3) letters of support; Water's Edge Park, Miracle League Field, and Saffron Hills Shared Use Path, for DeWitt Charter Township MI DNR Spark Grant applications on behalf of the DeWitt City Council.

COUNCIL STAFF REPORTS:

City Attorney:

- Working on an ordinance revision regarding burial rights

City Clerk-Treasurer:

- Will be participating in a recount of Proposal 3 at the Court House on 12/14. We will be recounting 20 precincts, none of which are mine.

DARA:

- Met with Mayor Pro-Tem regarding the evaluation of the Executive Director

DAESA:

- Meeting on 12/15

DDA:

- Beginning work on the Cabin Fever reliever for March 4th

Planning:

- Meeting December 15th

Parks:

- Meeting December 14th

Police Chief:

- LEIN Audit coming up
- Starting the search process for a new full-time officer

Mayor Leeming and City Council:

- Thanked Council Member Waters for his service to the community

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by VanDyke, seconded by Whitman and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that **the meeting is adjourned at 8:22 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Grysen
City Clerk-Treasurer

Susan J. Leeming
Mayor