

CALL TO ORDER:

Mayor Pro-Tem Hunsaker called the Regular City Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Denise Donohue, Dave Hunsaker, Mark Kellogg, Trevor VanDyke, and Jennifer Whitman

Excused: Matt Cooper and Mayor Leeming

STAFF:

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

AUDIENCE:

Stella Gallagher, Glenn Fisher, DeWitt District Library Director, Paul Perpich, DeWitt District Library Vice President, April Kirchen, DeWitt District Library Board Member, and Loretta Spinrad, None

AGENDA:

Motion by VanDyke, seconded by Kellogg and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that **the agenda be approved with the addition of NB #4.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Whitman, seconded by VanDyke and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to approve the minutes from the February 27, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting as presented.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stella Gallagher, 110 N. Logan Street, mentioned that there is a large pile of brush and branches that were left behind by the tree trimmers working for Consumers Energy at the corner of Main Street and Logan Street.

INTRODUCTION OF DEWITT DISTRICT LIBRARY DIRECTOR

Glenn Fischer introduced himself. Library Board Member Kirchen and Vice President Perpich expressed how excited they are to have him on board.

Vice President Perpich also took this opportunity to inform City Council that the Library Board is once again starting discussions for a new library on the South DeWitt Road property.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE 2023 LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION:

Mayor Pro-Tem Hunsaker opened the opportunity for public comments at 7:10 pm

City Administrator, Daniel Coss gave a brief overview of the application.

Hearing no further public comments, Mayor Pro-Tem closed the opportunity for public comments at 7:11 pm.

CITY ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

3RD ANNUAL CABIN FEVER RELIEVER

The event was held on Saturday the 4th and went very smoothly. The attendance was much higher than anticipated, with approximately 1,700 people attending. Some of the vendors did run out of beverages, but overall, it was a great day. As with all events, there are a few things to discuss with the organizing committee about changing next year.

UPDATE ON PARK EQUIPMENT

We held a pre-construction meeting on-site with the installers on Thursday, March 2nd. There are a couple of minor adjustments that have to be made with equipment installation and some of the poured-in-place safety surfaces to maintain ADA compliance. These are fairly minor adjustments that will not have a noticeable impact on the design that City Council approved. Installation is anticipated to start within the next 30 days.

BRUSH PICKUP

The annual spring brush collection by the DPS will be the week of April 17th.

FIVE-YEAR BUDGET MEETING

Just a reminder the five-year budget meeting will be Monday, March 20 starting at 6 pm. Food will be served.

SLOTKIN CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING REQUEST

Representative Slotkin issued a call for Community Funded Project submittals by March 9. These are projects that have the potential to receive direct federal funding from the appropriate funding source. On behalf of the city, the East Dill Sanitary Sewer Extension project was submitted requesting \$1,925,000. Representative Slotkin will select 20 projects to move forward to the second round. Projects selected from the second round will then move forward in an attempt to receive funding. In 2022 she secured funding for 25 projects totaling \$39 million. The one-page application for funding is in your General Information packet for your review.

GENERAL INFORMATION PACKET

- FY24 Community Project Funding
- Planning Commission Meeting Minutes
- Assessor Monthly Summary – February
- Tri-County Training Flyer
- Chamber News
- DeWitt District Library 01/12 Minutes
- General Ledger Report 02/24 – 03/09
- InvoiceCloud Activity Report

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Ox Roast Special Event Application & Road Closure :

The DeWitt Memorial Association has scheduled the Ox Roast for Friday, August 18 – Sunday, August 20, 2023. City Council was provided with the Special Events application for the 2023 DMA Ox Roast.

The application for the Special Event and Road Closure has been determined to be complete and includes a Certificate of Liability naming the City of DeWitt as an additional insured, map of the designated area, and a schedule of events.

The application specifies that events requiring a road closure should be submitted 90 days before the event unless agreed to by the City Administrator.

The event will include a fenced Beer Tent in the 100 block of East Main Street. The Memorial Association is requesting City Council allow for the consumption of alcohol in the public right-of-way from Bridge Street east to Market Street.

DeWitt Memorial Association President Loretta Spinrad asked that the street closure time for Monday, August 21st be amended to 11 am to allow the necessary time needed to get the tents taken down.

Motion by Donohue, seconded by VanDyke and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to approve the Special Events Application, road closure request and consumption of alcohol, per City Ordinance, Chapter 58, Article I, Section 58-1, beginning Thursday, August 17 at 7 am and ending Monday, August 21 at 11 am.**

2. 2022 Planning Commission Annual Report:

Council member VanDyke highlighted the activities listed in the 2022 Planning Commission Annual Report.

Section 2-122 of the City Code requires the Planning Commission to file an annual report of the activities with the City Council outlining projects, proposals, and requests that the Planning Commission considered throughout the calendar year.

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Kellogg and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to receive and place on file the 2022 Planning Commission Annual Report.**

3. Resolution of Support for LWCF Grant Application – McGuire Park Improvements:

City Council was provided with a prepared resolution that outlines the City Council's support for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant application to be submitted to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for park improvements to McGuire Park.

The McGuire Park improvements will consist of: four (4) pickleball courts, an outdoor fitness area with a poured-in-place safety surface, and a universally accessible pedestrian access path to the Looking Glass River from the existing non-motorized path.

The project was submitted in 2022 for an MNRTF grant application and was not selected by the MDNR. The application included a 33%, or \$90,300.00, match for the 2022 MNRTF grant.

To maximize the chance to receive funding Spicer Group rescored the project in all of the DNR grant programs (MNRTF, LWCF, and Recreation Passport) utilizing a 50% City match and the project has the greatest probability in the LWCF program when the local match is set at 50%.

In addition, Spicer updated the cost of the project at \$315,600.00, which is an increase from 2022 of approximately \$40,600.00.

Motion by Donohue, seconded by VanDyke and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to approve the prepared Resolution #2023-03, a Resolution of Support for a City of DeWitt LWCF Grant Application for park improvements to McGuire Park based on a City of DeWitt 50-percent match or approximately \$157,800.00.**

4. Confirm Mayor Leeming's appointment of Council Member Whitman to the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority:

Motion by VanDyke, seconded by Donohue and carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to confirm Mayor Leeming's appointment of Council Member Whitman to the DeWitt Area Recreation Authority.**

COUNCIL STAFF REPORTS:

City Attorney:

- 122 E. Main property is now in compliance
- Deadline missed by peddler for a license appeal

City Clerk-Treasurer:

- Met with all clerks in the county to discuss the new requirement for the automatic mailing of ballots for every election and nine days of early voting. Possible options are:
 - City Hall is open for nine days of early voting (Saturday thru the following Sunday) and staffed by three election workers per precinct from 8 am to 5 pm
 - Have two central locations in the County for early voting (would possibly require purchasing fur additional tabulators (\$5,000 each)

DARA:

- Meeting 3/14

DAESA:

- Meeting 3/16

DDA:

- Meeting 3/14
- Cabin Fever event was great

Planning:

- Meeting 3/23

Parks:

- No Meeting

Police Chief:

- New Officer has been trained for Critical Incidents. Six of our seven officers have been trained. The last officer will be trained in the fall.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by VanDyke, seconded by Kellogg and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that **the meeting is adjourned at 7:38 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Grysen
City Clerk-Treasurer

David Hunsaker
Mayor Pro-Tem