

CALL TO ORDER CITY COUNCIL:

The Regular City Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Leeming led the pledge of allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present: Councilmembers: Donohue, Kellogg, Ostrander, VanDyke, and Whitman, Mayor Pro-Tem Hunsaker, Mayor Leeming

Excused: None

STAFF:

Daniel Coss, City Administrator; Sarah Stoltzfus, Interim Clerk-Treasurer; Bruce Ferguson, Chief of Police, and Brian Goodenough, City Attorney, Sergeant Stoltzfus

AUDIENCE:

Stella Gallagher, 110 N Logan St, DeWitt, MI 48820
Anna Shafer, 402 W. Main St., DeWitt, MI 48820
Teresa McClean, 1005 W. Geneva Dr., DeWitt, MI 48820
Josh Sanchez and videographer, WLNS News 6

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 VanDyke, seconded by Kellogg, carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting.**

Motion by Ostrander, seconded by VanDyke, carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2023, Closed Session City Council Meeting.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stella reported on the Ox Roast and that she and her grandchildren had a lot of fun.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Administrator Coss went over the City Administrator's report that was provided to the council in the agenda packet.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Certificate of Proclamation – Constitution Week Staff Report

Motion by Donohue, seconded by VanDyke, carried by unanimous vote of the Council to **proclaim September 17th through September 23rd as Constitution Week in the City of DeWitt.**

2. Mayor Leeming’s Recommendation to Terminate Administrative Officer

Mayor Pro-Tem Hunsaker reviewed the documentation and concurred with Mayor Leeming on the decision to terminate Lisa Grysen. Councilmember VanDyke was verbal with his support toward the decision, and all the councilmembers were in full support of the decision as well.

Motion by Hunsaker, seconded by VanDyke, carried by unanimous vote of the Council to **approve Mayor Leeming’s recommendation to terminate Lisa Grysen, City Clerk-Treasurer effective August 18, 2023.**

3. Confirm Mayor Leeming’s Appointment of Sarah Stoltzfus as Interim City Clerk-Treasurer

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Donohue and carried by unanimous vote of the Council to **confirm Mayor Leeming’s appointment of Sarah Stoltzfus as Clerk-Treasurer and set compensation annually at \$75,780.00.**

COUNCIL STAFF REPORTS:

City Attorney:

There is not much to report, code enforcement violations are being resolved.

City Clerk-Treasurer:

Grateful for the opportunity and excited to serve the City of DeWitt in this new capacity.

DARA:

Next Tuesday.

DDA:

Next Meeting is Tuesday, September 12th.

DAESA:

The Fire Authority is meeting in partnering townships for the monthly board meetings. Olive Township will host the August meeting and Riley Township will host the September meeting.

Planning:

The Planning Commission approved the Master Plan at the August meeting. The next meeting is Thursday, September 28th.

Parks:

Councilmember Donohue reported “You’ve seen our handiwork” and shared that the community is loving the new playground equipment.

Police Chief:

Chief Ferguson reported that the Ox Roast went well and the Car Show was well attended. He also reported on the sirens inadvertently going off and they are looking into ways to update the residents on warnings and important updates via mobile devices.

Mayor Leeming:

Mayor Leeming read the following statement:

August 28, 2023

“As mayor of the City of DeWitt, I want to state for the record the circumstances regarding the dismissal of City of DeWitt Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Grysen.

Lisa Grysen, as confirmed by the City Council tonight (August 28), was officially dismissed from employment with the City on August 18. Termination is based on irregularities identified in connection with city funds and discussions with Ms. Grysen on August 16.

That same day, August 16, Ms. Grysen was escorted from city hall. Due to this being a personnel matter, the City Council is acting with discretion moving forward.

The City is working with our legal counsel and other experts collecting information that will be referred to the Michigan State Police for an external investigation.

Our system of checks and balances did work, not as quickly as anyone would have wanted. However, our internal controls were effective and we discovered the irregularities.

Most importantly, the city continues to conduct all services for our residents and all payments made to the city are accounted for and safe.

City Council has confirmed my appointment of Ms. Sarah Stoltzfus as the Interim City Clerk-Treasurer. Ms. Stoltzfus has been employed with the city since 2015, most recently serving as the Administrative Specialist. Sarah is a certified municipal clerk and has five-plus years of experience and training in municipal finance administration.

Due to the evolving nature of these circumstances, this will be the only official statement by the city at this time.”

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by VanDyke, seconded by Whitman and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that **the meeting is adjourned at 7:25 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Stoltzfus
Interim Clerk-Treasurer

Sue Leeming
Mayor