

**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, Whitman, Mayor Pro-Tem Hunsaker, and Mayor Leeming

Excused: VanDyke

**STAFF:**

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

**AUDIENCE:**

Stella Gallagher, 110 N. Logan St., DeWitt, MI 48820  
Kelly Preston, 3755 Winsome Way, DeWitt, MI 48820

**AGENDA:**

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Donohue, and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that **the agenda be approved as amended to add new business item #4.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Ostrander, seconded by Kellogg, carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2023, Regular City Council Meeting as presented.**

Motion by Donohue, seconded by Kellogg, carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to approve the minutes from the December 11, 2023 Closed Session Meeting as presented.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Stella Gallagher, 110 N. Logan St, DeWitt, MI, made a suggestion for the tree lighting at the Christmas Market next year.

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION:**

Kelly Preston was presented an award for her dedication and long-time standing as a board member of the Downtown Development Authority. She has been very active in our community and an integral part of our downtown development. Councilmember Donohue personally thanked Kelly for her service time on the DDA board and dedication to her community.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:**

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. 2022-2023 Year-End Review- City Assessor Chris Coucke**

Mayor Leeming gave Assessor Chris Coucke a big congratulations on earning a perfect score on the Assessing Audit.

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Ostrander, carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to receive and place on file the 2022-2023 Assessor’s Annual Report.**

**2. DDA 2024 Event Request for Street Closures**

Motion by Donohue, seconded by Whitman, carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to approve the request of the Downtown Development Authority to close the streets listed for each event on Exhibit A dated January 4, 2024.**

**3. DDA 2024 Event Request of Consumption of Alcohol in the Right-of-Way, with the exception of the Christmas Market**

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Donohue, carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to approve the Downtown Development Authority’s request to allow for the consumption of alcohol in the City right-of-way for the 2024 Event List on Exhibit A, dated January 4, 2024, and in accordance with City Ordinance, Chapter 58, Article I, Section 58-1., with the exception of the Christmas Market.**

**4. DDA 2024 Event Request of Consumption of Alcohol in the Right-Of-Way for Christmas Market in December 2024.**

Motion by Hunsaker, seconded by Ostrander, carried by rollcall vote of the Council **to approve the Downtown Development Authority’s request to approve alcohol consumption in the City Right-of-Way for the Downtown DeWitt Christmas Market in 2024.**

ROLL CALL:

Councilmember Donohue	<u>  N  </u>	Councilmember Ostrander	<u>  Y  </u>
Councilmember Hunsaker	<u>  Y  </u>	Councilmember VanDyke	<u> Absent </u>
Councilmember Kellogg	<u>  Y  </u>	Councilmember Whitman	<u>  Y  </u>

**5. Appointments to the City’s Election Commission**

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Ostrander, carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to appoint the City of DeWitt’s Election Commission for the 2024 Election cycle to consist of the City Administrator, City Clerk, Chief of Police, and the City Assessor as an alternate.**

**6. Committee Appointment to Board/Commission**

Motion by Donohue, seconded by Whitman, carried by unanimous vote of the Council **to confirm Mayor Leeming’s appointment of Jared Rondeau to the Planning Commission with a term expiring on January 15, 2027, and confirm Mayor Leeming’s appointment of Alex Crippen to the DeWitt DDA with a term expiring on January 19, 2028.**

**COUNCIL STAFF REPORTS:**

**City Attorney:** Nothing to report

**City Clerk-Treasurer:** Ms. Stoltzfus will be attending two trainings this week on Early Voting procedures and additional election training. New voter I.D. cards have been printed for every voter in the city.

**DARA:** Director Stevens has accepted his annual appraisal.

**Mayor Leeming /DDA:** There will be a DDA meeting tomorrow, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

**DAESA:** Mayor Pro-Tem Hunsaker shared the staffing issues that the Fire authority has been struggling with and also talked about the budget season.

**Planning:** No meeting this month

**Parks:** Next meeting is in February. They are currently waiting on installation costs for McGuire Park equipment.

**Police Chief:** Chief shared that the new part-time officer, Ben Murdock, will begin working soon. He also commented that the department had a fairly quiet Christmas Eve.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Whitman, seconded by Donohue, and carried by unanimous vote of the Council that **the meeting is adjourned at 8:14 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah Stoltzfus  
City Clerk-Treasurer

Sue Leeming  
Mayor