



**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council**  
**June 10, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fedell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held at City Hall located at 28 N. State Road, Newaygo, MI 49337.

Presiding officer: Mayor Fedell  
Secretary: Clerk, Kim Goodin

Roll Call: Present: Black, Burns, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Walerczyk  
Absent: None

Motion by Engemann, second by Burns to approve the agenda as presented. AIF/MC

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Burns, second by Walerczyk to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Council regular meeting minutes from 05/13/2024, Council special meeting minutes from 05/14/2024 and approval of accounts payable of \$21,208.71, \$51,079.41, \$14,182.14, \$18,553.86, \$57,169.25, and \$2,175.00. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED

**RESERVED TIME**

Stewart Sanders was present and introduced himself as the current Newaygo County Register of Deeds and stated that he was re-running for this position in the August Election. He gave updates on numerous completed projects that have occurred at the Newaygo County Register of Deeds Office.

**COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS**

Ramona Deters, representing River Country Chamber of Commerce, gave updates on a recent business luncheon, Kids Day, the Farmer's Market and said that they are working on the Gus Maker Basketball event to be held in July.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Schneider stated that the Mayor Pro Tem position needed to be filled and asked if Council could appoint a member to that position.

Motion by Fedell, second by Engemann to appoint Lee Black as Mayor Pro Tem. AIF/MC

Schneider gave update on email that he had previously sent to Council regarding a proposed ballot initiative. He discussed current type of tree that is downtown and explained that occasionally the trees have to be replaced and asked Council for input regarding replacing trees with the same type of tree or a new type of tree. He said that a couple of business owners have complained about the smell of the trees during the couple of weeks the trees are in bloom. Council discussed: cost of trees, size of trees, and reasons trees need to be replaced. Consensus of Council was that the trees are beautiful and to replace trees as needed with the same type of tree and it can be re-evaluated in the future if necessary. Schneider gave an update on the Powerhouse Building stating that the safety issues are the next step of the project. He asked Council for input about the possibility of installing an overlook deck at the same time safety repairs were made that would clean up the cosmetic look of the area. Consensus of Council was that the cosmetic repairs and safety repairs of the area should be completed at the same time. Schneider gave updates on water line projects and demolition of 8 State Rd. building stating that he is working with the museum and a City employee on possible salvageable items from the building. He stated that a project update sheet was included in packets.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Chief Andres stated that Kids Day was a success and said that they had hired a new officer. She said that the agreement between the City and Brookhaven Estates for Code Enforcement had been renewed.

**BOARD BUSINESS**

Motion by Burns, second by DeVries to approve request by Love Inc of Newaygo County for the use of Brooks Park to have a Community Walk on Sunday, September 29, 2024 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. AIF/MC

Motion by Black, second by DeVries to approve request by Trinity Fellowship Church-Newaygo for the use of Brooks Park to have Vacation Bible Study on Monday, July 22, 2024 through Wednesday July 24, 2024 from 12:00 pm-3:00 pm. AIF/MC Pastor Patrick Shea was present and stated that the Vacation Bible Study held at Brooks Park last year went very well and they would be utilizing Family of God as a rain location.

Schneider displayed initial example images and concepts that the City Architects had presented for the Townsquare/Pocket Park at 8 W State Rd. He said that this had been discussed at the recent Planning Commission meeting and was looking for Council’s initial input. He said that funding will have an impact on the project and that the City hopes to extend the Social Zone District to this area when complete. Suggestions from Council Members were that maybe the focal point should be related to logging history or Native-American history of Newaygo and need to make sure furniture or products are not movable to avoid theft.

Motion by Burns, second by DeVries to move forward with offering City Residents a one-time \$5 incentive to sign up for paperless water/sewer billing and a one-time \$5 incentive to sign up for recurring payment until December 31, 2024 for their utility bills. AIF/MC Schneider stated that the City is looking to streamline tasks and with recent technology upgrades will be able to offer residents more options for recurring payments. Goodin stated that we are getting more inquiries from residents about signing up for recurring payments utilizing credit/debit cards and our current system does not allow that option.

Motion by Black, second by Burns at 8:00 pm to open public hearing to discuss and take comments on the Fire District Special Assessment Roll. AIF/MC Schneider stated that the Fire District Special Assessment Roll was included in packets and that the 1.75705 millage rate is slightly less than last year’s millage rate. No comments or questions from the Council or public. Motion by Burns, second by Engemann at 8:02 pm to close the public hearing. AIF/MC

Motion by Burns, second by Walerczyk to approve Resolution 2024-31 determining assessments are in proportion to benefits received, confirming special assessment roll, establishing lien, and providing for the payment and collection of special assessments. AIF/MC

Motion by Black, second by Engemann to approve Resolution 2024-32 establishing funding level of 1.75705 mills for the Newaygo Area Fire District for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. AIF/MC

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

City resident made comment regarding the Powerhouse Building.

Resident at 46 Quarterline discussed parking challenges he is experiencing with his driveway being blocked by vehicles visiting a neighboring business. He asked if parallel parking lines could be striped along this section of Quarterline. Schneider stated that parking lines use to exist along this area, but have faded over time. Schneider said that if parking lines were striped that there was the possibility of less parking in this area.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Walerczyk stated that she had received a complaint that the parking lines in the South Parking lot were faded and needed to be repainted.

Schneider said that the City of Fremont, Grant and White Cloud were currently reading meters and sending utility bills out quarterly and that City staff had discussed this option and he may bring it back to a future Council Meeting for discussion.

Fedell reminded all that the next Council Meeting was on Monday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Motion by Burns, second by Engemann to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 PM. AIF/MC

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Mayor – Ed Fedell

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Clerk – Kim Goodin