

STANDISH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 9, 2024

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor King called the regular meeting of the Standish City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO AMERICA**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor King.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present: King, Link, Lincoln, Spencer, Fleszar

Absent: Myers

New Members Present: Niernberg

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED by Lincoln and supported by Fleszar to approve the agenda with additions under New Business Yeo & Yeo Auditor.

All approved, motion carried

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 11, 2024, REGULAR MEETING**

MOVED by Link and supported by Fleszar to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2024, Regular Meeting.

All approved, motion carried.

7. **APPROVAL OF THE BILLS**

MOVED by Fleszar and supported by Lincoln to pay the invoices for the month of October.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

YEAS: Fleszar, Lincoln, Link, Spencer, King

NAYS:

ABSENT: One Unfilled Council Seat, Myers

The motion carried.

8. **CURRENT BUSINESS**

A. Fall 2024 Tribal Grant

- The city was granted \$57,000 in funds from the Tribal 2% program

- Funds were Granted for Gravel on Wheeler Rd
- New Steam Pressure Washer to help maintain current equipment
- Portable Welder/Air compressor
- The City Manger thanked the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe for helping the community over the years with their grants.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Vacant Council Seat

- An advertisement was posted in the local paper along and on the door of City Hall for an open seat on the City Council
- The City Manager received a letter of interest in the time of postings.
- Chris Niernberg has asked the current City Council to consider him for the open seat.

MOVED by Fleszar and supported by Lincoln to approve Chris Niernberg to fill the open seat of the City Council.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

YEAS: Spencer, Lincoln, Fleszar, Link, King

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Myers

The motion carried

B. Yeo & Yeo

- Yeo & Yeo auditor representative reviewed the 2023/2024 fiscal year audit
- City received and Unmodified opinion – this is the highest opinion you can receive
 - The city has seen an increase in revenue and a decrease in expenditure over the past fiscal year.
 - Unfunded Pensions are 78% funded placing the City in good standings
 - Sewer has shown a net loss but is healthier than it has been in prior years

C. City Hall Building – Cleaning

- This past month we have a cleaning service come into clean City Hall and windows.
- The City Manager would like to have the cleaning service come in monthly for 3 to 4 hours to clean at \$25 an hour
- Spot Free cleaned the windows for \$150 – would like to have this service performed every two to three months.

D. Water Reliability Study & Certified Operators

- Water grant would like to see a reliability study done
 - The last study done appears to have been done in 2000
- This study will cost between \$30,000 and \$40,000
- It will need to be put out for bidding, which will be brought to the city council at that time.

E. Sterling Area Health Center Property

- The property that Sterling Area Health center purchased and removed the buildings has a significant amount of parking on it for events and businesses in the area
- DDA has expressed interest in trying to purchase it for additional parking for the Downtown area – Sterling Area Clinic does not want to sell currently.
- The City Manager would like to approach the clinic about leasing the lot for parking, absorbing the liability of it into the City's insurance policy.
 - Possibly leasing the property for \$3000
- DPW would clean the snow from the lot
 - The lot would remain gravel
- The DDA may be willing to help cover the expense of the snow removal from the lot if the city were to lease it for parking.
- The lease would be year by year and would have a clause in it that would terminate the lease at the time the Clinic would like to start building on the area or if they choose to sell the property, they DDA would have the first chance to make an offer

MOVED by Lincoln and supported by Fleszar to move forward with pursuing a lease of Sterling Area Clinic lots on Main St. 040-2-1000-000-078-00; 040-2-100-000-087-00; 040-2-100-000-087-01; 040-2-100-000-077-00 for additional parking for the city.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

YEAS: Niernberg, Link, Spencer, Fleszar, Lincoln

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Myers

ABSTAINED: King - Conflict of Interest

The motion carried.

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mason reported the following:

- Standish-Sterling School water project has started and has been moving quicker than expected
 - Engineers are making sure things are progressing smoothly.
- There is a Lank Bank meeting coming up on December 12 at 5pm; we will be able to find out the status of 307 N Main St. demolition, as well as what can be done for the recently condemned house on N Cass St.
- The new businesses that have recently opened seem to be flourishing.

12. MAYOR & FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

King reported the following:

- DPW has been doing a great job downtown with leaf removal and the lights for Christmas.
- Egle will start in the spring looking at the possible wetlands at the location of the new City Park
 - This will allow the engineers to plot out the locations of the walking trails and other items.

13. **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

- Link – Do we know why the old North Forest Café was torn down?
 - The building was in poor repair and was not suitable for leasing out.
- Spencer – Recycling – Cardboard – Arenac Opportunity will take cardboard for recycling; it needs to be dropped off to them.
 - Has any blight been taken care of? Winter is a slow time for the blight just due to the weather conditions and cold.
- Fleszar – Front St. has some large potholes that need patches in front of the mill.
- Niernberg – Thanked council for giving him the opportunity to sit on the city board.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor King adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Champagne Southworth
City Clerk Treasurer

Kevin King
Mayor