

STANDISH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 10, 2025

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**

Mayor King led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present: King, Link, Fleszar, Lincoln, Niernberg, Spencer

Absent: Myers

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED by Link and supported by Fleszar to approve the presented agenda with item A. Tom Rief Michigan Cannabis Consultation and item B. Public Hearing – Retail Cannabis Sales under current business combined.

The motion carried.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Castle – 119 S Main St

Inn Town Inn – 304 N Main

Whitney – 220 E Cedar

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOVED by Fleszar and supported by Link to approve the minutes of January 13, 2025, 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 February.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Fleszar, Niernberg, Lincoln, Spencer, Link, King

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Myers

The motion carried.

8. **CURRENT BUSINESS**

A. Public Hearing – Retail Cannabis Sales within the City Limits

MOVED by Fleszar and supported by Spencer to go into a Public Hearing - Retail Cannabis Sales within the City Limits at 6:12pm.

All approved, motion carried.

- Public Comment
 - Smith – 2761 M 61 Bentley – would hire approximately 6 employees
 - Will bring more money into the city
 - The city would recoup tax revenue
 - Rang - 315 N Forest St – Former Council Member – Supports Cannabis Retail
 - Tom Reif – Michigan Municipal Cannabis Consultant – provided information on the topic of Cannabis sales – Offered Council a free class about Cannabis
 - Bowmaster - 713 E Cedar St – Supports Cannabis Retail
 - Chase Mitrzyk – 708 E Cedar St – Supports Cannabis Retail
 - Mrs. Mitrzyk – 708 E Cedar St. – Supports Cannabis Retail
 - Niernberg – 205 S Grove St – Supports Cannabis Retail
 - Burghardt – 205 S Grove St – Supports Cannabis Retail
 - Wilczynski – 112 S Court St – Supports Cannabis Retail
 - Schmidt – 109 S Court St – Supports Cannabis Retail
 - Foco – 319 S Cass St – Supports Cannabis Retail
 - Holbrook – 319 S Cass St – Supports Cannabis Retail
 - Tanner Mitrzyk - 529 E Cedar – Supports Cannabis Retail
 - Owen - 706 E Cedar – Supports Cannabis Retail
 - Castle – 119 S Main – Does not Support Cannabis Retail
 - Senske – 300 S James St – How many Stores would be allowed in the area?
 - Yet to be determined

MOVED by Fleszar and supported by Spencer to leave the Public Hearing - Retail Cannabis Sales within the City Limits at 6:25pm.

All approved, motion carried.

- Fleszar – Supports Cannabis Retail coming to the city
- Niernberg – Spoke to people within the community that does not want to see Cannabis come to the city in anyway.
- Lincoln – Individuals she spoke to were against cannabis being within the city limits but expressed fear of repercussions if they came to express their disapproval of the matter.
 - Has heard numerous complaints about the cannabis in Au Gres and people it has brought into the community
- Chase Mitrzyk – asked council if they inquired with other communities that have Cannabis and how it has impacted them.
- City Manager of Au Gres City – He has had a lot of complaints from people due to the smell
 - Older generations don't like it due to the stigma it brings with it.
 - Seasonal workers have caused a lot of complaints in Au Gres area
 - Can cause a negative reputation – travelers complain about the smell
 - Does the city need the revenue?
 - Cannabis retail will not make the city a tourist hot spot.
- Tom Reif –
 - People in the area are against it due to in part fearing the unknown, education is the key to helping overcome this fear
 - offered to provide a free class on the topic at the next City Council meeting, it will be approximately an hour long.

- Spencer – This was discussed a long time ago and they city already opted out.
 - The vote in the past on the topic was a 6 no to 1 yes vote.
- Fleszar – Suggested we table to matter and have Mr. Reif come to the next meeting and provide the council and community with a free informational class.
- Lincoln – Expressed that some of the community is fearful of the type of people it will bring to our community.

Mayor King tabled the topic till the next council meeting on March 10, 2025, at 6pm where Mr. Reif will hold an informational class.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Brush for Sidewalk Tractor

- The brush for the sidewalks is down for repairs, we are currently working with the snowblower.
- Parts to repair the brush will be \$1,500, a new brush is \$3,500
- The City Manager suggested purchasing a new brush and repairing the current brush, so when one is down, we can continue to clean the sidewalks.
- DDA may help with purchasing the new brush.
 - Currently this is not permitted within the city limits.

MOVED by Link and supported by Lincoln to move forward with repairing the sidewalk brush and to purchase a new sidewalk brush for \$3,500.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Link, Spencer, Lincoln, Niernberg, Fleszar, King

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Myers

The motion carried.

B. VFD Water Plant

- There was a power surge at the Water Plant damaging one of our VFDs.
 - There are currently 5 VFD units at the Water Treatment plant
- To replace one unit will be approximately \$15,000
- Consumers said that they show no issues in our area, indicating a power surge
- This same thing happened approximately 2 years ago, consumers said they had no issues, and our insurance would not cover it unless the cause can be pinpointed
- A surge protection needs to be considered to protect the equipment in this building
- Tribal 2% may fund the purchase surge protection for this building
 - Mid-March is the deadline to apply for 2% grant – Mid-May is when you find out what you are granted
- Surge protection should have been placed on this building as soon as possible, due to the cost of the equipment located in this facility.
- Approximate cost of surge protection being installed in \$30,000

MOVED by Link and supported by Fleszar to purchase the new VFD for \$15,000 and ask for a surge protector during the spring 2% Tribal grant.

Roll call vote:

YEAS: Spencer, Link, Fleszar, Lincoln, Niernberg, King

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Myers
The motion carried.

C. Dobson Drain – Schedule & Traffic, Box Culvert @ US-23/M-13 @ Mill St.

- Dobson Drain project will start at the end of May
- M-13 will have one lane closed all summer
- Culvert is 169 feet long
- Project is to from end of May to mid-October
- There are utilities that run along the culvert

D. Closed Session – Personnel Discussion

MOVED by Spencer and supported by Lincoln to go into close session at 7:11pm

All in favor, motion carried.

MOVED by Fleszar and supported by Link to leave close session at 7:26pm

All in favor, motion carried.

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

Mason reported the following:

- New sick time laws will not affect us due to the size of our staff and the amount of PTO that employees earn

12. MAYOR & FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT

King reported the following:

- Fire Authority – Made \$17,000 in interest this past year with Huntington’s government account
 - There were 4 fatalities in Arenac County – huge number for the area

13. COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

- Spencer – Was approached by a Kathy Steward requesting the city to plow Casmer Rd.
 - The city has plowed the road in the past but was asked not to by a resident at the end of the road

14. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor King adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Champagne Southworth
City Clerk

Kevin King
Mayor