

The regular meeting of the Clare City Commission was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers of Clare City Hall, 202 West Fifth Street, Clare, Michigan by Mayor Pat Humphrey who led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Absent: Maegan Jenkins and Nick Loomis. Also, present: Jeremy Howard, City Manager; Shannon Sirpilla, City Treasurer; John Lake, Police Captain; and Diane Lyon, City Clerk.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Bonham to approve the items listed with an asterisk (*) (Agenda, Minutes, Communications, Professional Development, and Bills) that are considered to be routine by the City Commission. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Nick Loomis & Maegan Jenkins. *Motion Carried.*

3. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approved by Consent Agenda.

4. *APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Approved by Consent Agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

7. NEW BUSINESS: None.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT: The City Treasurer provided her report. *Addendum:* The Treasurer met with a representative from Mercantile Bank for the purpose of determining whether it would be beneficial for the city to switch over to them from Huntington Bank. The City's bank accounts were with Chemical Bank for many years before Huntington Bank's takeover, thus the City transitioned their accounts to Huntington. However, Huntington's fee structure is more expensive and their customer service and processes are not as effectual.

9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Master Plan. As I have mentioned, the City's Planning Commission is currently working with McKenna & Associates to update the City Master Plan. On March 4th, the online survey and map for the Clare community to provide input for the future development of Clare was closed. Thank you to all who shared their ideas and McKenna will now be compiling the information. They will be sharing preliminary data with the Planning Commission on March 9th as the process moves forward. If you have any questions about the project or the process, please feel free to contact Brian Keeseey with McKenna Associates, at bkeeseey@mcka.com.

City Wide Let Run Water Notice. As a reminder, the City of Clare is still on a 'Let Run' water status for the remainder of the winter due to excessively deep frost levels & extreme cold.

Clare's 47th Annual Irish Festival. After Covid put a damper on the festival the last couple years, it is exciting to see the Irish Festival is coming back in its full capacity this year. We are just a couple weeks away from the festivities which take place March 16th through the 19th this year. I have attached a flyer which lists all the great events.

City Commission Nominating Petitions. Reminder that City Commissioner Nominating Petition packets are available in the Clerk's office and are due back to the City Clerk by 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday April 19, 2022. I have attached the requirements to this report.

Lake Shamrock Dredging Project. If you haven't driven by the corner of McEwan and Wilcox lately, you may not have seen that we are officially dredging. We have been working on getting the barge unfrozen and dug out so that it can spin around and we can put the final touches on what it needs to fully operate. Though we still have not been successful in securing EGLE's approval of any of the secondary locations that we were working on, we were able to reopen conversations with the owner of the original permitted location and we have started trucking spoils to that property.

Per our permit from EGLE, we will be able to dredge for the entire month of March and then we are required to halt dredging for the months of April and May to allow for undisturbed fish spawning. We will be able to begin dredging again June 1st. I think this works out well as we can get start dredging now and work out the kinks this month. During the required time we must halt dredging we will have some time to adjust or fix anything that we need to with the process and then get going again as soon as our permit allows us to do so.

Vault MI, LLC Facility Tour. Continuing with our periodic tours, Diane and I have been able to schedule a tour at Vault MI, LLC. The building is located at 555 Industrial Drive in the South Industrial Park and houses one of Clare's licensed Class C Recreational Grow facilities. Since the agenda for the March 7th meeting is very light, I figured it was a perfect time for the City Commission to be able to see and tour this newly up and running facility in Clare. The plan to adjourn the meeting and then head over to Vault MI for an informal tour was postponed due to inclement weather earlier in the day and poor road conditions.

10. *COMMUNICATIONS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
11. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None.
12. COMMISSION DISCUSSION TOPICS: The City Commission discussed moving City Hall to a new location due to the costly renovations necessary to satisfy USDA accessibility requirements (bathrooms, both entrances, & ramp(s)), and due to expensive repairs and improvements needed such as the boiler system which failed in May 2021, the replacement of single pane windows original to the building which are extremely inefficient, and repointing of the exterior brick on the building.

City staff have met with MMDC and USDA in an attempt to find grant funding for the rehabilitation of city hall, or to build a new facility, possibly across street, to connect to the public safety building. Commissioner Bonham noted that there may be a deed restriction on City Park, thus, the city would not be able to build on to the east side of the public safety building. City staff will continue to seek grant funding for public facility improvements.
13. *APPROVAL OF BILLS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
14. *PROFESSIONAL & EDUCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
15. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Murphy to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Maegan Jenkins & Nick Loomis. *Motion Carried.* Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Pat Humphrey, Mayor

Diane Lyon, City Clerk