

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, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis and Gus Murphy. Absent: None. Also, present: Jeremy Howard, City Manager; Dave Saad, Police Chief, Shannon Sirpilla, Treasurer; Dale Clark, WWTP Superintendent; and Diane Lyon, City Clerk.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Commissioner Jenkins second by Commissioner Loomis 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, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.*

3. \*APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

*Approved by Consent Agenda.*

4. \*APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

*Approved by Consent Agenda.*

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: Kim Kolbe, 501 Point Drive, Clare, MI 48617, issued the following letter to the Commission for public comment:

*I have been a long-term resident of the City of Clare. During my residency I have supported the Commission in neighborhood discussions and at the ballot box. I have chosen to live in the city and have always been proud of our community.*

*Recently I have been made aware of the new code enforcement activities the City Commission has initiated. Specifically, the code concerning parking of recreational vehicles on private property. I have owned both boats and camping trailers for the past twenty years and have parked them, for short periods of time, in my driveway. Until recently, this has not been a problem. Your decision to enforce the code has dramatically changed my situation.*

*As a retiree I look forward to my camping trips with grandchildren. As of this year, I can't even legally park my camper in my driveway to load it for camping trips that we take during the summer months. The new enforcement activities make a simple camping trip practically impossible. I looked for alternatives, finding none, I have recently sold my camper. This camper was always stored at the fairgrounds during winter months and was actually located in my driveway for only a small portion of the summer.*

*I also park a boat in my driveway for short periods of time. Fishing trips to Canada require preparation of the boat prior to the trip. I would often park the boat in the driveway to winterize it, then put it in winter storage. Unfortunately, I have learned that this also violates the code.*

*Upon retiring I looked forward to boating and camping as leisure activities. I have enjoyed that freedom for the past twenty years, but no longer. These activities are being denied to me by the enforcement of an outdated City Code.*

*I believe I understand the reason the Code was written. Blight is a difficult issue for any governmental agency to address. Carefully written Codes have been written only to have negative effects on citizens that care for their property and respect the community in which they live. Unfortunately, that is what is happening here in the City of Clare.*

*I try not to criticize unless I have what I believe is a solution to a problem. In this case I would like to suggest the Code be rewritten. The new Code should recognize the difference between "parking" and "storage" of recreational vehicles and watercraft. A possible change could include a ban during the months of November through March. This could address the problem of long-term storage and still enable residents to enjoy their leisure activities. I am sure there are other ways this Code could be modified and I certainly hope you explore options to the current Code.*

*I do not intend to give up my leisure activities because of an outdated City Code. My children no longer live with us so we are not really attached to the area like we used to be. We have enjoyed living in Clare but if restrictions prevent us from enjoying our retirement, we will make the difficult decisions we need to make. I have always heard "You can't fight City hall" and I understand the reality of this statement. I would much rather look for a reasonable solution to a very outdated, restrictive City Code.*

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. APPROVE BIDS-WWTP UV LIGHTS DISINFECTION EQUIPMENT

The Ultraviolet light's (UV lights) at the City's Waste Water Plant are at the end of their useful life. The City currently utilizes UV lighting for wastewater disinfection as

it is an environmentally-friendly alternative to chlorine disinfection that provides many significant safety advantages for the community, employees, and local bodies of water.

Consequently, we requested the services GFA, the City's engineer of record, for the design, construction, creation of bid documents, and to solicit bids on our behalf. Two bids were received for the bid opening held on August 17, 2022. GFA has provided a recommendation for the approval and award of the bid to Robinson Electrical & Mechanical who provided the low bid of \$346,230.00.

At the May 16, 2022 City Commission meeting, the Commission agreed in concept to expend the city's ARPA funds (just over \$323K) on UV lighting at the Water Treatment Plant. Replacement of the UV lighting was approved as part of the FY22/23 budget and CIP schedule.

The City Commission is asked to approve the bids and award the work as provided within GFA's recommendation.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Bonham to approve the bids and award the work to Robinson Electrical & Mechanical by adoption of Resolution 2022-083. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Absent: None. Nays: None. *Motion Carried.*

B. SET 2022 TRICK OR TREAT DATE AND HOURS

Historically, the City Commission has set the date and time for Halloween Trick or Treat within the City. Generally, these hours are set for 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on October 31st – which falls on Monday this year.

We have contacted our neighboring communities to determine their hours for trick or treating. All of the surrounding communities have scheduled hours on Halloween night in or around the hours that we intend to set our trick or treat hours this year.

Motion by Commissioner Jenkins second by Commissioner Murphy to set the city's trick-or-treat hours from 6-8 pm on Monday, October 31, 2022, by adoption of Resolution 2022-084. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Absent: None. Nays: None. *Motion Carried.*

8. TREASURER'S REPORT: The Treasurer provided a report to the Commission.

Addendum: Owners of the former China King property are working with Bolle Contracting to level the site.

9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

MDOT 5th Street (M-115) Project. MDOT is continuing work to resurface 1.2 miles of M-115 from Pioneer Parkway to Sunset Avenue, in the city of Clare. Work includes sidewalk and ADA improvements compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Starting Monday, July 25, 2022, Sidewalk improvements on M-115 will be completed with lane closures and traffic shifts. Joint repairs and resurfacing will be completed during overnight hours, with a detour via Maple Street and 4th Street. This work will improve the driving surface of M-115 and the sidewalk conditions for pedestrians. The estimated end date is Friday, October 7, 2022

Deputy Treasurer Position. We have completed the interviews for the part time Deputy Treasurer position. Cheryl Coon will be starting part-time with the city on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. Cheryl currently lives in Mt. Pleasant and has a long work history in the financial world including accounting, accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, taxes, reconciliation, etc. Welcome Cheryl!

Verizon Tower. Work on the installation of the new tower is continuing to progress. Crews have staked and marked the location of the concrete pad and fencing in the corner of the parking lot at City Hall. We hope to see the crane arrive soon and begin the installation of the tower.

MTW Facility Tour. In continuing with our periodic tours, Diane and I have been able to schedule a tour of the MTW Industries facility. MTW has turned the former ShopKo building

into a state-of-the-art full-service fabrication and manufacturing facility. Since the agenda for the September 6th meeting is relatively light, it is a perfect time for the City Commission to tour this new facility in Clare. We will head over to MTW industries immediately following adjournment of the meeting on Monday for the informal tour.

10. \*COMMUNICATIONS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
11. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Dan Jenkins of Wheaton St. noted the traffic backups that the train creates when loading and off-loading cars in the city.
12. COMMISSION DISCUSSION TOPICS: There is an issue with the downtown music skipping; the Mayor received an email from Alyssa Cooke (not a city resident) regarding the late night noise disturbance during Farwell's Liberty Mountain Music Festival; a number of community members have voiced to the city commission's directive to enforce local code as it relates to parking of trailers, campers, boats, etc. The City Commission directed that the city "hold off" on issuing tickets and to task the Planning Commission with revising the current Code so that it better suits the needs of residents and the city. The City Manager has been compiling a list of concerns that should be addressed in the revised Code but requested the Commission provide additional input into which specific areas they wish the code to address; Commissioner Bonham thanked the Clare City Police for more closely policing Ann Arbor Trail.
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 Loomis to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.* Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

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Pat Humphrey, Mayor

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Diane Lyon, City Clerk