

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 Pro Tem Bob Bonham who led with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were: Bob Bonham, Nick Loomis and Gus Murphy. Absent: Pat Humphrey & Maegan Jenkins. Also, present: Jeremy Howard, City Manager; Dave Saad, Police Chief, Shannon Sirpilla, Treasurer; Luke Potter, DPW Director; Officer John Lake; Joy Simmer, Parks & Recreation Director; and Diane Lyon, City Clerk.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Commissioner Loomis second by Commissioner Murphy to approve the items listed with an asterisk (\*) (Agenda, Minutes, Communications, Professional Development, Second Reading of Ordinance 2022-002, and Bills) that are considered to be routine by the City Commission. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Nick Loomis and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Pat Humphrey & 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:

A. RECOGNIZE SAM EBERHART FOR 15 YEARS OF SERVICE IN DPW

Sam Eberhart has faithfully served the residents of the City of Clare for the past fifteen years, as a full-time employee within the City's Department of Public Works beginning in 2007 while concurrently serving as an on-call firefighter. The City Commission is asked to formally recognize Sam for his exemplary, faithful and dedicated public service.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Loomis to recognize the service of Sam Eberhart by adoption of Resolution 2022-089. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Nick Loomis and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Absent: Pat Humphrey & Maegan Jenkins. Nays: None. *Motion Carried.*

B. ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE 2022-002-CAMPING IN PETTIT PARK

The City Commission conducted a first reading and public hearing of Ordinance 2022-002 at their September 19, 2022 meeting. No public comment was offered regarding the proposed Ordinance amendment.

The City Commission is now asked to consider approving Ordinance 2022-002.

These proposed changes to Chapter 30, Parks & Recreation result predominantly from complaints and concerns. The Ordinance amendment establishes authority for the City's enforcement agencies to control criminal, inappropriate and/or publicly disruptive behavior in all city parks; and establishes specific camping rules for Pettit Park.

The Commission has approved a Second Reading of the proposed Ordinance 2022-002 by approval of the consent agenda.

The Commission is now asked to adopt the proposed Ordinance.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Loomis to approve Ordinance 2022-002 by adoption of Resolution 2022-090. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Nick Loomis and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Absent: Pat Humphrey & Maegan Jenkins. Nays: None. *Motion Carried.*

C. APPROVE WAGE INCREASE AND SET ELECTION WORKER COMPENSATION

Chapter 4, Section 4.10 of the City Charter provides that the compensation of election personnel shall be determined in advance of an election by the City Commission. The City's last election inspector wage rate increase occurred in July 2018. At that time, the election chair's wage was approved at \$14.00 per hour; \$12.00 per hour for the precinct vice chairperson; and \$11.00 per hour for all other election inspectors

Election Chairpersons are responsible for oversight of the AVCB & polling locations; the accuracy of election results; the completeness of paperwork; to safeguard voting materials; to maintain the order and security of elections; to protect the integrity of elections; and they are typically required to work a minimum 16-hour day (or longer if necessary). The Election Vice Chair is required to fulfill the duties of the Election Chair at the polls during their absence for breaks, lunch, or assisting with the needs of voters. All election personnel are required to assist in setup of the polling location the day before the election, assist voters on election day, and contend with election issues as required under State and Federal law.

Today's elections have become more technologically complex and election security requirements have increased. The education requirements for election inspectors have been amplified over the years and expanding health and safety risks continue thus, the City Clerk proposes the following wage increase for election inspectors: Election Chair, \$15.00 per hour; Vice Chair, \$13.00 per hour; Election Inspector, \$12.00 per hour.

In order to retain qualified and knowledgeable inspectors in the City and attract new inspectors it is important that we offer competitive wages. The City's Election Commission met at 9:00 am on October 3, 2022 to consider the proposed wage increase and has provided a recommendation to approve the wage increase.

Motion by Commissioner Loomis second by Commissioner Murphy to approve the wage increase for election workers and set their compensation for all future city elections by adoption of Resolution 2022-091. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Nick Loomis and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Absent: Pat Humphrey & Maegan Jenkins. Nays: None. *Motion Carried.*

D. CLARE WRESTLING CLUB CHARITABLE GAMING LICENSE

The Clare Wrestling Club has requested that the City Commission consider adopting a Resolution enabling them to apply for the issuance of a state Gaming License, thereby allowing their organization to conduct various fund-raising events to support the community wrestling program.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Loomis to approve the Clare Wrestling Club's request by adoption of Resolution 2022-092. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Nick Loomis and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Absent: Pat Humphrey & Maegan Jenkins. Nays: None. *Motion Carried.*

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

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. Update: Lane closures using flagman are currently underway. The project had a late start. Construction crews are currently completing joint repairs from the tracks heading west, working in the 300 block, and should be working in the 100 and 200 block of W. 5th by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Traffic will be detoured down Maple to 4th St.

Public Land Sale. The City received a letter from the Clare County Treasurer notifying us that 2 parcels of land, now owned by the County, are going up for bid. The parcels are contiguous to city property along Brookwood Drive and are (topographically) similar to the property we own by Pettit Park along the river. I am including the information in the event that the City Commission desires to bid on the land. The two parcels combined are less than .5 acres. It would be my recommendation that we do not bid on the property. However, if you disagree and would like staff to pursue placing a bid, we can certainly do that if that is the desire of the City Commission. We are hopeful that it will be purchased and put back on the tax rolls. The Commission came to a concensus that there is no interest in purchasing the parcels.

Clare Family Night Out. Family Night Out is on October 4th! There will be lots of fun activities, cool prizes, great food, and much more! This is a FREE family event so bring the whole family out to Clare on October 4th! There will be many participating businesses around town and under the tents in the Wood's Household parking lot that will have lots of fun games, prizes, food, activities, and much more! A full schedule of events and participants for this fun event are attached in the flyer below.

Sister City – Clare, England. Marty Johnson with the Clare County Historical Society recently contacted city staff with a proposal to start a Sister City relationship with Clare, England.

Clare England's History: Early in WWII, the US Navy sent the British Navy 50 old destroyers to retrofit and use against the Germans. The British renamed the ships for cities in both countries that shared common names. One ship, the USS Upshur, was renamed the HMS Clare. After the war, a delegation from the Royal Navy visited our city and presented us with items from the ship. The badge from the ship is across the street in City Park (picture attached). A ship's log they gave us has since disappeared and sadly, no one knows where it's gone. Mr. Johnson is proposing an "informal" sister city arrangement and mostly it would allow a High School class from each city to connect and do most of the work allowing them to gain experience in municipal government workings as well as develop relationships with and learn more about their peers in Clare, England.

Mr. Johnson provided the following information on how the sister city relationship might work.

I contacted Emma Harrington, a teacher at Clare Michigan High School. She's excited and wants to have her 12th-grade history class take it on. As to next steps, here's what I will suggest:

- 1) I will work with Ms. Harrington to contact a school in Clare, England to see if a class there wants to work with their city to make us a Sister City. If not, we can work directly with their mayor.
- 2) Students of Ms. Harrington will address our City Council to ask if we'd be willing to recognize Clare, England as a Sister City. They would provide their reasons.
- 3) Both cities create a Proclamation recognizing the relationship. There's a draft template available that we/you/I can customize.
- 4) The students send the Proclamation to England. Clare, England sends its Proclamation to our students. Maybe we include a local history book on Clare or something with our logo in our mailing. Maybe Pat or Jeremy can FaceTime with Clare, England students if they want it.
- 5) Our students attend a City Council and present the English Proclamation to our city. Media is invited. At the same time, the city shows off two roadside signs (for north & south of town) that will be installed now that the relationship is formalized.
- 6) Life goes on as usual.

The above are just my initial ideas. I'd be happy to sit down with anyone from the city, perhaps with Ms. Harrington. Please let me know of any concerns or ideas. Regards, Marty

10. \*COMMUNICATIONS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
11. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None.
12. COMMISSION DISCUSSION TOPICS: Commissioner Loomis noted that Bigby Coffee, located in Grant Township, now has a sign displayed.
13. \*APPROVAL OF BILLS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
14. \*PROFESSIONAL & EDUCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
15. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Commissioner Loomis second by Commissioner Murphy to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Nick Loomis and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Absent: Pat Humphrey & Maegan Jenkins. Nays: None. *Motion Carried.* Meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

---

Bob Bonham, Mayor Pro Tem

---

Diane Lyon, City Clerk