

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: Pat Humphrey, Bob Bonham, Maegan Jenkins and Gus Murphy. Absent: Nick Loomis. Also, present: Jeremy Howard, City Manager; Dave Saad, Police Chief, Shannon Sirpilla, Treasurer; Luke Potter, DPW Director; Jim Chapman, Fire Chief; Dale Clark, Water/Wastewater Superintendent; City Attorneys Jaynie Hoerauf & Heather Nevill; 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, and Bills) that are considered to be routine by the City Commission. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Nick Loomis. *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. PURCHASE AND SALE OF FIRE EQUIPMENT-AIR COMPRESSORS

In May of 2022, the City Commission approved the submittal of a grant application to the USDA for the purchase of needed equipment (air compressor) for the Clare Fire Department. The City has been informed the City's grant request was not funded in the last round of grants. Consequently, the Fire Department began looking at other alternatives to replace the current air compressor system at the Fire Station. The Fire department has worked to facilitate the purchase of a used, but better air compressor for a heavily discounted rate from Municipal Emergency Services (MES) out of Sanford, MI. This equipment will be able to meet the increased needs and specs for the Fire Department including the ability to fill more bottles at the same time, at a faster speed and a higher psi as is needed by our new tanks. The Fire Department's current air compressor is still viable and well-taken care of and can be sold to another fire department or business for use. It is estimated that the sale of the old equipment will almost fully pay for the cost of the discounted equipment that we will be purchasing from MES.

The City Commission is asked to approve the purchase of the air compressor from MES for \$10,000, the installation cost of \$1,500, and authorize the sale of the old compressor when we find an entity to purchase the equipment. The Commission is also asked to approve any and all necessary budget amendments needed for the purchase and sale to be made by the Treasurer/Finance Director.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Jenkins to authorize the purchase and associated installation cost of an air compressor from MES for the fire department; the sale of the fire department's current air compressor; and all associated budget amendments by adoption of Resolution 2022-094. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Nick Loomis. *Motion Carried.*

B. APPROVE LIFT STATION #10 FLYGT PUMP REPAIR

The pump at Lift Station #10 recently experienced an issue with a Flygt pump seal that caused it to completely fail. The failed pump needs to be sent in for repair as the Waste Water staff are unable to repair the pump. Kennedy Industries is the only vendor in Michigan for the Flygt pump. They have provided us with a quote of \$11,500 for the repair. This cost is significantly less than the cost of a new pump (likely double or triple that cost). We have a relationship with Kennedy Industries as we have purchased several pumps from them over the past few years. Fortunately, we were able to replace the pump that failed with our spare pump. Once this pump is repaired it will then become the new spare.

The Wastewater Superintendent recommends that we utilize Kennedy Industries for the repair and I concur with his recommendation. We now ask the commission to approve the expenditure of funds for the repair of the pump and concurrently authorize the City Treasurer/Finance Director to make any and all necessary budget amendments related to the expense.

Motion by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Jenkins to approve the repair of the pump by Kennedy Industries and authorize the City Treasurer to make any and all necessary budget amendments by adoption of Resolution 2022-095. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Nick Loomis. *Motion Carried.*

C. APPROVE PRIVATE WELL REQUEST FOR 510 WEST DUNLOP ROAD

The City has received a request from Mr. Jim Paetschow (Red Hook Properties, LLC) to drill a private well at 510 West Dunlop Road for the purpose of obtaining water for household use and consumption. Section 46-312 of the Ordinance Codes of the City of Clare mandates that a permit must be issued/approved by the City Commission. At the time of this writing, the residence is without water due to issues with the city's current water line. A repair to the line would require boring under the county drain as well as beneath the railroad bed. DPW Director Luke Potter requested quotes to complete the boring. The cost to do so would run upwards of \$60,000. Due to the excessive cost to repair the city service; the fact that there is currently no water at the residence; the concerns of having cooperative weather to drill; and scheduling the well drilling, the city worked with the owner and the County Health Department to expedite the drilling of the well. We are now asking the City Commission to officially authorize and accept the permit for the private well request.

This address is in the region of the City's wellhead protection area; however, this parcel is one of three parcels on Dunlop Road that are specifically exempted in our ordinance.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Bonham to approve the private well request for 510 West Dunlop Road by adoption of Resolution 2022-096. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Nick Loomis. *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 hopefully wrapping up the project soon. The manholes have been lifted and the additional stormwater structure is being finalized at the corner by the Doherty. 90% of the barricades have been picked up and after that, the project can be completed.

4th Street Project. The project is underway on the complete reconstruction which includes curb and gutter and sidewalk as well as road surface and water service connections. The contractor got a late start on the project due to some delays in another municipality but they have committed to completing the project this fall.

Halloween Events. Hopefully, you were able to get out around town to see all the great events that were being hosted by local restaurants and businesses throughout the city. There was no shortage of things to do for both kids and adults. The weather cooperated beautifully and kids and parents were out in large numbers trick or treating Halloween night.

MML Conference. Mayor Humphrey, Mayor ProTem Bonham, DPW Director Luke Potter, and I all attended the Michigan Municipal League Convention October 19-21 in Muskegon, MI at the new Delta Hotels Muskegon Convention Center. This new venue was a great addition to the rotation of facilities that are large enough to host the convention. It was great to see and learn about all of the revitalization going on in and around Muskegon. The Community Excellence awards were a great part of the event and the winner, Village of Cassopolis, presented a truly transformational project that shows that you do not have to be a large community to be able to do large projects that are great additions to a community. The sessions were informational and timely as always and included information on legislative items being discussed, tours of businesses that are taking advantage of opportunities and entrepreneurial spirit, Public Safety issues and ideas, and shared the Leagues new "Pattern Book Homes" project which aims at making housing exciting and more available.

Watermain Breaks. The City recently had a few water main leaks/breaks. I want to congratulate the Water Department and the DPW for noticing issues at the plant and then DPW working late hours and even through the night to fix the issues. Breaks are an inevitable part of water infrastructure, but we have great employees that are capable of diagnosing and fixing the issues quickly and efficiently.

Verizon Cell Tower. I want to give you a quick update on the progress of the tower. More progress has been made on the site. The concrete anchor for the tower itself (6 feet in diameter and 32 feet deep) is quite impressive and the process to dig the hole and pour the concrete was interesting to see. I am now working with Southern Tower, the owner and company leasing the site from the City, to finalize documents and work with Consumers Energy to get power installed. Hopefully, this will happen in the next week or so, and then the tower itself can be installed after that is in place. I know everyone in the city is anxiously awaiting Verizon to turn on the tower and help the signal here in Clare. Pictures of the construction recently completed were provided.

Election. Friendly reminder to everyone to get out on Tuesday, November 8th from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the polls and vote or return your absentee ballot back to the Clerk's office by 8 p.m. election day. The Clerk's staff have been very busy preparing for and working with citizens for the upcoming November 8th election. As of the week before the election, over 425 absentee ballots. Approximately 70% of the ballots issued have been returned at this point. We expect election day to be busy as usual and are hopeful that citizens are calm, considerate, and respectful of one another so that there are no issues on election day. Thank you to the staff, volunteers, and workers for all of your hard work on the election process.

10. \*COMMUNICATIONS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
11. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: CMU Students Caroline Roberts & Owen Howard were present in the audience to observe the City Commission meeting.
12. COMMISSION DISCUSSION TOPICS:  
One block of 4<sup>th</sup> Street is currently under repair. The cost to repair this one block of 4<sup>th</sup> Street will cost in the neighborhood of \$190K. Mayor Humphrey recommended that city staff inform the residents of the great expense to repair this single block of a city street.
13. \*APPROVAL OF BILLS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
14. \*PROFESSIONAL & EDUCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
15. CLOSED SESSION – OMA, 15.268. SECTION 8.1.(H) – Attorney-Client Privileged Opinion.  
  
Motion by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Murphy to go into closed session at 6:17 p.m. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Nick Loomis. Motion Carried.  
  
Motion by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Murphy to go into open session at 7:02 p.m. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Nick Loomis. Motion Carried.
16. APPROVE CLOSED SESSION MINUTES  
Motion by Commissioner Jenkins second by Commissioner Murphy to approve the closed session minutes. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Nick Loomis. Motion Carried.
18. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Commissioner Loomis second by Commissioner Murphy to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Nick Loomis. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.