

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 Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Absent: None. Also, present: Jeremy Howard, City Manager; Shannon Sirpilla, City Treasurer; Diane Lyon, City Clerk; Dave Saad, Police Chief; John Lake, Police Captain; Joy Simmer, Parks & Recreation Director; Luke Potter, DPW Director; Jim Chapman, Fire Chief; Sam Eberhart, Asst. Fire Chief, and numerous members of the Clare Fire Department.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Commissioner Jenkins second by Commissioner Murphy to approve the items listed with an asterisk (*) (Agenda, Minutes, Department Reports, 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: None.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. RECOGNITION OF FIREFIGHTER MARV FARLEY-30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Firefighter Marvin Farley has faithfully served the residents of the City of Clare as a member of the Clare Fire Department for the past 30 years. The City Commission is asked to formally recognize Marv for his exemplary, faithful, courageous, and dedicated public service.

Motion by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Murphy to recognize Marv Farley for 30 years of service by the adoption of Resolution 2022-103. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.*

B. RECOGNITION OF DPW DIRECTOR LUKE POTTER-20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Luke Potter has completed 20 years of faithful, dedicated service to the City of Clare as a member of the City's Department of Public Works and as Supervisor of the department for the past 2.5 years. We ask that the City Commission recognize Luke for his extraordinarily outstanding service.

Motion by Commissioner Loomis second by Commissioner Jenkins to recognize Luke Potter for 20 years of service by the adoption of Resolution 2022-104. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.*

C. AUTHORIZATION TO CHANGE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE CITY'S BANK ACCOUNTS

The City has been banking with Chemical bank for decades. Over the last few years, the bank has changed to TCF and then to Huntington Bank. With these changes, the fees have dramatically increased, and the interest rates are not offsetting the costs like they once did. The City Treasurer met with Huntington Bank's municipal account representative to discuss lowering costs. Although the fees were lowered, they are still higher than expected. After reaching out to Isabella Bank and Mercantile Bank and completing a comparative analysis with Huntington Bank, it has been determined that changing banks would be in the taxpayer's best interest. Based on fees and interest rates offsetting those fees, the City would benefit most by moving to Mercantile Bank. We now ask the City Commission to authorize the City Treasurer to open accounts with Mercantile Bank, while gradually closing current accounts with Huntington Bank, and to authorize the City Treasurer as the authorized signatory to complete the transfer of

accounts and to approve the list of employees serving as account signatories for the new bank accounts at Mercantile Bank.

Motion by Commissioner Jenkins second by Commissioner Murphy to approve the closing of accounts with Huntington Bank and opening of accounts with Mercantile bank, to authorize the City Treasurer to make these changes as the designated authorized signatory on all accounts, and to approve the list of account signatories by adoption of Resolution 2022-105. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.*

D. AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT SPARK GRANT APPLICATIONS

The State of Michigan recently released information regarding a \$65 million grant program to help local communities create, renovate and redevelop public opportunities for residents and visitors. Administered by the DNR, Michigan Spark Grants will support projects that provide safe, accessible, public recreation facilities and spaces to improve people's health, introduce new recreation experiences, build on existing park infrastructure and make it easier for people to enjoy both indoor and outdoor recreation. This grant opportunity is possible because of the Building Michigan Together Plan, signed in March 2022, which included a historic infusion of federal funding for local parks. The grant applications the city will be submitting will be for two projects: The Clare Union Railroad Depot Trailhead Restroom Project and the Emerald Isle Recreation Complex Parking Lot Project.

Prior to the submittal of the grant application, the City Commission is required to allow for public comment as an agenda item on the projects and then authorize the submittal of the grant applications.

Public Comment: None.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Jenkins to approve the submittal of the SPARK grant applications by adoption of Resolutions 2022-106 and 2022-108. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, Nick Loomis, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: None. *Motion Carried.*

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

9. *DEPARTMENT REPORTS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*

10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Planning Commission Meeting / DDA Meeting. Both boards canceled their December meeting due to a lack of agenda items and difficulty obtaining quorum during the holiday time period. Both are scheduled for meetings in January. The Planning Commission will continue work on the Boat/Trailer/Camper Ordinance as well as revisions to the Marijuana ordinance.

Wayfinding Signs. DPW crews have completed the installation of new posts and wayfinding signs and they look great. They are a great addition to the City and downtown and we have already heard how well people like them.

Verizon Cell Tower. More progress has been made on the new cell tower site. The monopole is complete and the Verizon antennas have been attached. Consumers Energy has installed the new pole at the road and the lines have been trenched into the tower. Unfortunately, the short distance across the parking lot did not allow for directional drilling as we had originally been told so they had to open trench the power lines. The parking lot will be filled in with cold-patch for the winter. The asphalt will be replaced in the spring when the asphalt plants reopen. Hopefully, now that there is power, Verizon will soon activate the signal. Photos were provided showing the recent stages of work.

At the direction of the City Commission, the City Treasurer will check in to whether the cell provider rental rates can be increased as the contracts come due.

Match on Main Awards. Now that the City of Clare is RRC Certified we became eligible for Match on Main grant dollars. Earlier this fall, MMDC worked with several local

businesses in Clare to prepare grant applications. After rankings were completed, two business plans were submitted to MEDC for consideration in this round. One of those submissions, McEwan Street Fudge and Ice Cream Shop, was selected to be funded for the maximum grant amount of \$25,000 for work being completed for them to open up next year. This is very exciting for Clare. Hopefully, we will be able to submit additional grant applications in next year's funding round. The press release detailing the awards was provided to the Commission.

City of Clare Website. Several months ago, City staff partnered with a firm to redo the city's website and we are now getting close to launching the newly designed website.

Holiday Closures and Hours. Christmas and the New Year are just around the corner. As a reminder, City Hall hours will be as follows:

December 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd – 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

December 23rd - 26th – Closed

December 27th, 28th, 29th – 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

December 30th - Jan. 2nd – Closed.

11. *COMMUNICATIONS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
12. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: None.
13. COMMISSION DISCUSSION TOPICS: None.
14. *APPROVAL OF BILLS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
15. *PROFESSIONAL & EDUCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
16. ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Bonham 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 6:22 p.m.

Pat Humphrey, Mayor

Diane Lyon, City Clerk