

CITY MANAGER REPORT

TO: Mayor Pat Humphrey & Clare City Commission
FROM: Jeremy Howard, City Manager
DATE: February 1, 2024
RE: City Manager's Report

For the Agenda of February 5, 2024

Lake Shamrock Dredging and Dam Project. Mechanical dredging by the City is paused due to the ice forming in front of Shamrock Park and locking the barge in for the time being. We gained 6+ inches of ice in a matter of a week. As soon as we can we will resume. For the hydraulic dredging project, Savin is also paused because of the ice on the lake with their 2 hydraulic dredges. They were able to install the booster pump just before the storm that will help when they can start moving silt again hopefully after it warms up a little as predicted. The Dam feasibility study work is continuing and phase II of the DRRGP grant submission is on track for submission by the end of January.

Frost – Let Water Run Order. Just to give you an update, DPW recently checked the frost and it has only driven down 2 feet. Typically, we do not talk about placing a run water wording until we have 4 to 5 feet of frost. We will continue to monitor the levels and take appropriate action if necessary.

Ice Rink. The ice rink at the large pavilion at Shamrock Park opened for use on Friday, January 19th. The City was able to get water on the rink and the cold temperatures cooperated to freeze it solid for use. The swing of temperatures and weather from -5 and now up in the mid to upper 30s might make it difficult to stay frozen, so take advantage while you can! See attached flyer.

LCC Communication. Attached to this report is a letter from the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. There is no longer an approval necessary for simple transfers of licenses but the LCC does send the information in case the Local Governmental Unit should wish to submit an opinion on the application or advise of any local non-compliance issues. Staff and I have reviewed the transfer and have no issues or concerns with it at this time.

#DestinationClare. In case you missed it, MLive recently wrote an article entitled “3 Michigan cities to visit in 2024”. It is always nice to see Clare recognized for all that we have going on in and around the community. Check out the article attached to my report and online at <https://www.mlive.com/life/2024/01/3-michigan-cities-to-visit-in-2024.html>.

Planning Commission / City Commission Annual Joint Meeting: Reminder: The City Commission and Planning Commission will be holding their joint meeting to discuss the Planning Commission Annual Report for the previous year along with any other topics of interest on Wednesday, February 14th at 5:30 p.m. before the regular meeting of the Planning Commission at 6:30 p.m. We will hold the meeting at City Hall in the City Commission Chambers. I have attached the approved 2023 Planning Commission Annual Report for you to check out as a preview for the meeting.

Attachments:

1. Shamrock Park Ice Rink Flyer.
2. LCC Communication.
3. MLive Article – “3 Michigan cities to visit in 2024”.
4. 2023 Planning Commission Annual Report.



Shamrock Large Pavilion Ice Rink

Starting at 3 p.m. 1/19/2024

The Shamrock Large Pavilion Ice Rink will be open from 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. starting at 3 p.m. 1/19/2024 until weather no longer permits. This rink is open for recreational skating and is free and open to the public. Please be respectful of other skaters and pick up after yourselves.

Thank you - Clare Parks and Recreation



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

MARLON I. BROWN, DPA
ACTING DIRECTOR

Wednesday, January 24, 2024

Jeffrey J Klaus, Attorney
c/o KT INC
jj@klaus.law

RID # RQ-2312-17054 **Reference/Transaction:** Transfer Ownership 2023 Class C License issued under MCL 436.1521A(1)(B), non-transferable, minimum seating 25, and SDM License, with Catering Permit, Sunday Sales Permit (AM), Sunday Sales Permit (PM) for Class C License - Spirits and Mixed Spirit Drink, Dance-Entertainment Permit, and Outdoor Service (1 Area) from A MAXWELL MANAGED ORGANIZATION, INC.; Cancel existing Catering Permit at 601 N McEwan St, Clare, MI 48617-1439 in Clare City in Clare County

Please let this letter serve as notice the Michigan Liquor Control Commission has referred your application to our Enforcement Division for investigation of your request.

Applicant/Licensee: KT INC

Business address and phone number: 601 N McEwan St, Clare, MI 48617-1439 in Clare City in Clare County

Home address and phone number of partner(s)/subordinates:

Timothy Veenkant; 421 Orchard Ave Clare MI 48617; Cell: 989-400-6295
Kasey Veenkant; 421 Orchard Ave Clare MI 48617; Cell: 989-388-3518

As part of the licensing process, an investigation is required by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission Enforcement Division. The Enforcement investigation will be conducted from the following designated District Office:

Lansing District Office (517) 284-6330

You may contact your designated District Office regarding any appointments or questions on documentation requested by the Investigator. **Failure to provide requested information or to keep scheduled appointments will cause the application to be returned to the Lansing office for cancellation.**

Since this request is a transfer under MCL 436.1529(1), approval of the local unit of government is not required. However, a copy of this notice is also being provided to **Local Governmental Unit** should they wish to submit an opinion on the application or advise of any local non-compliance issues.

Under administrative rule R 436.1105, the Commission shall consider the opinions of the local residents, local legislative body, or local law enforcement agency with regard to the proposed business when determining whether an applicant may be issued a license or permit.

Under administrative rule R 436.1003, the licensee shall comply with all state and local building, plumbing, zoning, sanitation, and health laws, rules, and ordinances as determined by the state and local law enforcements officials who have jurisdiction over the licensee. The licensee must obtain all other required state and local licenses, permits, and approvals before using this license for the sale of alcoholic liquor. Approval of this license by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission does not waive any of these requirements.

MICHIGAN LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION
Retail Licensing Division
(866) 813-0011

cc: KT INC veenkant@yahoo.com
A MAXWELL MANAGED ORGANIZATION, INC. pondo48625@yahoo.com
CLARE CITY dlyon@cityofclare.org

MICHIGAN LIQUOR CONTROL COMMISSION
KRISTIN BELTZER, CHAIR
525 W. Allegan St. • P.O. BOX 30005 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909
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LIFE

3 Michigan cities to visit in 2024

Updated: Jan. 06, 2024, 8:42 a.m. | Published: Jan. 06, 2024, 8:00 a.m.



In this file photo, mist clears with the sunrise as an angler walks back to shore from the end of the boat launch dock at Stevenson Lake southwest of Clare. (Bernie Eng | MLive.com) Bernie Eng, The Saginaw News



By [Lindsay Moore](#) | lmoore@mlive.com

The secret is out that Michigan is a vacation destination. Criss cross the state to find city night life, sunsets on the beach, renowned vineyards and secluded natural beauty.

For 21 years David Lorenz, the vice president of Travel Michigan, brought these scenes to a national audience through the Pure Michigan campaign.

Related: After two decades promoting Pure Michigan, it's David Lorenz's turn to enjoy it.

Recently retired, Lorenz shared his top three underrated, hidden gems with MLive for those looking to uncover even more of Michigan's charm.

Clare

In the middle of the state, just an hour north of Lansing, sits Clare County. The small inland community of 3,200 people dubs itself "where the north begins."

Advertisement

Lorenz loves it for its quaint, unique features saying it reminds him of when he and his wife Roberta were newlyweds traveling on a tight budget.

"We would explore these little towns that were off the beaten path at any time of the year," he said. "These are the special places that really do surprise people and even still surprise me."

Within the city's three-square miles, you can get a beer at microbrewery Four Leaf Brewery or Lorenz's favorite, Whitehouse Restaurant, known for being open 24 hours, seven days a week since 1935.

The city of Clare, originally a lumbering town, looks for any reason to celebrate, hence it's "city of festivals" distinction.

The city is already counting down to its annual three-day Irish Festival over St. Patrick's Day weekend, March 14-17. The festival, in its 49th year, is known to draw a crowd of thousands to sing in karaoke contests, compete in an Irish recipe cookoff and battle for the cash prize in the annual Bed Race.

In neighboring Harrison, the town embraces winter with a golf tournament in February.

Aptly named the Frostbite Festival, a 9-hole course is played on a frozen inland lake with tennis balls. A sled building contest, inner tube race, polar dip, ice fishing tournament and a chili cookoff all take place from Feb. 8-10.

Clare is especially proud of its small businesses. The county website boasts there are “no busy malls or cold department stores” instead there are specialty stores, auctions and flea markets.

The Clare Antique Mall has 35 vendors year-round. In the spring and summer, Amish businesses throw two large quilt auctions, craft show and flea market events.

Sauk Trail

The Sauk Trail is an Indigenous trail originated by the Sauk or Sac tribe. Historians place the tribe’s early roots in Saginaw Bay with a history of migrating throughout the Great Lake region.

The Sauk Trail crosses Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. It’s now associated with Old US Highway 12 and the route that stretches from Chicago to Detroit.

The trail has a rich history spanning from the War of 1812 to Underground Railroad stops. Detroit’s River Rouge held significance for its massive ceremonial burying ground later called the Great Mound of River Rouge. Different historical accounts estimate the mounds were 200 to 800 feet long.

Along the trail in Lenawee County sits one of 12 historical sites distinguished by the Michigan History Center. The Walker Tavern Historic Site sits on the Cambridge Junction, a busy intersection of what is now US-12 and M-50, in Brooklyn, Michigan.

In the 1840s, the tavern was a popular rest stop for travelers looking for farmland to purchase, according to the Michigan History Center.

In 1922, the tavern went from a stagecoach stop to catering to new automobile travelers with an antiques shop, hotel, restaurant and museum. Henry and Clara Ford and Michigan Governor Woodbridge Ferris were known to vacation in the area.

In 1965, the tavern and the surrounding 80 acres were sold to the state. The state park now hosts concerts, summer camps, farmers markets and historical events, including art demonstrations honoring the Sauk Trail.

“When you take that route today, you can feel that history,” Lorenz said. “I love [seeing] 1800s storefronts and cool little towns along that way. I’m looking forward to exploring those areas from really a new set of eyes.”

Paradise

What’s in a name? In 1925, Edmund LeDuc was spot on when he named the Lake Superior community on the edge of the Upper Peninsula, Paradise.

LeDuc purchased the land after a large forest fire ended its 40-year logging history. The sandy, acidic soil nurtured crops of blueberries or “blue gold.” The community still celebrates this unexpected pivot at the annual Wild Blueberry Festival during the third weekend of August.

Paradise is known for all four seasons – kayaking in the summer, [colorful hiking trails in the fall](#), snowmobiling in the winter and fishing in the spring.

Surrounded by natural beauty, Tahquamenon Falls State Park is to the west and the National Hiawatha Forest to the south, it is truly an outdoorsmen’s paradise.

For history buffs, the Great Lakes Shipwreck Museum has hundreds of years of stories to tell of the Lake Superior Shipwreck Coast. Located at Michigan’s Whitefish Point Light-Station, visitors learn about the 200 shipwrecks surrounding the museum.

Spend the day touring the restored 1861 Lightkeeper's Quarters, the 1923 Lifeboat Station Surfboat House, Motor Lifeboat House and the Navy Radio building. The bell of the [famous steamer Edmund Fitzgerald](#) is also on display alongside a memorial to the crew.

MICHIGAN LAKESHORE TRAVEL STORIES

Cardboard sled races, snow angel competitions and more at Grand Haven's Winterfest

Zehnder's Snowfest 2024 starts Wednesday. See the events schedule.

These groomed winter sports trails hug lakes near Grand Rapids

Your guide to Zehnder's Snowfest 2024, a 'winter wonderland' in Frankenmuth

Drone video captures iconic Lake Michigan lighthouses covered in ice

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MLive.com

2023 Annual Report
City of Clare Planning Commission
January 10, 2024
Encompassing the Period January to December 2023

Purpose. The Michigan Planning Act of 2008 mandates the submittal of an annual report of the municipal Planning Commission to the legislative body of the municipality regarding the operations and status of planning activities, including recommendations to the legislative body related to municipal planning and development.

Period of Report. This report is inclusive of actions of the City of Clare Planning Commission during the period January 1, 2023, to December 31, 2023.

General. The City of Clare Planning Commission consists of nine members appointed by the Mayor of the City of Clare with the approval of the majority of the Clare City Commission. Six of the nine members are required to be qualified electors of the City; the other three members are not required to be qualified electors. The current composition of the Clare Planning Commission is eight qualified electors of the City and one non-resident Clare business owner; the current slate of commissioners is attached to this report. The Planning Commission elects its chairperson and vice chairperson annually. The current chair is Commissioner Jason Lowe. Commissioner Josh Clark serves in the position of vice chair. The Planning Commission Chair concurrently serves as a representative on the Clare Zoning Board of Appeals. The commission is scheduled to meet once monthly on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Clare City Hall. Special meetings may be called by the commission chairperson, the city manager, or the city clerk. All meetings are required to be open to the public. The City of Clare Planning Commission met on nine (9) occasions during the period of this report. The City Commission and Planning Commission will conduct the required annual combined meeting at the beginning of 2024 to review the Planning Commission’s 2023 Annual Report to the City Commission and discuss other topics of mutual interest.

Public Engagement, Primary Accomplishments, and Notable Activities.

- A. **Ordinance Amendments.** Public engagement announcements were made for the City Planning Commission to hold public hearings for the following Ordinance Amendments. The Planning Commission accepted public comments and then considered and made recommendations regarding the two (2) following ordinance amendments.
1. **Ordinance 2023-001 - Zoning, Chapter 27 – Licensing of Marijuana Facilities.** Provides language to allow marijuana facility license renewals and transfers to be approved by City administration.
 2. **Ordinance 2023-002 - Chapter 52 – Vehicle Storage and Parking.** This Ordinance established parking restriction regulations on recreational vehicles and trailers.
- B. **Site Plans, Façade Changes, & Special Use Permits.** The Planning Commission conducted public hearings for and approved 8 (8) site plans, three (3) Façade Improvement Plans, and one (1) Special Use Permit.
1. **Michigan Pure Green LLC Site Plan & Special Use.** The Planning Commission approved a new adult-use processing license for Michigan Pure Green, LLC, at 690 Industrial Drive.

2. *Bolle Contracting Site Plan.* The Planning Commission approved the construction of a 12 x 48 addition to an airport hangar on Lot 203 at the Clare Municipal Airport.
 3. *ALDI Store Site Plan.* The Planning Commission approved the proposed new construction of a 20,664 square-foot ALDI grocery store on South Clare Avenue, contingent upon the completion of a District II Transfer of Property from Grant Township to the City of Clare. *Note: A District II Transfer of property is complete and construction of the store should start this spring.*
 4. *American Marble & Granite Site Plan and Façade Improvement.* The Planning Commission approved a façade improvement for American Marble & Granite at 203 N. Mc Ewan Street.
 5. *Bishop Automotive Site Plan and Façade Improvement.* The Planning Commission approved a 1,687-square-foot addition and façade improvement for Bishop Automotive at 821 East Fifth Street.
 6. *City of Clare Water Improvements Site Plan.* The Planning Commission approved the construction of a well-house at Emerald Isle Complex for city water infrastructure improvements.
 7. *Bishop Automotive Site Plan.* The Planning Commission approved a 5,100-square-foot service bay addition for Bishop Automotive at 821 East Fifth Street.
 8. *Clarendon Glen Apartments Site Plan and Façade Improvement.* The Planning Commission approved the site plan façade improvement for Clarendon Glen Apartments at 220 Mary Street.
- C. *Redevelopment Ready Communities.* The Planning Commission continued working on items related to our Redevelopment Ready Community status. The City of Clare continues to have Redevelopment Ready Community Essentials status which has opened up additional funding opportunities and grants for local businesses. Since becoming RRCE certified, Match on Main grants are available to businesses in the DDA District. Grants have been awarded to McEwan Street Fudge and Ice Cream Shop. Back Alley Pizza, Sweet Louise, and Wildflower and Wren were able to receive funds as part of the latest Downtown Clare Pitch Competition.
- D. *Review of Proposed Capital Projects.* The Planning Act requires that the Planning Commission review all public capital projects recommended for construction or implementation within the City’s geographical boundaries. The Planning Commission conducted a preliminary review of all proposed capital projects for the City’s 2022/2023 fiscal year before submittal to the City Commission in conjunction with the City’s budget approval process and determined that the projects appear to support the goals and objectives outlined in the Comprehensive Master Plan of the City.

Professional Development & Budgetary Considerations. The Planning Commission’s professional development budget was used to further the education and knowledge of Planning Commission members at various training events and educational classes. The budget for 2023/2024 allocated for continued education should be increased to keep up with the rising costs of memberships, educational publications, training, and travel. The City’s funding for public capital projects appears to be adequate.

Recommendations/Other Comments. The Clare City Commission and the City's Planning Commission are tentatively scheduled to conduct an annual joint meeting in conjunction with one of the City's scheduled Planning Commission meetings in early 2024 to discuss items of mutual importance and to review general philosophy, vision, and objectives for the City. The Planning Commission continues to view this annual meeting to be of significant importance and strongly recommends that these annual meetings continue.

Attachment. Planning Commission Member Slate.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jason Lowe
Chairperson, City of Clare Planning Commission

2023 PLANNING COMMISSION: Nine members appointed by Mayor, approved by Commission – Act 285, Section 125.33 of 1931. Article IV-Boards and Commissions, Section 52-1 thru 52-11. Members representative of various community interests. 3-year terms. Board meets 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Glenda Carmoney

Term expires: 10/01/26

Josh Clark-Vice Chairman

Term expires: 04/04/24

Angie Cozat

Term Expires: 10/01/26

Ken Hibl

Term expires: 01/15/26

Jason Lowe - Chairman

Term expires: 09/17/26

Elaine Demasi

Term expires: 02/21/25

Brett Moser

Term expires: 02/21/25

Stacy Pechacek

Term expires: 05/15/25

Nick Wyman

Term expires: 02/14/24