

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, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Absent: Kim Bussell. Also, present: Jeremy Howard, City Manager; Diane Lyon, City Clerk; Vicki Corlew, City Treasurer; Dale Clark, Director of Water Treatment; Police Captain Lake; and Dave Saad, Police Chief.

2. CONSENT AGENDA:

Moved by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Murphy to approve the items listed with an asterisk (*), (Amended Agenda, Minutes, Communications, Professional Development, Board & Committee Appointments, and Bills) that are considered routine by the City Commission. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Kim Bussell. *Motion Carried.*

3. *APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Approved by Consent Agenda.

4. *APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Approved by Consent Agenda.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT: Carol Santini provided an update on Destination Clare and other Clare County Arts Council activities and events.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. **ELECTION OF MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE PROPERTY & LIABILITY POOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The City of Clare is a member of the Michigan Municipal League's (MML) Liability & Property Pool. The Board of Directors of the Pool is elected from membership of the Pool. The City has been informed that two Board members are up for reelection this year. The City Commission is asked to cast its ballot to fill these positions by voting for the two incumbents designated on the ballot or cast a for write-in candidates.

Motion by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Murphy to direct the City Clerk to cast the City Commission's vote for the two incumbents by adoption of Resolutions 2024-074. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Kim Bussell. *Motion Carried.*

B. **APPROVE CHARITABLE GAMING LICENSE FOR THE CLARE WRESTLING CLUB**

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 Jenkins second by Commissioner Murphy to approve the State Gaming License by adoption of Resolutions 2024-075. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Kim Bussell. *Motion Carried.*

C. **AMEND THE CHERRY GROVE CEMETERY RULES & REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE REGULATIONS ON PERSONAL MAUSOLEUMS**

The city has been approached by two separate individuals about placing personal mausoleums in Cherry Grove Cemetery to allow the full sealed above ground burial of caskets and cremains. The Cherry Grove Cemetery Board has recommended an amendment to the City's current rules and regulations to include specific regulations pertaining to the sale of the of these personal mausoleums including where in the cemetery they can be placed, the number of grave sites required to be purchased based on the size, and the actual size of the mausoleum. The mausoleum company would be responsible for both the foundation and the open/close of the mausoleum. The City Commission is asked to approve the proposed amendment.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Jenkins to an amendment to the Cherry Grove Cemetery Rules and Regulations by adoption of Resolutions 2024-076. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Kim Bussell. *Motion Carried.*

D. APPROVAL FOR A LETTER OF SUPPORT AND TRAFFIC CONTROL ORDER TCO002-2024 FOR A TEMPORARY ISLAND AT MCEWAN AND WHEATON

representatives from the Traffic Safety Committee (TSC), Clare Public Schools (CPS), the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the Clare PD, and other city staff met on September 17th to discuss ongoing safety concerns surrounding the school crossing at the intersection of Wheaton Ave. and McEwan Street.

Even with the addition of increased patrols and stops, enhanced lighting, added safety equipment, and signage, there continues to be a significant number of close calls between vehicles and pedestrians due to the high traffic volume and heightened activity in that area during the school year and school day.

MDOT Representative Jack Hofweber proposed the installation of a temporary center island on McEwan Street at the intersection of Wheaton Avenue and requested a resolution and letter of support from the city, and a letter of support from Clare Public Schools to install the temporary island. The temporary island would be installed by MDOT. The Traffic & Safety Committee and MDOT would review the effectiveness of the island in one year and determine if the intersection warrants installing a permanent island when funds become available.

The City Commission is now asked to approve the associated TCO and letter of support from the City Manager to the State, supporting the installation of the temporary island.

Motion by Commissioner Bonham second by Commissioner Murphy to authorize and approve a letter of support for the temporary island by adoption of Resolutions 2024-077. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Kim Bussell. *Motion Carried.*

E. MEETING EXCUSAL-COMMISSIONER KIM BUSSELL

The City Charter stipulates "...that if a commissioner shall miss five consecutive regular meetings of the commission or twenty-five percent or more of such meetings in any fiscal year of the city, unless such absence shall be excused by the commission and the reason therefore entered in the proceedings, his office shall become vacant."

The Commission revised its bylaws regarding meeting excusal in early 2019, thereby significantly narrowing the reasons for excusal from scheduled meetings but nonetheless allowing for such excusal as an exception - generally for hardship or illness. Commissioner Kim Bussell announced at the September 16th meeting that she has a conflicting employment obligation that requires her to travel out of the area on October 7, thus she will miss the City Commission meeting. The Commission is asked to determine whether the reason for Commissioner Bussell's absence for tonight's meeting is considered "exceptional" and if so, grant an excusal.

Motion by Commissioner Murphy second by Commissioner Humphrey to excuse Commissioner Bussell by adoption of Resolutions 2024-078. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioner Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, and Maegan Jenkins. Absent: Kim Bussell. *Motion Defeated.*

F. *BOARD & COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENT-AMY STARK, ZBA

**Approved By Consent Agenda.*

G. *BOARD & COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT-LORI FASSETT, DDA

**Approved By Consent Agenda.*

H. AMEND THE CHERRY GROVE CEMETERY RULES & REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE REGULATIONS ON PERSONAL MAUSOLEUMS

The Drum Screen used in the treatment process at the Wastewater Plant recently developed an unrepairable hole and failed. The screen now needs to be replaced. Solberg Knowles & Associates (SKA) is the only vendor that supplies the screen and components necessary to do the replacement of the drum screen which necessitates a sole source purchase from the vendor. SKA has provided a quote of \$11,951 for the parts needed to complete the replacement to get the drum screen working again at the plant.

The commission is asked to approve the expenditure of funds for the replacement of the drum screen and 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 Murphy to an amendment to the Cherry Grove Cemetery Rules and Regulations by adoption of Resolutions 2024-076. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Kim Bussell. *Motion Carried.*

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

DDA Meeting. The DDA held a meeting on September 12th. They had several items and discussion topics on their agenda including bike racks and signs for the bike racks; purchase 25 Cleveland Pear trees to replace the existing trees in the Downtown on McEwan Street; Approve a \$5,000 expenditure from the DDA to the Chamber of Commerce for expenditures related to next year's 50th annual Irish Festival; Approve a Holiday Decoration contract with Hometown Decoration and Display for downtown Christmas decorations; DDA boundary expansion discussion; Approve meeting excusals, minutes, financials, and payment of bills. Tom Koch, announced his resignation from the DDA.

Lake Shamrock Dredging and Dam Project. Mechanical and hydraulic dredging continue with good progress. Mechanical dredging by the city is still operating 10 hours a day Monday through Thursday each week. Hydraulic dredging by Savin Lake Services is now operating Monday through Friday 24 hours a day most days and has also started doing some alternate day and night shifts on the weekends as well. They are still working north and west of Barnes Island and once that is complete, they will be moving to the West finger of the lake. Recently Luke Potter and I were able to get out on a boat with the owner of Savin and some of the crew to see progress up close and to discuss the next few months planning to wrap up the project. EGLE is still reviewing the permit for the East finger and area on the East end of the lake by the dam. EGLE has everything from the city and the contractor needed for the approval; we are just waiting for them to finish their review and finalize the permit. We have no new news on the second grant that we were awarded on the dam project. Our engineering firm is working on the next design phase for the dam with the grant funds approved at the last meeting.

Rail Trail. The project is pretty much complete, barring a couple punch list items. Bridge railings have been placed, and the paving has been completed. MDOT and the city are planning to have a ribbon cutting and official trail opening celebration on October 23, 2024, at 3:00 p.m..
11. *COMMUNICATIONS: *Approved by Consent Agenda.*
12. EXTENDED PUBLIC COMMENT: Roger Zalenski of 678 Point Drive had questions regarding Shamrock Lake and dredging of the Lake. Mr. Zalenski was encouraged to make an appointment with the City Manager so that he could get answers to his questions.
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 seconded by Commissioner Bonham to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote: Yeas: Commissioners Bob Bonham, Pat Humphrey, Maegan Jenkins, and Carolyn (Gus) Murphy. Nays: None. Absent: Kim Bussell. *Motion Carried.* The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.