

A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held Tuesday, September 5, 2017.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Trobeck at 7:00 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Nick Breedveld, Tom Gilmer and Stacey Withee. Absent: None. Also present: City Manager Beard; Fire Chief Weber; Finance Director Storbeck; WWTP Superintendent Keyzer; DPW Supervisor Bosch; and Police Chief Konkle.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Regular Meeting Minutes of August 21, 2017, were approved as submitted.

I. PRESENTATIONS:

A. PRESENTATION TO THAD BEARD FROM REPRESENTATIVE WHITEFORD AND SENATOR SCHUITMAKER

Senator Schuitmaker and Representative Whiteford read and presented Manager Beard with a Tribute on behalf of the State of Michigan, for his services as the City Manager of the City of Otsego for seventeen years. They both thanked him and stated that they would miss working with him.

B. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE REPRESENTATIVE WHITEFORD

Representative Whiteford gave a legislative update and reviewed the issues she is currently working on.

C. INTRODUCTION OF MAIN STREET MANAGER – JOEL SAUKAS

Manager Beard introduced the new Main Street Manager, Joel Saukas. Main Street Manager Saukas stated that he has had a great few weeks in Otsego. He commented that everyone he has met, has been very nice.

D. SWEARING IN OF GORDON KONKLE, MATTHEW STORBECK AND ANGELA CRONEN AS INTERIM CITY MANAGERS – BY MAYOR TROBECK

Mayor Trobeck swore in Gordon Konkle, Matthew Storbeck, and Angela Cronen as the Interim City Managers.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

IV. ORDINANCES:

V. REQUESTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF VARIOUS REQUESTS FROM THE OTSEGO-PLAINWELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

Commissioner Breedveld moved to grant the various requests from the Otsego-Plainwell Chamber of Commerce for the Creative Arts Festival on September 30, 2017, seconded by Commissioner Gilmer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VI. AGREEMENTS:

- A. CONSIDERATION OF LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE OTSEGO-PLAINWELL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FOR THE USE OF VARIOUS CITY STREETS, SIDEWALKS & CERTAIN OTHER PROPERTIES FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2017

Commissioner Withee moved to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a License Agreement with the Otsego-Plainwell Chamber of Commerce for the use of various City Streets, Sidewalks and certain other properties for the Creative Arts Festival on September 30, 2017, as presented, seconded by Commissioner Gilmer. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- B. CONSIDERATION OF A PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH DOUG DOMMERT REVOCABLE TRUST FOR CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY

Manager Beard explained that the property in question is the recently acquired property along the river that currently has restrictions on it from the EPA. He stated that the Purchase Agreement calls out a recreational easement for the extension of the Riverfront Trail. A brief conversation took place regarding the means of payment from Mr. Dommert. Manager Beard stated that the City's attorney will be assisting with the sale and the liquidation of the stocks for the purchase. Commissioner Breedveld also requested that the language for the easement be recorded on the deed. Commissioner Gilmer moved to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into a Purchase Agreement with Doug Dommert Revocable Trust for certain real property, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- C. CONSIDERATION OF A MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES WITH COUNTY OF ALLEGAN; CITY OF ALLEGAN; CITY OF HOLLAND; MATCH-E-BE-NASH-SHE-WISH BAND OF POTTAWATOMI INDIANS - GUN LAKE TRIBE; CITY OF PLAINWELL; CITY OF SOUTH HAVEN; CITY OF WAYLAND; VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS; CITY OF SAUGATUCK; AND VILLAGE OF HOPKINS – POLICE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Gilmer moved to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to enter into an agreement for mutual aid for emergency services with County of Allegan; City of Allegan; City of Holland; Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians – Gun Lake Tribe; City of Plainwell; City of South Haven; City of Wayland; Village of Douglas; City of Saugatuck; and Village of Hopkins; Police Departments, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

- A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2017-31 – A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION – RYAN WIEBER

Commissioner Withee offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Gilmer.

CITY OF OTSEGO
ALLEGAN COUNTY MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-31

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION – RYAN WIEBER

WHEREAS, Ryan Wieber was sworn in as a City Commissioner on May 20, 2013, with the City of Otsego; and

WHEREAS, Ryan Wieber has faithfully served the City of Otsego from May 20, 2013 to August 21, 2017; and

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2017, Ryan Wieber attended his last meeting as City Commissioner for the Otsego City Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Otsego, as an expression of thanks on behalf of the citizens of this City, commend Ryan Wieber for his loyal service to the City of Otsego.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution is spread in full on the minutes of the September 5, 2017, meeting of the Otsego City Commission and a copy of this resolution be presented to Mr. Wieber.

YEAS: Commissioners: Cyndi Trobeck, Tom Gilmer, Stacey Withee, Nick Breedveld

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

B. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2017-32 - A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION & KEY TO CITY - THAD BEARD

Commissioner Gilmer offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Withee.

**CITY OF OTSEGO
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION NO. 2017-32**

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION & KEY TO CITY - THAD BEARD

WHEREAS, Thad Beard was hired by the Otsego City Commission as the City Manager; and

WHEREAS, Thad Beard has faithfully served the City of Otsego as the City Manager for the past seventeen years; and

WHEREAS, Thad Beard has been a valuable asset to the Citizens of the City of Otsego, the Otsego City Commission and to the City of Otsego; and

WHEREAS, he has participated in many community endeavors including International City Managers Association, Michigan Municipal Executive Association, Southwest Michigan City Manager's Association, Allegan General Hospital Foundation Board, Ambulance Board, Junior Achievement, Creative Arts Festival, Gus Macker, Main Street Organizational Committee, and the Otsego Rotary; and

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in the development of the Main Street Program, beautification of the downtown, many road and sidewalk improvements; implementation of employee activities; and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2017, Thad Beard attended his last meeting as City Manager for the City of Otsego; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Commission of the City of Otsego, as an expression of thanks on behalf of the citizens of this City, commend Thad Beard for his loyal and extraordinary service to the City of Otsego; and we wish him well on his next endeavor as the City Manager of Rockford, Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be spread in full on the minutes of the September 5, 2017, meeting of the Otsego City Commission and a copy of this resolution and a Key to the City be presented to Mr. Beard.

YEAS: Commissioners: Cyndi Trobeck, Tom Gilmer, Stacey Withee, Nick Breedveld

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER GILMER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

Commissioner Withee moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Commissioner Gilmer to the Planning Commission, seconded by Commissioner Breedveld. CARRIED – Commissioner Gilmer –abstained.

B. CONSIDERATION OF THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONER BREEDVELD TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT COMMITTEE

Commissioner Withee moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment of Commissioner Breedveld to the Fire Department Committee, seconded by Commissioner Gilmer. CARRIED. Commissioner Breedveld – abstained.

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Manager Beard gave an update on the following: John Street and Farmer Street update.
2. Manager Beard thanked the Commission and former Commissioner Wieber for all of their guidance and support.
3. Manager Beard asked the Commission if they had any questions regarding his Manager's Report and answered questions at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Walter Lopez – he thanked Manager Beard for all that he has done for the City. The also stated that he really appreciates the Commission and all of the work they do. Manger Beard thanked Mr. Lopez.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Commissioner Breedveld – he wished Manager Beard and his family the very best. He stated that he was on the Commission when he was hired, “we were both green, and now we are older and wiser”. He commented that Manager Beard has done a lot for the City and he wishes him the best in his new endeavors. He asked if the Commission could meet with the Department Heads before the search for the new City Manager begins. He commented that Gus Macker brings a lot of people to town. He commented that Hardings and the local restaurants were very busy. He commented that he would like to see a report on Steins and Vines and Gus Macker.

Commissioner Gilmer—he stated that former City Clerk, Jane Tice passed away and her services are Thursday at 11 am. He described Jane as a legend in the Otsego Community and a mentor to many. He commented that she was so competent that she could have been the City Manager, but she chose to mentor new City Managers and her daughter as the next City Clerk. He stated that Jane was also a member of the Board of Review for many years. He stated that she was a progressive person and always looked towards the future, and never looked back. He commented that he believes that the City is in competent hands with the three department heads, but they have a large job to fill. He stated that the MML will do an excellent job with the City Manager hiring process. He stated that Manager Beard left us in a position that candidates will want to apply because of Manager Beard. He commented that Manager Beard knows how he feels.

Commissioner Withee – she thanked the City Staff and all of the volunteers for Gus Macker. She commented that she looks forward to continuing hosting the Gus Macker, as it is very positive for our city. She stated that she can’t thank Manager Beard enough for all he has done and how helpful he has been.

Mayor Trobeck – she welcomed Joel Saukas, Main Street Manager and Geoff Parker, Otsego-Plainwell Chamber Director. She stated that it is sad that Commissioner Ryan Wieber and former Commissioner Molly Wieber will be leaving our community. She thanked Senator Schuitmaker and Representative Whiteford for the Tribute to Manager Beard. She commented that she is really going to miss Tracy Beard and Manager Beard. She stated that she believes there is a plan for all of us and make a difference, it may be sad for a lot of us that Manager Beard is leaving, but a lot of people are going to be blessed.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Commissioner Gilmer, seconded by Commissioner Withee. CARRIED – 7:50 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk