

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Commission held Monday, May 22, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Commission Room, 320 W. Broadway St., Mt. Pleasant, Michigan with virtual options.

Mayor Perschbacher called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Land Acknowledgement statement was recited.

Commissioners Present: Mayor Amy Perschbacher and Vice Mayor Mary Alsager; Commissioners Brian Assmann, Liz Busch, Bryan Chapman, Maureen Eke & Boomer Wingard

Commissioners Absent: None

Others Present: City Manager Aaron Desentz and City Clerk Heather Bouck

Proclamations and Presentations

Public Safety Director Paul Lauria introduced and swore in Mt. Pleasant Police Officer Cameron Smith.

Director William Mrdeza introduced Parks and Recreation Director Phil Biscorner.

Mayor Perschbacher read and presented a Proclamation recognizing Gun Violence Awareness Day "June 2, 2023" to Theresa Turner and Glenn Lewandos of MOMS Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

Planning and Community Development Director Manuela Powidayko presented the 2022 Community Improvement Awards to the selected property owners. Keiragh and Tierney Thompson were acknowledged for their photographs of the award winning properties.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Property Owner</u>
Commercial	214 N. Franklin	Jib Bob Restaurant (Jung, LLC)
Residential	502 S. University	Ken Williams

Moved by Commissioner Eke and seconded by Commissioner Busch to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Receipt of Petitions and Communications

Received the following petitions and communications:

5. Parks and Recreation Commission February Meeting Minutes.

Moved by Commissioner Eke and seconded by Commissioner Wingard to approve the following items on the Consent Calendar:

6. Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Commission held May 8, 2023.

7. Appoint Lisa Way, Office Professional II as the Employee Delegate and the newly appointed City Treasurer to attend as the Officer Delegate to represent the City at the Annual MERS Conference.
 8. Confirm appointment of Christine Witmer as City Treasurer and Christopher Saladine, Assistant Finance Director as Deputy Treasurer.
 9. Amendment to contract for bond counsel and municipal financial advising services with Dickinson Wright for an additional \$21,250 and a revised contract with Bendzinski & Co. for an additional \$4,775.
 10. Contract with Pro Surfaces of Harrison, Michigan in the amount of \$24,450 as well as a budget amendment for the conversion of the existing tennis courts at Horizon Park to four Pickle Ball courts.
 11. Contract with Grand River Construction of Hudsonville, Michigan in the amount of \$497,044.48 for the replacement of the M-20 Pedestrian Bridge.
 12. Payrolls and Warrants dated May 5 and 17, 2023 all totaling \$932,718.07.
- Motion unanimously adopted.

A public hearing was held to receive public comment on the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) final project plan for Water Treatment Plant improvements and designate an authorized project representative.

Brian Van Zee with Fishbeck provided a presentation on the project. Tom Armstrong, 604 S. Kinney Ave., spoke in favor of the plan and feels that the infrastructure from 1992/1993 needs to be maintained properly.

There being no additional public comments or communications received, the Mayor closed the hearing.

Moved by Commissioner Eke and seconded by Commissioner Busch to adopt the following Resolution for inclusion in the DWSRF program application.

WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Pleasant recognizes the need to make additional improvements to its existing water treatment systems; and

WHEREAS, said Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Project Plan was presented at a Public Hearing as part of a regularly scheduled City Commission meeting that was held on May 22, 2023, and all public comments have been considered and addressed; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Pleasant formally adopted and agreed to implement said Final Project Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mt. Pleasant has been notified of available DWSRF funds for these improvements;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Manager of the City of Mt. Pleasant, a position currently held by Aaron Desentz, and the Deputy Public Works Director, a position currently held by Tim Middleton, are designated to sign Project Plan documents as the authorized representatives for activities associated with the improvements referenced above.
Motion unanimously adopted.

A public hearing was held on proposed amendment to Chapter 39: Human Rights of the Mt. Pleasant Code of Ordinances.

Tom Armstrong, 604 S. Kinney Ave., supports the amendment and hopes the Commission adopts the change. David Sickelka, 301 E. High St., spoke in favor of the amendment and wishes for stronger support in the future. Ross Rapaport, 1413 Crosslanes, expressed his pride in the City of this action.

There being no additional public comments or communications received, the Mayor closed the hearing.

Moved by Commissioner Eke and seconded by Commissioner Busch that Ordinance 1088, an Ordinance to amend Chapter 39: Human Rights of the City of Mt. Pleasant Code of Ordinances to match compliance with the changes in State law regarding gender expression and religious freedoms having been introduced and read, now be passed, ordained and ordered published.

AYES: Commissioners Alsager, Assmann, Busch, Chapman, Eke, Perschbacher & Wingard

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Motion unanimously adopted.

A public hearing was held on the proposed 2024-2029 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). There being no public comments or communications, the Mayor closed the public hearing. No action required at this time.

Announcements on City-Related Issues and New Business

Commissioner Busch congratulated the Class of 2023 and commented that the new signs at Deerfield Nature Park are a great resource.

Vice Mayor Alsager announced the Walk 50 Farmers Market Challenge and the Parks & Recreation Beat the Heat events on Wednesdays 6-8 beginning June 7 and running through August 9, 2023 from 6 – 8 p.m.

Commissioner Wingard announced that the City Community Garden enrollment is open. 13 applications have been received for the 15 available spaces. Registration ends June 1st. There will be a lottery drawing if more applicants than spaces.

Commissioner Eke announced that the International Relations Committee is working to have a group visit Okaya, Japan. Applications have been screened and the process is moving forward to have a visit later this summer.

Commissioner Chapman announced that the United Way has offered to match fundraising for Clothing, Inc. for an amount up to \$15,000. Text 91999 to donate.

Public Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items

Douglas Collins, 413 Winchester Towers, requested the City Commission remove the scooters from the City due to hazardous conditions the scooters pose for individuals with disabilities.

Dave Sickelka, 301 E. High St., expressed his concern for the upcoming discussion on sidewalk snow removal and feels the City's efforts are neither effective nor timely.

Amanda Garrison, 403 S. Washington St., expressed her concern over the vehicular speed of drivers on Washington Street.

The Commission recessed at 8:23 p.m. and went into a work session at 8:33 p.m.

WORK SESSION -Discussion on Sidewalk Snow Removal.

Public Works Director Jason Moore led a discussion on sidewalk snow removal.

Moved by Commissioner Eke and seconded by Commissioner Busch to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. Motion unanimously adopted.

Amy Perschbacher, Mayor

Heather Bouck, City Clerk