

City of Carson City
Council Meeting Minutes
September 17, 2024
652 Williams Street
Carson City, Michigan 48811

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present at roll call: Gage, Hauck, Keiffer, McCrackin, Miller, Parmenter and Kapustka.
Members Absent: None.

Others in attendance: Joni Jegla, Mark Crawfis, Nate Plath, Larry Sparkes, Chris Johnston, Autumn Schollaert, Nan Hagerman, Jeff Carrow, Kris Baker, Sue Riker, Sue Lowe, Darlene Barnes, Elisabeth Waldon, and Missy Baker.

Moved by Gage, supported by Keiffer to approve the agenda as Presented with the addition of introducing the Reserve Officers. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

Moved by Parmenter, supported by Miller to approve Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Chief Sparkes introduced the 3 of the City's Reserve Officers – Autum, Kris and Jeff and they each told the audience a bit about themselves.

Attorneys Dave Eberle, Toby Koenig and Ashleigh from Bloom & Sluggett law firm gave their presentation. After Bloom & Sluggett's presentation, there was a short break. Bloom & Sluggett employees left. Reserve Officer Kris Baker & Missy Baker left.

Fahey, Schultz, Burzych Rhodes Law firm entered at 6:22pm to give their presentation. Attorney Chris Patterson and Attorney Jake Witte were present. Chris and Jake left at 6:44pm.

Motion by Miller, supported by Keiffer to approve the proposal from Spicer Engineers to complete the necessary work for the CDSMI project that is due to EGLE on October 16, 2024, for a cost not to exceed \$7800.00. Motion carried

Motion by Parmenter, supported by Miller to give \$1.00 per hour raise to our current part-time employees, with retro pay back to their 90-day probation period ending, and to approve the proposed policy for part time employees as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Gage, supported by Keiffer appoint Bloom & Sluggett as the City's new lawyer firm. Motion carried.

Motion by Miller, supported by Gage to set Halloween hours on Thursday, October 31st from 5:00pm – 7:00pm. Motion carried.

Motion by Hauck, supported by Keiffer to close Pine St. between 1st St and Division St on Saturday, Oct 19th for the annual St. Mary's Church Craft Show. Motion carried.

Motion by Hauck, supported by Keiffer to spend up to \$10,000.00 to upgrade sewer plant electric to support the old generator. Motion carried.

Nate updated the council on the future replacement of water/sewer meters. We have many meters that need to be manually read. We've had to replace many of them and the new replacements do not work with our current software. These meters are 13-14 years old, and we spend many manpower hours doing manual reads. The city has budgeted to upgrade the Commercial and Monthly water meters for '24- '25. Nate would like to go with a cellular meter system through Badger. With no objections brought forth from the council, it was with unanimous consent to purchase new water/sewer meters through Badger to replace current water/sewer meters for Commercial and Monthly accounts for an estimated cost of \$96,000.

Chad Parmenter left at 7:09pm

Chief Larry Sparkes reports that the department conducted 12 traffic stops, gave 10 warnings, & 2 citations were given. 3 complaints taken. The department passed the MCOLES audit with flying colors. LEIN Audit preparation is in progress. LEIN audit will be conducted in October. Chief Sparkes, Reserve Sergeant Carrow and Joni completed SMRS training. Scheduling Active Shooter training for the schools. Concentrating on school patrols in the morning and afternoon. New graphics done on '22 Police Ford. Purchased some equipment upgrades – ballistic shield, patrol rifle, 4 Sig Sauer P320 pistols, and 3 Body Armor with Carriers. Scheduling a training day of use of force, Classroom and Range, Policy and Procedures, and Outside Agency Resources in October. Equipment being transferred over to both cars. Putting charger up for sale.

Fire Chief: Mark Crawfis reports 4 calls last month. This makes 37 calls for the year. Chief attended lots of meetings. He also attended 2 light parades. Chief Crawfis was appointed as treasurer for Fire Association again. Outside doors of city complex were painted. The chief worked with Ionia County Dispatch to get access to their county's fire frequencies. Waiting on State to approve to add Ionia County's frequencies. Compressor has been ordered. Air packs should be here in about 30 days. Chief completed paperwork for 2 new firefighters. We did have a resignation, which puts the fire department at 17 personnel with 4 being probationary. Fire Prevention month is next month. Going to schedule dates and times to visit schools.

DPW Supervisor Nate Plath reports that work is being done on water tower – been offline since last Thursday – working on just pumps. So far so good. All mechanical work is done on the

water tower. Power washing is done, primer coat was started today. Flushing went great – no complaints. Hydrant painting will start soon. The aerator for the sewer pond has been ordered. Oct 1 opens our ability to start discharge, but will probably do at end of Oct. We do have a duck weed issue on the 5th pond. Parks – splash pad is still open. Ball field fence is ordered. DPW is watering the new ball field grass by using the newly installed hydrant. In the process of updating the basketball court at Grove Park. The portable pickleball net was delivered. DPW leaf season will be starting soon. Nate has someone coming to give Nate a quote on painting the buildings.

City Administrator Nan Hagerman reports Comptroller Joni Jegla applied for election grant, and the city was awarded \$6000.00. Nan would like to investigate purchasing an election door for handicap accessibility. Ballots should be here soon.

Old Business: Motion by Miller supported by Gage to give Lieutenant Jeff Thomas a \$3.00 raise effective immediately, with retro pay back to August 20, 2024. Motion carried.

County Commissioner Chris Johnston reports that the Electronic Recycling is on September 21st, 2024, from 9:00am – 12:00pm at the Sidney MCC campus. They mainly want computers or flat screen TVs, no batteries, smoke detectors, light bulbs or box TVs. Commission on aging – annual contract with AAA West Michigan was signed. Adjusted the pay rate for drivers that take clients to appointments. Received 2 bids to put a roof over the sidewalk, redo the steps and ramp behind the courthouse building. The annual contract for the MSU extension was signed.

Public Comment: No public comment given.

Motion by Miller, supported by Keiffer to adjourn at 7:36pm. Motion carried.

Neil A. Kapustka, Mayor

Joni Jegla, Comptroller