

STANDISH CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
September 11, 2023

1. **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Mayor King called the regular meeting of the Standish City Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO AMERICA**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor King.

3. **ROLL CALL**

Present: King, Spencer, Link, Cook, Winslow
Absent: Rang, Prout

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOVED by Winslow and supported by Fleszar to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Dennis Whitney- Would like to see flag on the light poles on Labor Day
- Mike Meyers mentioned the grass at 118 S. Church Street is very long.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 14th, 2023, REGULAR MEETING**

MOVED by Link and supported by Fleszar to approve the minutes of the August 14th, 2023, Regular Meeting.

All approved, motion carried.

7. **APPROVAL OF THE BILLS**

- Mason explained the reason for invoices from Pyramid Paving, Scientific Brake, Jon E Green, S.S.I. and Beaver Research.
- The city does do the tax disbursements, referring back to last months meeting.

MOVED by Fleszar and supported by Winslow to pay the invoices for the month of July and the August Hand Checks

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

YEAS:	Winslow, Fleszar, Link, Spencer, King
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Rang, Prout

The motion carried.

8. **CURRENT BUSINESS**

A. **Dobson Drain**

- Drain Commissioner, Larry Davis, reported they will be going for bids in October, the box culvert for US-23 near Mill is ordered and in the process of being built.
- There are still some issues regarding a building owner that is next to the drain and a local resident on Orchard Street that aren't in favor of the project, but this will not slow down the project.

B. **Police Coverage**

- Mason met with Don McIntyre, they are struggling to find officers to replace those who are leaving or retiring.
- One option would be to share the school liaison deputy and have them patrol the city in the summer. It would work for a short period but would need to be a full year solution.
- McIntyre looked into the city's call history and there are far more 911 calls in the summer months. Mayor King says using the liaison officer would make sense, the school would pay for the officer for 9 months and the city would pay for 3 months.
- Arenac is recruiting police officers and sending them to the Police Academy, it takes 6 months to one year to have a full-time officer trained and ready.
- The summer cost would be around \$6,000 a month.
- McIntyre suggested the city getting their own car for the city officer that shows "City of Standish", this would be a great ask of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe through the 2% funds.
- Winslow states that he thinks the money towards a city cop would be better spent on improving the roads and doing projects around the city. If the city council can not be in charge of where and when the city cop would patrol, he does not want to support it.

C. **Street Paving and Curb**

- Letters will be sent to inform residents that the paving of Beaver, Grove and Mill Street is planned to be starting the week of September 18th. If trash services are set back due to the road work being done the city will take care of it.
- DPW has been getting the curbs ready for the paving, which saved money doing the work ourselves.

D. **Arenac County Fair Grounds**

- The Ag & Event Center property on M-13 is unusable for the project.
- They can keep the funds that they received from the State of Michigan, county commissioners have voted to use the funds to rehab the existing fairgrounds.
- The center is starting a committee that they would like City Manager Mason to join. Mason does not see a purpose for him to be part of it.

9. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Main Lift Station Bar Screen Proposal

- The project to fix the Bar Screen is very important, and about \$100,000 more than what was expected to pay for the repairs. The project would take around 7 months.
- The Saw Grant application goes in in October but that would still be around 6 months to a year for the work to start, the condition of the current bar screen is poor and Mason would prefer to get the project moving if possible.
- Mason contacted Mike Stodolak at Independent Bank to look into short term financing to spread the cost over 5 years. The city has sufficient cash where it could be paid for, but it would have to be agreed upon to take that large amount from our funds.

Discussion was tabled until next month’s council meeting.

B. Abandon Lift Station – Taco Bell

- The pump at this lift station only services Taco Bell and has been needing extensive repairs of late
- The options we have are to give the Lift Station to Taco Bell and they would be responsible to maintain it, or install their own pump, Taco Bell is the only restaurant that does not have it’s own pump to remove their waste.

MOVED by Fleszar and supported by Spencer to approve the abandonment of the lift station at Taco Bell

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

YEAS: Fleszar, Link, Spencer, Winslow, King
 NAYS: None
 ABSENT: Rang, Prout

The motion carried.

C. Water Shut off Proposal

- The city does water shut offs every month
- The DPW ends their shift at 4:00pm, and in many cases a resident that got their water shut off will call or come to City Hall to pay to have their water turned back on shortly after that time. When this happens, the On Call worker will have to go to the residents to turn the water back on and is paid for a minimum of 3 hours even if it does not take that long to do.
- A service fee of \$65 is charged to the residents account when their water is shut off, but that is not enough to cover the overtime hours of our workers that get called back to turn someone’s water back on after not paying by the deadline.
- Mason is suggesting there be a proposal that if shut of the water will not be turned back on until the next business day.
- NOTICE signs will have to be printed in a new color and make sure the next business day is written very bold.

MOVED by Winslow and supported by Fleszar to approve the proposal of next day water turn on.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

YEAS:	Link, Spencer, Winslow, Fleszar, King
NAYS:	None
ABSENT:	Rang, Prout

The motion carried.

10. **CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Mason reported the following:

1. East City Limit Road work is being done this week which cost about \$36,000.
2. The week of September 18th Mill Street, Beaver Street and Grove Street will be paved.
3. Champagne should be back in the office at the end of this month if everything goes as planned.

12. **MAYOR & FIRE AUTHORITY REPORT**

King reported the following:

1. There was nothing major at the fire authority meeting.
2. Summer taxes are almost due.
3. Since there isn't full coverage in the office while Champagne is gone, if there are blight issues brought to our attention, he would like letters to be sent.

13. **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

1. Winslow-
 - Loves all the work being done on the roads and sidewalks.
2. Spencer –
 - The streets look nice after the weeds were sprayed.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Mayor King adjourned the regular City Council meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Attest:

Keegan Foltz

Kevin King

Deputy City Clerk

Mayor