

Village of Decatur
Village Council Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday September 6, 2022, at 7:00 P.M.
Village Hall, 114 N. Phelps Street
Decatur, MI 49045

I. President Elwaer called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

II. **Roll Call**

Clerk/Treasurer, Duncan provided roll call; Trustee Benson, Trustee Gunther, President Pro Tem Jackson (excused), Trustee Mead Jr, Trustee Pelfrey, Trustee Verran (excused), and President Elwaer in attendance. Also in attendance Village Manager, Christopher Tapper, Village Clerk/Treasurer, Megan Duncan, Chief of Police Thomas VanDerWoude, and Decatur Public Works Forman James Ebeling.

III. **Public Comments**

- a. Amy, the owner of Netties, expressed her concern about the food trucks being in town on the days she is open and the effect that it is having on her business.
- b. A gentleman from the Village explained his concern for the special assessment for the Fire Department and Quick Response.
- c. A gentleman was in support of Netties and supporting small town businesses.

IV. **Approval of Agenda, Meeting Minutes, Accounts Payable**

- a. Trustee Pelfrey made a motion with support from Trustee Mead Jr to approve the agenda for September 6, 2022, along with approval of meeting minutes from August 1, 2022, and accounts payable ending August 31, 2022, in the amount of \$184,177.29, motion carried 5-0.

V. **Communications to the Council – Presentation & Guest**

- a. Chief of Police VanDerWoude presented Sgt. Brian Matthews and Officer Lucas Keene Letters of Commendation for their assistance to the Decatur Police Department.
- b. Joe Verlin, Gabridge & Company, presented to council the FY 22 Audit Report and subsequently approved the audit report for fiscal year 2022.

VI. **Public Hearing**

- a. Trustee Gunther made a motion with support from Trustee Benson to close the regular session and enter into a Public Hearing at 7:23 PM, motion carried 5-0. Public comment was given with concerns as follows: Another increase to property taxes, why such a large

increase to taxes, will this special assessment be on the November Ballot for vote, and the letter received by residents causing confusion.

- b. Trustee Pelfrey made a motion with the support from Trustee Mead Jr to postpone the Public Hearing until October 3, 2022, motion carried 5-0. Time enter back to regular session is 7:41 PM.

VII. **Unfinished Business** – Request to Approve between Owner and Engineer for USDA Eligibility Approval for Drink Water and Wastewater

- a. Andrew Rudd, Wightman & Associates, was present to discuss the USDA project and the approval of the USDA loan. Trustee Gunther made a motion with the support from Trustee Mead Jr, to approve between Owner and Engineer the USDA Eligibility Approval for Dink Water and Wastewater, Roll Call Vote, Trustee Benson, Trustee Gunther, Trustee Mead Jr, Trustee Pelfrey, and President Elwaer, all voting yes, motion carried 5-0.

VIII. **New Business** – **Request to adopt Resolution 2022-008 authorizing the Village Council to serve as ZBA**

- a. Trustee Benson made a motion with the support from Trustee Pelfrey to adopt Resolution 2022-008 authorizing the Village Council to serve as ZBA. Roll Call Vote, Trustee Benson, Trustee Gunther, Trustee Mead Jr, Trustee Pelfrey, and President Elwaer, all voting yes, motion carried 5-0.

IX. **New Business** – **Request to set meeting date for Zoning Board of Appeals**

- a. Trustee Gunther made a motion with the support from Trustee Benson, to request to set a meeting date for Zoning Board of Appeals for the 1st Monday of the month at 6:00 PM. Roll call vote, Trustee Benson, Trustee Gunther, Trustee Mead Jr, Trustee Pelfrey, and President Elwaer, all voting yes, motion carried 5-0.

X. **New Business** - **Request to approve consultant of Record Services**

- a. Trustee Pelfrey made a motion with support from Trustee Mead Jr to approve Abonmarche as consultant of Record Services. Roll Call vote, Trustee Benson, Trustee Gunther, Trustee Mead Jr. Trustee Pelfrey, and President Elwaer, all voting yes, motion carried 5-0.

X. **New Business** –**Request to approve Ad-Hoc Committee to review draft Village of Decatur Employee Handbook**

- a. Trustee Pelfrey made a motion with the support from Trustee Gunther to approve the Ad-Hoc Committee to review draft Village of Decatur Employee Handbook, motion carried 5-0.

XI. New Business – Request to approve Decatur Public Schools Homecoming Parade request

- a. Trustee Benson made a motion with the support from Trustee Gunther to approve Decatur Public Schools Homecoming Parade request and offer in kind services from the Police Department and Department of Public Works, motion carried 5-0.

XII. New Business – Request to approve RFP for fall 2022 tree removal

- a. Trustee Gunther made a motion with the support from Trustee Mead Jr to approve RFP for fall tree removal, motion carried 5-0.

XIII. New Business - Request to review Village Manager Evaluation

- a. Trustee Pelfrey stated that Manager Tapper is doing a great job.
- b. Trustee Gunter stated that Manager Tapper is doing an excellent job and is very approachable.
- c. Trustee Benson stated that Manager Tapper is a great addition to the Village. He has accomplished a lot in the short time he has been Manager. He is visible in the community and get answers to the questions that residents ask.
- d. Trustee Mead Jr stated that Manger Tapper is a great communicator.
- e. President Elwaer stated that he is very happy with the accomplishments that Manager Tapper has achieved. Village Manager Tapper scored 4.7 out of 5.0 on the evaluations submitted by Council. President Elwaer read a list of highlights, projects, and goals completed by Manager Tapper.

XIII. Department Reports

- a. Clerk/Treasurer Duncan and Chief of Police, Thomas VanDerWoude, provided Department Reports to the Council. Each department report was provided in the agenda packet. A general discussion ensued regarding the department reports.
- b. Chief of Police VanDerWoude provided updates on Officer Frank completing his field training and future Office Bush with his training in the academy.

XIV. Public Comments

- a. Dortha Pasley supported the council in their review of Manager Tapper.
- b. Cindy Pachner expressed her concern of Netties and the food trucks.
- c. Bernie Sherburn thanked the board for a successful 4th of July fireworks from his property on Lake of the Woods.
- d. Henry Burkett asked questions about the zoning in his neighborhood off Harrison.

XV. Council Comments & Additional Public Comments

- a. President Elwaer wanted to thank all of the departments for their continuous efforts on making sure the Village and its residents are taken care of.

XVI. Adjournment

- a. Trustee Gunther made a motion with the support of Trustee Pelfrey to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 P.M., motion carried 5-0. Minutes submitted by Megan Duncan, Village Clerk/Treasurer.