

Minutes of the regular Durand City Council meeting held on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Durand City Hall.

Mayor Ken McDonough called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: Brian Boggs, Jeff Brands, Connie Cobley, Rich Folaron, Mayor Ken McDonough, Matt Schaefer

Absent: Pat O'Connor

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

The Council led the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Schaefer moved, Boggs supported to approve the agenda with the deletion of Item A.  
Carried

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Boggs moved, Folaron supported to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on December 6, 2021 as presented.  
Carried

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Folaron moved, Mayor McDonough supported to approve bills #54216-54374.

YEAS: Boggs, Brands, Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, Schaefer (abstain from #54300, 54301).

NAYS: None

Carried

**HEARING OF REPRESENTATIVES AND CITIZENS PRESENT:**

Richard Boruszcuoski and Al Perry, Representatives from Mott Community College They spoke about two programs that Mott is offering the allows people to go to the school essentially free. They also spoke about other financial opportunities that are available for students.

Paula Brooks, 104 S. Summit St. She said that the website is hard to maneuver and that residents and businesses need to be reminded to shovel their sidewalks.

Connie Cobley, 405 W. Main St. She said that the Council is not following its Charter where it says that all council members will pay taxes on time.

**COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CITIZENS PRESENT:**

Folaron- He said that he felt Ms. Cobley was out of line to bring the delinquent tax issue during citizen's comments.

Schaefer: He said that they 2022 Recycling Calendar was not on the website yet.

Boggs: He said that he liked the presentation from Mott Community College. Durand is not IN district because that would require residency in Genesee County. He also said that the Charter says that council members must not be delinquent on taxes, utility bills, etc.

**DPW, UTILITIES, MECHANIC REPORTS:**

DPW Foreman: He said that his team is busy with snow and salt. All of the department now have their CDL. He reports that officer Moffit has been working with him to get cars off the street so that they can clean the streets. The DPW has been cleaning sewers, particularly the Durand Rehab Center and the Lodges of Durand when they flush rags, wipes, etc. This is now affecting other surrounding residents.

Water/Sewer Foreman: He reports that they had their first main break in a while. They replaced two lead services that were over the lead limits. He said that he is getting ready to do in house maintenance.

Mechanics Report: He reports doing snow plow maintenance. We acquired a generator for the fire department and will do maintenance on that.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

Boggs moved, Schaefer supported to approve the appointment of Kent Edwards Jr. to the City of Durand Planning Commission.

YEAS: Brands, Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, Schaefer, Boggs

NAYS: None

Carried

Discussion regarding vacant storefronts in the downtown: There are a few storefronts downtown that have been vacant for quite some time and the concern from residents is that viable business opportunities have been presented but the owners of the storefronts are either not interested or inclined to pursue these opportunities and Durand is missing out on potential economic growth. After some discussion it was decided that the city will review Muskegon's ordinance on vacant buildings and possibly use it as a template for creating an ordinance for the City of Durand.

Boggs moved, Folaron supported to approve the Durand Union Station Model Railroad Engineers Lease Agreement with the City of Durand as presented because DUSI cannot, according to their Lease Agreement with the City, sublease any space at the Depot.

YEAS: Folaron, Mayor McDonough, Schaefer, Boggs, Brands

NAYS: Cobley

Carried

Mayor McDonough adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor McDonough reconvened the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Folaron moved, Mayor McDonough supported to approve the contract renewal between Wade Trim and the City of Durand as presented.

YEAS: Folaron, Mayor McDonough, Schaefer, Boggs, Brands, Cobley

NAYS: None

Carried

Folaron moved, Cobley supported to approve the contract extension with Rowland Ferwerda for Wastewater Operator Services for services through December 31, 2022.

YEAS: Mayor McDonough, Schaefer, Boggs, Brands, Cobley, Folaron

NAYS: None

Carried

Boggs moved, Cobley supported to approve the balancing Change Order 5a for the amount of \$163,388.28 for the non-participating streets portion of the project to Zito Construction.

YEAS: Schaefer, Boggs, Brands, Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough

NAYS: None

Carried

Brands moved, Cobley supported to approve the balancing Change Order 5b for the amount of (\$60,257.51) for the participating USDA water portion of the project to Zito Construction.

YEAS: Boggs, Brands, Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, Schaefer

NAYS: None

Carried

Folaron moved, Cobley supported to approve pay application 7a for the amount of \$147,794.55 for the non-participating streets portion of the project to Zito Construction.

YEAS: Brands, Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, Schaefer, Boggs

NAYS: None

Carried

Mayor McDonough moved, Brands supported to approve the pay application 7b for the amount of \$0 for the participating USDA water portion of the project to Zito Construction.

YEAS: Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, Schaefer, Boggs, Brands

NAYS: None

Carried

Boggs moved, Cobley supported to approve the General Services Proposal by ROWE Engineering as presented.

YEAS: Cobley, Folaron, Mayor McDonough, Schaefer, Boggs, Brands

NAYS: None

Carried

Boggs moved, Cobley supported to approve the Wastewater Treatment Plant Proposal by ROWE Engineering as presented.

YEAS: Folaron, Mayor McDonough, Schaefer, Boggs, Brands, Cobley

NAYS: None

Carried

**CITIZENS SPEAK – AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:**

Mary Warner-Stone asked if it was a conflict of interest for Kent Edwards to be appointed to the Planning Commission. She said that she is excited to hear about a proposed ordinance for vacant businesses, like the old Sunshine Food Store. She asked if the current rental registration was for residential only or did it include businesses also.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Building Inspector: He said that he has been catching up on ordinance enforcements.

Clerk/Treasurer: She said that she has been training Beth in preparation of her retirement. She will be working on the budget soon. The auditors will present at the February meeting, he is still recovering from eye issues.

City Attorney: John Ryan introduced himself as an associate with the McKone Law Firm. He is filling in tonight because Matt is attending the City of Linden's council meeting.

City Manager: Sewer separation inspections will begin again when houses are sold. Reed Road property is moving forward. Working on the library lease agreement and updating the emergency response plan. He said that he met with Craig McCrumb, School Superintendent with regards to pay for the school liaison officer.

Deputy Clerk: She said that she is getting the word out about the utility rate increase effective in July.

Police Chief: He said that everything is going well. He met with the school Superintendent recently in regards to the Oxford school shooting.

DPW Director: DPW is involved with businesses not shoveling with sidewalks. If the businesses don't shovel, the DPW will shovel them and the City will be the owners. He said that we need a person with a class C wastewater license. He said that Rowland Ferwerda has a B license, and Rob will take the test again in the spring.

Fire Chief: He said that Santa went through the town before Christmas and everyone enjoyed that. He said that he is always recruiting more fire fighters. He said there was talk about getting new radios at the Chief Meeting, will hear more about this in the future. 911 is looking into get new tornado sirens, they estimate that it would cost the city about \$900.00. He said that he is still working on getting some questions answers in regards to the new sirens.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Boggs: He welcomed John Ryan with the McKone Law Firm.

Cobley: She said that she would like to schedule Wednesday Lunch at the Water and Sewer departments to bring awareness to the upcoming rate increases; this should take place at the end of February. She also said that she would like an ambulance report for the next meeting.

Brands: Nothing to add

Folaron: Nothing to add

Schaefer: He thanked the audience for coming and speaking. He asked to have a representative of Waste Management at the next meeting, they are missing many peoples refuse each week.

Mayor McDonough: He said the sidewalks need to be shoveled. He asked if the parking permits were being enforced. He also said that sidewalks at the four way stops need to be shoveled out, many are full of snow from the plow trucks.

Mayor McDonough adjourned the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

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Ken McDonough, Mayor

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Mindy McKay, Deputy Clerk