

**CITY OF EVART  
SPECIAL VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING  
Friday, May 28, 2021 @ 11:30AM**

The meeting was called to order at 11:30am by Mayor Chris Emerick.

**Present (via roll call):** Sean Duffy, City of Evart, Osceola County MI, attending remotely  
Mayor Emerick, City of Evart, Osceola County MI, attending remotely  
Matt Hildebrand, City of Evart, Osceola County MI, attending remotely,  
Sandra Szeliga, City of Evart, Osceola County MI, attending remotely

**Absent:** Dan Elliott

**Present (City staff):** City Manager Sarah Dvoracek, Finance Director/Treasurer Pepper Lockhart (Meeting Co-Host), Communications Director Melissa Rohen (Meeting Co-Host), City Attorney James White, City Clerk Kathy Fiebig

**Guests (per Zoom ID):** S\_R, iPhone, iPhone, Jeffrey, Cathie Crew, Doug Gordon, Laurie Chase, Tony Comden, Jodi, Scott, Evart Farmers Market, Sharon Carlson, Janet, Karen, Ronald, Roger Elkins

**Citizens' Comments:** none

Council Member Dan Elliott (City of Evart, Osceola County MI, attending remotely) joined the meeting at 11:34am.


**New Business**

**Items for Action**

**B. Resolution 2021-15 Evart Housing Commission Finances (Payroll and Vendors List)**  
Doug Gordon, representing the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) noted that Mayor and City Council have removed all members of the Housing Commission and Karen Higgins, Executive Director of the Housing Commission, has no authority to pay bills without board approval. The City of Evart has offered to pay all Housing Commission expenses from the general fund, but HUD cannot use federal funds to then reimburse the City. Mr. Gordon suggested that a better option is to appoint three people to an interim Housing Commission Board. Mr. Gordon will support this interim board and will assist them in confirming all eligible expenses. He stated that the Housing Commission has funding available but no one on the City is authorized to sign on the Commission's checking account. The interim appointees will only serve until a permanent board is appointed. He also noted that federal funds cannot be used to pay late fees, so time is of the essence. If late fees are incurred, the City could offer to cover those costs. He reminded council that it is imperative to have this interim board in place as soon as possible in order to issue payroll checks in a timely fashion. Mr. Hildebrand and Mr. Elliott offered to serve on the interim board and Mr. Gordon saw no conflict with their council service. Ms. Lockhart also offered to serve but wondered if that would be a conflict of interest as a City employee. Mr. Gordon did not think so but will check on the legality. He also confirmed that it is not necessary to have a Housing Commission resident on the interim board. Mr. White advised Council to hold another special meeting as soon as possible to appoint the three interim Board members. A special meeting will be held on Tuesday morning, June 1, via Zoom with the time still to be determined. No action was taken on Resolution 2021-15.

**Citizens' Comments:** Karen Higgins, Executive Director of the Evart Housing Commission thanked Mr. Hildebrand, Mr. Elliott and Ms. Lockhart for volunteering to serve on the interim board. She suggested that they meet directly after the council meeting on Tuesday at the Housing Commission. It was agreed that the Housing Commission meeting will be scheduled thirty minutes after the special council meeting.

Motion by Mayor Emerick to adjourn the meeting. Support by Mr. Elliott. Motion passed with a roll call vote; all were in favor.



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Kathy Fiebig  
City Clerk

FINAL