

**CITY OF EVART
PRE-COUNCIL MEETING
August 10th, 2023 @ 7:00PM
Community Room at the Depot, 200 S. Main Street**

Council Member Matt Hildebrand called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Present Council Members: Matt Hildebrand, Sean Duffy, Jim Schwab

Absent Council Members: Mayor Chris Emerick, Sandy Szeliga

Present Staff: City Manager Pepper Lockhart, Downtown Development Director (DDA) Todd Bruggema, Finance Director Jennie Duncan, Chief of Police John Beam, Department of Public Works Director Don Duncan, City Clerk Andrea Grupido

Guests: Travis Douglas

D. Duncan asks council to add the item "2nd Street Improvement Project" to the agenda tonight. Hildebrand would like to keep item "G." on the agenda as discussion only, for the reason that there are a lot of parts to go over and it would be best to have the rest of council present.

Discussion: Schwab inquires about the water expense at the splash pad and if there are avenues we can look into to lower those costs. D. Duncan states they are looking into different options including a leach field, or a discharge permit.

Downtown Development Authority Report/Comment:

Bruggema met with SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office), and is working on setting boundaries for a National Historic District in our downtown. In doing this, it opens up grant money and tax credits to contributing buildings. Building owners in this district are not tied to any guidelines, the guidelines are only for those who want to qualify for the incentives.

The Middle Michigan Development Corporation hosted Economic Developers Day at the Depot and there were 27 attendees. There was talk of what Ewart is doing with the services from Bruce Johnston and the master plan. They all were given a tour of downtown as well as a list of vacant buildings for sale. The meeting ended at Sixth and Main for lunch and more networking.



Andrea Grupido, City Clerk