



**THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023, AT 7:00 PM
86 W CENTER ST., DOUGLAS MI**

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** By Mayor Donovan
2. **ROLL CALL:** By Deputy Clerk Kasper
Present – Donovan, Seabert, O'Malley, Walker
Absent – Naumann, North
3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Mayor
4. **INTERVIEW & APPOINTMENT OF CITY COUNCILMEMBER**

- A. C. Daniel Urquhart
- B. Gregory Freeman

Following candidate interviews by the council, paper ballots were cast for a candidate of choice, each ballot was then read aloud by members name and candidates name. The vote:

Seabert – 1 vote cast for Freeman
Donovan – 1 vote cast for Freeman
O'Malley – 1 vote cast for Freeman
Walker – 1 vote cast for Urquhart

Vote required a 2/3 majority and did not carry, second vote went as follows:

Mr. Urquhart stated a better review of the candidates is needed and pulled his name from the vote.

Seabert – 1 vote cast for Freeman
Donovan – 1 vote cast for Freeman
O'Malley – 1 vote cast for Freeman
Walker – 1 vote cast for Freeman

Unanimous roll call vote for Freeman. Deputy Clerk Kasper administered the oath of office to Mr. Freeman.

5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - A. Approval of the January 17, 2023, Meeting Agenda
 - B. Approval of the January 03, 2023, Meeting Minutes
 - C. Approval of Invoices in the Amount of \$126,190.42

- D. 2023 Meeting Calendar – Due to a holiday the February meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

Motion by Walker, with support from Seabert, to approve the Tuesday, January 17, 2023, Consent Agenda as amended. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

6. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION - VERBAL (Limit 3 minutes)

Cynthia McKean, Saugatuck – Addressed the experience of biking on Water St. Very little space to pull off on the shoulder if larger vehicles are traveling by. Is an avid biker and would like the council to look at the speed limit on this road.

7. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION – Written comments regarding Water St. were received late and will appear on the next agenda of council.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: No unfinished business to attend to.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Audit Presentation Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

Treasurer Smith introduced Auditors from Siegfried, Dan Veldhuis. It has always been a joy working with the City of Douglas over the past years. Over 120 clients for our company and only 8 have heard an unmodified adjustment from their audit, the city should be proud as your treasurer is one of the 8. Mayor Donovan asked the auditors what would drive the liabilities up so high? The response was perhaps the city should have MERS come and give a presentation on full funding pension plans.

B. Zoom presentation by Kristin Armstrong. – No council action required.

Ms. Armstrong went over the upcoming 2023 events for the Saugatuck Center for the Arts.

C. Water Street Residents Presentation

City Manager LaBombard presented a brief analysis of what has been done by the city in regards to Water Street. There has only been one crash over the past year, road markings have been painted, and road improvements have been made.

Tracey Shafroth, Water St. resident requested this meeting to update new members on the number of times the residents along Water St have asked the city for assistance. She was informed by Allegan that it was the City's duty to post speed limits and she is asking the city to change Water St to a lower limit. Shafroth also read into the record a letter written by Ken Carls, Water St resident.

Brian Alexander, Water St. resident presented an extensive research of traffic on this street. Other residents to address the traffic were D' Ambrosio and Eckhardt who believed the issue was more related to the two curves than anything else.

Prien Newhof had conducted a traffic study for the city several years ago and determined the speed was pretty much where it needed to be. If the residents would like to have the State Police do a study, they would probably raise the speed limit.

The council described this street as a perfect storm, as the population continues to grow so will the danger to walkers and bikers. All members would agree to find a reasonable solution. Some suggestions were to limit truck travel, make it a one way road, and to limit trucks by weight. A workshop will be held to discuss the issues on Water St.

D. Resolution 02-2023 - Drinking Water Asset Management Grant Resolution

Motion by Seabert, with support from O'Malley, to approve Resolution 02-2023 and accept EGLE's Drinking Water Asset Management grant in the amount of \$349,500 and authorize the City Manager to sign the grant agreement. In addition, the Council does hereby increase the revenues in the Water and Sewer Fund -Reimbursement from State account 450-000-679.001 and increase the expenditures in the Water and Sewer Fund - Construction account 450-000-974 in the amount of \$300,000. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

E. Water Service Replacement Vendor

Motion by O'Malley, with support from Freeman, to approve Unema Plumbing of Holland, Michigan as a preferred sole source vendor for lead service line replacements for the remainder of the fiscal year. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

10. REPORTS

A. Commission/Committee/Boards

1. Planning Commission reviewed 200 Center St. site plan, tabled until next meeting.
2. Douglas Brownfield Authority – City Manager gave a lengthy report on his weekly briefing, this can be found on the city website.
7. Fire Board – Mayor Donovan read the report into the record.

B. Staff Written Reports

1. City Manager – see written reports in packet

11. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION – VERBAL (LIMIT OF 3 MINUTES)

Water St. residents spoke in support of lowering the speed limit for safety purposes, one resident stated that she would not like a sidewalk to take care of. As stated earlier in the meeting all letters not received on time for the agenda will appear on the next council agenda.

12. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Walker- Next Wednesday at 9:00 am will hold office hours at Respite, 9-9:30.

Seabert stated Water St has gotten to the point that it is an issue and something that needs to be addressed.

Freeman questioned if there was a way to slow Water St down to 15 miles per hour? (No, you cannot post lower than 25 miles an hour, a cautionary 15 mph sign could go up.

13. MAYOR'S REPORT/COMMENTS

14. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Seabert, with support from Walker, to adjourn.

Please Note – The City of the Village of Douglas (the “City”) is subject to the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this meeting and who require certain accommodations in order to allow them to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have

questions regarding the accessibility of this meeting or the facilities, are requested to contact Pamela Aalderink, City Clerk, at (269) 857-1438, or clerk@douglasmi.gov to allow the City to make reasonable accommodations for those persons. CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS, ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN