

CITY OF MACKINAC ISLAND

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, August 21, 2024 at 4:00 PM

City Hall – Council Chambers, 7358 Market St., Mackinac Island, Michigan

I. Call to Order

Mayor Doud called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm

II. Roll Call

PRESENT

Richard Chambers

Tom Corrigan

Steven Moskwa

Anneke Myers

Alan Sehoyan

Jason St. Onge

IV. Approval of Minutes

- Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting, held on August 7, 2024
 - Mayor Doud stated that the minutes stood approved as presented.
- Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting, held on August 12, 2024
 - Mayor Doud stated that the minutes stood approved as presented.
- Minutes of the Special City Council Meeting with Hoffman Marine, held on August 14, 2024
 - Mayor Doud stated that the minutes stood approved as presented.

V. Approval of the Treasurer's Report

Motion made by Moskwa, Seconded by Myers, to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

VI. Approval of Payments

Motion made by Moskwa, Seconded by Sehoyan, to approve the payroll and payables as presented.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

VII. Additions to / Adoption of Agenda

Motion made by Chambers, Seconded by Sehoyan, to accept the agenda as presented.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

VIII. Committee Reports

- The Social Media Policy & City Computer Use Policy were discussed
 - Discussed at the last I.T. Committee meeting
 - Councilman Corrigan feels that the policies should go to the Policies and Contracts Committee for further discussion and review
 - Would like input from the Fire Department, Police Department, and Recreation Department as they all have public Facebook pages – want to make sure everyone is comfortable with what is trying to be implemented

Motion by Corrigan, second to the motion by Chambers, to send the Social Media Policy and the City Computer Use Policy to the Policies and Contracts Committee.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

IX. Correspondence

- An email was received from Pete Deckert of Ryba's Bikes regarding the Shepler's passenger lines blocking businesses on Main Street as they wait to load the boats
 - Lines have been blocking entrances / exits of businesses as well as sidewalk access points
 - Lines begin forming around 3:00 pm and are lasting sometimes until 7:00 pm or 8:00 pm
- Chris Shepler of Shepler's Ferry
 - Acknowledge that this is an issue and apologized for the lines interrupting businesses
 - 300 people can fit from top of the dock to end of the line for Mackinaw City – this number fills the Miss Margie. From the top of the dock to the Iroquois is another 150 to 180 people, which requires a second boat to accommodate
 - The wait is, at maximum, 30 minutes when all 4 boats are running
 - Councilman St. Onge noted that he feels the main concern here is the people blocking the businesses
 - Councilman Moskwa commented that he has seen some instances where there is a 30 plus minute wait on busier days
 - Concerning, and it is creating a problem
 - Do not want guests to have this problem
 - Have been hearing that commuting employees are late for work
 - Mr. Shepler responded that if a customer has a a commuter ticket or pass, they should be able to get to the front of the line or to the commuter area

- Councilman Moskwa commented that he understands that that is Shepler's policy, but that these are complaints he has been hearing from commuters. Shepler's should be running more boats and looking at using other docks included in the Mackinac Island Ferry Company (MIFC) assets
- Councilman Corrigan noted that he recently received a complaint that customers boarded a 3:00 pm boat from Mackinaw City and they were not able to get off the boat until 4:00 as the boat was waiting in the harbor for dock space
 - Have also heard from others that they have waited in the harbor for 10 to 15 minutes waiting for the boat to have space to dock
 - Do not think the 30-minute turnaround time is feasible
- Councilman Moskwa commented that there are other assets like the MIFC Ryba dock, and hopefully soon MIFC's Joliet and Cadillac, that could be utilized to alleviate the issues of longer wait times.
 - Season is beginning to slow down some, but we will also soon be seeing larger group tours coming in
- Councilman Sehoyan inquired how many ramps Shepler's has on their island dock
 - Mr. Shepler responded that there are three (3) ramps for use
- Councilman Chambers inquired if it was feasible to use the MIFC Ryba dock as a queuing area to help get passengers off the street
 - This has the potential to help alleviate some of the line, but does not help Mr. Deckert and his bike shop as well as the other businesses located between the Shepler and MIFC Ryba dock
 - Chief Gruits commented that the lines have been long, but the people are moving at a reasonable pace that could be expected in this situation.
 - Moving people to the MIFC Ryba dock while they wait for a Shepler could be a good idea, but it would take coordination and more personnel to make it happen
- Mr. Shepler asked that if a Council member or Mackinac Island community member has an issue with how something is being done, please do not take the complaint to a Shepler's dock staff member. Staff members are already overworked and stressed – if someone has an issue, please contact himself or a main office to have the issue addressed.
- Councilman Moskwa commented that, it was mentioned that Shepler's would be running three (3) boats to accommodate the larger amount of people, however he has witnessed that only two (2) ramps are being used at a time, leaving boats sitting in the harbor with passengers waiting to dock
 - Mr. Shepler noted that, to use all three (3) ramps at once would end up in the lines of customers departing and boarding the boats crossing, which interrupts foot traffic on the dock and stops the further loading and unloading of the third incoming boat, leaving people waiting anyways.
- Councilman St. Onge noted that he understands that growing pains will happen, but what the City needs is a plan of assurance for the upcoming Labor Day holiday weekend - status quo is not going to cut it. Is there a better plan or more boats coming on line to help with the influx of people that will be coming to the island?
 - Mr. Shepler responded that he had a report to share with the Council. Not sure if it will answer all of the questions, but will provide some information
 - Mayor Doud noted that this will be discussed after correspondence is wrapped up
- Councilwoman Myers noted Mr. Shepler's earlier comment about being able to accommodate 300 people on their dock, and asked if that was queuing for both Mackinaw City and St. Ignace?
 - Mr. Shepler responded that this was the number of people that could be accommodated in just the Mackinaw City line and queuing area on the dock, and that Mackinaw City's line is what contributes most to the line forming down the sidewalk
 - Councilwoman Myers commented that she has observed comingling of departing St. Ignace and Mackinaw City customers in the line that forms down the sidewalk – there is no push to get customers down to the correct line if there is room on the dock
 - Chief Gruits commented that when he is in the area and sees a line forming, he traverses the line and speaks with customers to try and move them down to the dock if there is space in the appropriate line
 - Mr. Shepler noted that his Dock Master communicates with Chief Gruits or whichever officer is working to provide help if needed
 - Chief Gruits noted that Shepler employees have always checked in with him
- Councilwoman Myers inquired how many employees Shepler's had scanning tickets as there is usually just one person performing this task

- Mr. Shepler responded that at most, there are three (3) employees scanning tickets when it is busy. However, it is the time of year where they are starting to lose employees. Working to onboard and training MIFC employees to make up for the Shepler's cast members that they have recently lost
- An email was received from Susan Odgers regarding concerns about the ADA compliance of Shepler's boats
 - Mr. Shepler commented that the access to the lower and upper seating areas for five (5) of their vessels are stairs
 - Mr. Shepler noted that he sat on the Federal Passenger Vessel Access Advisory Board from 1998 to 2001 where he assisted in writing code and the definition of accessibility for all passenger vessels. This applied to vessels ranging from a Carnival cruise ship down to a fishing charter boat.
 - There is nothing that can be done and passed through the United States Coast Guard to change the accessibility on these five (5) vessels, which were building in the 1980s or before. These five (5) vessels are grandfathered in and are lawful in their ADA compliance as they currently stand
 - However, the vessels William Richard and Miss Margie are handicap assessable from the first level
 - Mr. Shepler commented to the Council that he will respond to the email directly, which was emailed to him by the City Clerk during the meeting.

Motion made by Moskwa, seconded by Corrigan, to place the emails from Pete Deckert and Susan Odgers on file.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoian, St. Onge

X. Old Business

Discussion of Ferry Boat Matters

- Chris Shepler of Shepler's Ferry gave the Council a report on where they are with ferry operations
 - Vessels Cadillac and Joliet, from the MIFC fleet, are looking like they will be ready to be back in service some time mid next week – however this is all dependent on the vendors that area taking care of all the damages that the vessel sustained prior to the Hoffman purchase
 - Waiting on the shaft and the propeller, coming from Detroit
 - Having issues with a piece of welding equipment – prior administration from MIFC was using a steel welder to weld aluminum
 - Hoffman has now allocated \$70,000.00 to purchase a new aluminum welder for the Mackinac Marine Service – this will speed up the process of repairing cracks and such on the Cadillac
 - After these repairs, the next step is obtaining certification from the US Coast Guard, but they are very busy and Mr. Shepler can not guarantee how quickly the inspections can be scheduled
 - Mayor Doud noted that she will work with Bergman's office to help get the inspections scheduled quickly once the boats are ready
 - Engineering on the MIFC Main Dock (Mackinac Island)
 - Mr. Shepler met with Dennis Dombroski, Dave, and Brad Peterson yesterday regarding the repairs to the supports and the engineering of the dock
 - There is a roughly 15 to 20-ton engine sitting in one of the buildings on the dock
 - Prior administration of MIFC had moved the engine to the center of the dock as the previous placement towards the outside of the building was causing the dock to sag due to the weight
 - Mr. Shepler just learned about the engine bout a week ago from Brad Peterson – no idea where it came from or the true weight
 - There was also a fuel tank discovered in one of the buildings that is filled with rough 150 to 200 gallons of some type of liquid
 - Met with Veronica Dobrowolski of Arnold Freight, Tim Plutchak of Plutchak Cranes, and Moran Ironworks to put together a plan to remove the engine and fuel tank
 - General plan is to put Plutchak's crane on the Senator to remove the engine and fuel tank from the building and ship them off island
 - Tomorrow there will be two (2) kayaks under the Main Dock throughout the day – these are engineers from OHM that need to take pictures and get detailed notes about the necessary repairs needed under the dock
 - BP Construction will complete the lateral work in two (2) weeks. Brad Peterson will remain on site to help Michael's once they can begin phase II, which is the repairs and reconstruction of the vertical supports under the dock (900 of the 1,006 pilings under the dock require repairs or replacement)
 - Michael's will not being phase II until they have stamped drawings from the engineers
 - Hope to get the drawings some time soon after Labor Day

- Engineers are moving as fast as they can with drawings, however the dock is a historic structure and is in serious disrepair
- Councilman Corrigan inquired what the timeline for completion was
 - Mr. Shepler responded that he won't know until he receives the drawings from the engineers and they can plan based off the necessary work
- Dennis Dombroski reminded the Council that they are dealing with a significant historical resource, and from prior experience when repairing the Coal Dock, for Hoffman to obtain permits needed through EGLE and the Marine Corps of Engineers, they will require a sign off from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) before permits can be issued
 - Also, since this structure is located within a Historic District, the City's Historic District Commission will need to review all plans
 - These processes will all add to the timeline for repairs
- Councilwoman Myers commented that the Historic District Commission could certainly schedule a special meeting to review the plans when they are ready if it falls outside of the timing of a regular meeting
 - Mr. Dombroski responded that this could certainly be done, but until plans are finalized, there is no way to know when anything could be scheduled
- Councilman Moskwa noted that the structural integrity of the MIFC Main Dock has been something that everyone has been concerned about over the last ten years as we have seen how little work MIFC put in to it – grateful for the work that Hoffman is currently putting in to the dock
- Mr. Dombroski noted that we will probably need some help in Lansing to get SHPO to turn the matter around quickly
 - Mayor Doud responded that she will work on this
- Mr. Shepler informed the Council that he and his Dock Master met with Mackinac Island Carriage Tours (MICT) to discuss the upcoming arrivals of tour groups and how that influx of people will be handled
 - Have 59 diamond tours coming to the island between now and the end of the season
 - Using the MIFC Ryba dock to stage tour groups
 - Once they come off the Shepler's boat at groups will be directed to the Ryba dock where they will be loaded on to carriages.
 - Departing guests will be staged at the Ryba dock and will be moved to the Shepler dock when their departing vessel is ready
 - Working to get Joe Herscher of MICT a Shepler's radio so he is able to communicate directly with dock staff and boat captains for this to run as smoothly as possible
- Just completed a 24-hour PR campaign with eight (8) radio stations and three (3) TV stations to discuss current operations
- Mayor Doud thanked Mr. Shepler and his crew for all of their hard work and cooperation through this difficult situation
- Councilman St. Onge inquired about Shepler's plans for Labor Day weekend
 - If Hoffman is able to get the two (2) MIFC boat back on line, what is the plan for those boats? Will they come in to the Ryba dock? What's the plan if the vessels are not able to be used for Labor Day weekend?
 - Mr. Shepler responded that if they are able to move to another dock, there is still a communication issue with the public – if Shepler's can find time (hopefully next week) they would like to check out the Ryba dock to see if the Shepler fleet can fit in there – this is something they are looking in to but do not have an answer to at this time
 - Each boat could take two (2) to three (3) hours to check for fitting
 - If this works and it helps, Shepler's will do it
- Mayor Doud asked that Mr. Shepler get a plan in place for how they will handle Labor Day
 - Mayor Doud would like this plan presented to the Council at a special meeting next Wednesday, August 28th
 - Mr. Shepler responded that he could have a plan in place to present at a August 28th meeting – he will be out of town on that date but can have Jason Wiley at the meeting to represent Shepler's and present their plan
- Councilman St. Onge inquired if there were any updates on the Ottawa and the Huron
 - Mr. Shepler responded that he has no updates at this time, however he will have a report to provide to the Council at their first meeting after Labor Day
- Councilwoman Myers inquired about the sale of third-party tickets
 - It is mentioned in the Shepler / Hoffman's press release that "tickets will no longer be sold through hotels and other third-party vendors. Shepler's will honor discounted third-party tickets through August 31. After that, customers may seek refunds through the hotel or third-party vendor where they purchased the ticket."

- This is not something that the City agreed to, nor was it part of the motion made at the August 14th Special Council meeting – the Council wanted their lawyer to look in to this more before making any decisions regarding third-party tickets
- Mr. Shepler responded that Hoffman has suspended the sale of third-party tickets that MIFC was selling – trading them out for Shepler’s, but will stop trading them out beginning August 31st and customers will have to seek refunds through the third-party vendor
 - Councilwoman Myers noted that this was not agreed to at the last meeting
 - Jenny Gezella of Hoffman Marine noted that Mr. Shepler had added a line to the revised press release stating something to the effect of, “per City Council this is still a matter that is still outstanding and can change at any time.”
- Attorney Evashevski noted that there was no agreement from the Council on this matter and they were looking for further advisement
- Mr. Shepler responded that their intent was to inform the public that they can no longer purchase a third-party MIFC ticket
- Councilwoman Myers stated that she does not approve of the language published by Shepler’s with the date of August 31, 2024
 - Would like attorney Evashevski to discuss wording with Mr. Shepler
- Third-party tickets will be further discussed at the August 28th Special meeting
- Franchise Agreement Deviation Amendment
 - The motion made at the August 14, 2024 Special meeting put in to an agreement form to be signed by all parties (MIFC, Shepler’s, City of Mackinac Island)
- Franchise Agreement Deviation Amendment with Mackinac Island Ferry Company & Shepler’s Mackinac Island Ferry
Motion by St. Onge, second to the motion by Sehoyan, to authorize Mayor Doud to execute the Franchise Agreement Deviation Agreement on behalf of the City of Mackinac Island
Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge
- Councilman Corrigan commented that he feels the City needs to put out a statement regarding whether or not the current boat situation is a monopoly or not, and reassure the public that the City controls the fees, rates, and schedules
 - There is a lot of stress in the public about ticket prices being raised and severely reduced schedules
 - Councilman St. Onge agreed to this – many news outlets are running false information
 - Councilwoman Myers agreed as well, and asked that Attorneys Evashevski and Cavanaugh come up with something to be released
 - Attorney Evashevski responded that she and Attorney Cavanaugh would work on something and will also work with Tim Hygh of the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau

Motion by St. Onge, second to the motion by Moskwa, to authorize Attorneys Evashevski and Cavanaugh to create a statement on the City’s behalf regarding the regulating authority that the City holds, per our Charter, over the rates, fees, and schedules of any and all franchised boat lines providing service to Mackinac Island, and to work with the Mackinac Island Tourism Bureau to get the information to the public.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

- Councilman Moskwa inquired about the bonds for phase III of the Forest Way Townhomes
 - Sale went very well
 - Was purchase by Baird & Company
 - Treasurer is working on finalizing all paperwork
 - All monies should be transferred to the City by September 5th
 - O’Boyle will be submitting their necessary permits for the project for the next regular Council meeting
- Councilman Moskwa inquired about the status of the Huron and Ottawa
 - Mayor Doud has been in touch with the US Coast Guard and Mr. Shepler should have an update at the August 28th special meeting
 - Main problem is that MIFC was given a list of repairs that the US Coast Guard wanted done to the Huron, but none of the repairs were ever completed
 - Councilman St. Onge commented that when he went across yesterday, you could actively see people working on the MIFC fleet

XI. New Business

- Michigan Municipal League (MML) on-site training program for City boards and elected officials & discussion of possible funding through the Mackinac Island Community Foundation
 - Pete Olson has been working with MML for Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act on-site training

- Signup information should be provided to the Historic District Commission, Planning Commission, City Council, Cemetery Board, Library Board, Mackinac Island Transportation Authority, Mackinac Island Police Department, and Mackinac Island Department of Public Works
- Training will take place on September 12th from 5:00pm to 8:00 pm
- Mr. Olson also talked to the Mackinac Island Community Foundation about apply for grant funding to cover the \$1,800.00 cost of the training

Motion made by Myers, second to the motion by St. Onge, to authorize the Clerk's office to apply for funding from the Mackinac Island Community Foundation for the on-site training with the Michigan Municipal League for Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

Motion by Myers, second to the motion by Moskwa to have the Clerk, Mayor's Assistant, and Building Department Secretary Katie Pereny to send out a notification to all board, commission, and authority members.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

- Least privilege access - hardening the network with further protections to limit lateral movement
 - No cost to the City as it is provided by Empiric Solutions
 - Councilman Corrigan noted that there has been a lot of hacking of utilities around the country. This is mainly a DPW issue, but since we share the same hardware we want to have protection on all ends
 - Will limit access to employees and council members using City computers
 - Will be restricted on what can be done on the network
 - Councilman St. Onge inquired if this would affect things like downloading applications and such
 - Councilman Corrigan responded that this will not affect things like that - what is public will remain public. This tightens up what employees have access to.
 - Our municipality is not under any legal obligation to enact this software like larger cities

Motion made by Corrigan, Seconded by Moskwa, to engage the services of Empiric Solutions to implement the necessary software.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

- Application firewall security services
 - \$1,300.00 per year, still need the three (3) year quote which should not exceed \$4,000.00
 - Money to cover this will come from the IT budget / account
 - Recommended by the IT Committee to proceed

Motion made by Myers, second to the motion by Moskwa, that on the recommendation of the IT Committee, the City contracts for the firewall security services for a three (3) year contract not to exceed \$4,000.00.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

- Fudge Festival Events
 - Same submissions as previous years
 - Wests Michigan Bootscooters dancing in the street will take place on Friday - closing Market Street during this event – Competitive Event Application submitted
 - Have been communicating with emergency services and horse companies on that
 - Requesting permission to hang banners at the Tourism Bureau building and at the Stuart House
 - Dennis Dombroski has given his approval for the banners

Motion by St. Onge, second to the motion by Sehoyan, to approve the Competitive Event Application for the West Michigan Bootscooters and requests for banners on the Tourism Bureau and Stuart House buildings.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

- Resolution to continue the Fitness Court project and discussion on how the project can move forward
 - Priority Fitness has granted the City \$40,000.00 for the project
 - Resolution states the city will cover the remaining project cost of \$170,000.00. In addition to that, there needs to be a cement pad installed (\$25,000.00), and assembly needs to be completed (\$25,000.00)
 - Could have the Maintenance Department complete the assembly, but if we have the company complete it we do not have to worry about any complications
 - Dr. Patay did speak with the Community Foundation about writing a grant for the remainder of the cost (\$220,000.00)
 - If we do not get the grant, then the project does not happen
 - Grant may not be issued all at once as it may be split between two (2) fiscal years for the Community Foundation. However, if we purchase the equipment this year, we would avoid possible cost increases implemented in 2025

- Councilwoman Myers and Councilman Sehoyan inquired where this fitness park would be located and how much space it will occupy
 - Two possible locations at Turtle Park
 - Between the pickleball court and soccer field
 - Between the basketball court and the green shed
 - Councilwoman Myers asked if actual dimensions and a site plan could be brought to the MIRD Recreation Board to further discuss the placement
 - A bit more information needs to be provided before a grant application can be submitted to the Community Foundation
 - Resolution to move forward is ok to approve today since we can always back out of the project if the grant funding is not received

Motion by Myers, second to the motion by Corrigan, to adopt the resolution to continue with the outdoor fitness court and to authorize Dr. Patay to work with Recreation Board and City Council to determine the site plan and feasibility of this court.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

- 2024 Michigan Municipal League Liability & Property Pool Renewal
 - Rates have increased due to the increase in the City's property value and the purchase of more real-estate
 - Annual premium of \$121,577.00
 - Increase from 2023 of \$12,172.00, or 11%

Motion made by Moskwa, seconded by Myers, to renew the 2024 liability and property pool at an 11% increase from 2023.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

- Preapproved motor vehicle permit, submitted by the Grand Hotel, to use a Genie lift for repairs to a support beam on the east end first floor balcony. Vehicle arrived on August 16th and was in use through August 20th.
 - Councilman St. Onge voiced concerns about this permit being preapproved in August – this type of work has been completed in the past with scaffolding and ladders and could have been handled in the same manner this time

Motion made by Myers, seconded by Moskwa, to approve the preapproved vehicle permit.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan

Voting Nay: St. Onge

- Temporary motor vehicle permit, submitted by the Grand Hotel, to move the Masco Art collection off the island. A 20' GMC panel truck will arrive on September 16th and will be in use through September 18th.

Motion by St. Onge, seconded by Myers to approve to approve the vehicle permit.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

- Off-Island business license application for Reliable Roofing & Siding
 - Motion made by Myers, seconded by Corrigan, to approve the off-island business license application.
 - Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

- Temporary trailer permit for Reliable Roofing & Siding at the Sandelwood Condos (3687 Eckel Dr.). A6 x 10 enclosed trailer for the storage of tools and materials will arrive on September 9th and will be in use through September 14th. Trailer will be hauled by the Service Company.

- Councilman St. Onge asked that the trailer be parked as far in to the yard as possible and not left in the cul-de-sac as that will block fire access

Motion made by Myers, seconded by Corrigan, to approve the trailer permit.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

- Off-Island business license application for Sunbelt Rentals
 - Motion made by Moskwa, seconded by Corrigan, to approve the business license application
 - Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan, St. Onge

- Motor vehicle permit, submitted by Sunbelt Rentals, to perform repairs to multiple lifts being used at the Wastewater Treatment Plant project (Dept. of Public Works - DPW). A Ford F250 will arrive on August 22nd and will be in use for one (1) day.

Motion made by Myers, Seconded by Moskwa, to approve the motor vehicle permit and to waive the fee as this is work for the DPW.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan. St. Onge

- Councilman Moskwa asked Foreman Ken Peterson for an update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant project
 - Mr. Peterson informed the council that the project is going well overall
 - Have started backfilling on three (3) of the buildings, two (2) more are scheduled to start excavating after the holiday weekend

- Working on some miscellaneous pours throughout the project
- Have been working with Myron Johnson of the State Park and Dennis Dombroski to arrange the delivery of precast concrete panels after the holiday weekend – discussing weights, routes, and timelines
 - Once a plan is formed on that, an update will be completed to the Council
- Once buildings are enclosed mechanical work will start
- On schedule at this time
- Councilwoman Myers asked that DPW Director Allen Burt give a project update at the next Council meeting

XII. Miscellaneous / General Council Discussion / Additional Agenda Items

- Mayor Doud asked Treasurer Rick Linn for a report on the current Stuart House revenue
 - \$9,025.80 taken in to date
 - Compares to \$16,000.00 or \$17,000.00 from 2023
- Dave Jurcak of Grand Hotel inquired about work on the MIFC Main Dock
 - Cruise ships will begin docking in 8 months, if the ships cannot tender in what can be done?
 - Mayor Doud noted that the dock is being worked on now and Hoffman / Shepler’s is trying to get work arranged as quickly as possible
 - Mr. Jurcak asked for a better timeline of when work will be completed and when the dock will be safe for the ships to dock at
 - Need a plan for how to handle cruise ship guests in 2025
- Mayor Doud noted that the flower baskets are the best she has seen in many years
 - If anyone would like to donate to the City’s Flower Basket Fund, that would be appreciated
 - City is currently paying just over \$24,000.00 per year for the flower baskets on Market Street and Main Street
 - Councilwoman Myers agreed that the baskets are doing very well this year, but is concerned about how low hanging some are in places – people cannot walk under some of them
 - Mayor’s Assistant Trista France commented that she would contact St. Ignace in Bloom and ask that they have them trimmed up
 - Councilwoman Myers further inquired what is to be done with baskets and flowers on private property and are hanging over the street – such as ones at the Pink Pony / Chippewa Hotel
 - These look nice, but may impede bike parking and foot traffic
 - Mayor Doud commented that she can contact Brian Bailey to look in to this
 - Councilwoman Myers also asked if the City Foreman could take a look at what needs to be trimmed

Motion by St. Onge, second to the Motion by Corrigan, to schedule the Special City Council meeting to discuss further ferry boat matters with Hoffman Marine & Shepler’s ferry for August 28, 2024 at 3:30 pm.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan. St. Onge

Councilman St. Onge requested that Chief Gruits have a plan in place for additional personnel in the area of the Shepler’s dock during Labor Day weekend to assist with the expected heavy traffic.

- Chief Gruits responded that he is working on hiring some additional Public Safety Assistants (PSA) to help with Labor Day weekend and throughout the remainder of the season as all of his current PSAs will be done by the end of August

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, motion made by Myers, seconded by Moskwa, to adjourn the meeting at 5:31 pm.

Voting Yea: Chambers, Corrigan, Moskwa, Myers, Sehoyan. St. Onge

Margaret M. Doud, Mayor

Danielle Leach, City Clerk