

City Council

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 6, 2015
7:00 p.m., Council Chambers



1. **Call to Order by Mayor Burr at 7:01 p.m.**
2. **Invocation – Reverend Curry Pikkaart of Hope Reformed Church**
3. **Proclamations for Josh Banks & Ryan Galyan**
4. **Roll Call**

Present: Arnold, Fitzgibbon, Gruber, Kozlik Wall, Patterson, and Burr
Absent: Klavins

Moved by Arnold, seconded by Gruber to excuse Councilmember Klavins for personal reasons.
Voted All: Yes. Motion carried.

5. **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Patterson, seconded by Gruber to approve the agenda.
Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

6. **Consent Agenda: Items A thru E (Roll Call Vote Required)**

Moved by Fitzgibbon, seconded by Patterson to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A. Council will be requested to approve the City Council Minutes for June 15, 2015.
- B. Council will be requested to approve the City Council Workshop Minutes for June 15, 2015.
- C. Bills totaling \$1,829,315.18 for the period ending July 5, 2015 to be approved and forwarded to the Clerk and Treasurer for payment.
- D. Council will be asked to award the Doorway Renovation project to Olsen Brothers Construction for the total contract amount of \$31,166.00 for improvements to the doorways at City Hall.
- E. Council will be asked to approve the proposal for the HVAC Upgrade Project at City Hall from Technical Energy Solutions in the amount of \$18,860.00.

A Roll Call Vote was taken:

Yeas: Fitzgibbon, Gruber, Klavins, Arnold, Kozlik Wall, Patterson, and Burr
Nays: None.

Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- 7. Council will be asked to consider Special Event 2015-22, South Haven Beach Volleyball Tournament on July 11th and 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the North Beach.**

Background Information:

The South Haven High School volleyball program is looking to host two separate volleyball tournaments each starting at 9:00 am and ending around 2:00 pm on North Beach. The cost will be \$30 per team. It will be a pool play to single elimination tournament. On 7/11/15 they will host a high school girl's doubles tournament and on 7/12/15 they will host a novice coed doubles tournament (no age limit). Winners and runners-up will receive trophies.

Moved by Fitzgibbon, seconded by Arnold to approve Special Event 2015-2, South Haven Beach Volleyball Tournament on July 11th and 12th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the North Beach.

Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

- 8. Council will be asked to consider introduction of an ordinance amending the administrative fee for correcting long grass violations from \$50 to \$150.**

Background Information:

The City Code requires property owners to mow their property when grass exceeds a height of six inches. The Code Enforcement Officer mails out a courtesy notice, a first warning letter, and a letter providing notice that the grass will be mowed. The City Code currently specifies a \$50 administrative fee for correcting long grass violations. The administrative fee is only applied if the grass is mowed. The amount of the administrative fee was last updated in 1990.

A number of properties in the City are not maintained throughout the summer, and the City is required to mow properties multiple times during the summer. Eight properties were mowed more than one time in 2014. In the hope of reducing the amount of long grass violations which the City must correct, and in order to cover more of the cost of the City's code enforcement program, City staff is requesting raising the administrative fee from \$50 to \$150 for each time a contractor must be sent to a property to mow and correct a long grass violation.

The property owner is billed the actual cost of the mowing contractor plus the administrative fee. The total cost is invoiced to the property owner and if unpaid, is added to the property tax for that parcel.

In 2014, properties were mowed under the ordinance 31 times. At the current administrative fee of \$50, \$1,550 would be recovered. At the proposed administrative fee of \$150, \$4,650 would have been recovered. An estimate of code enforcement expenses related to long grass enforcement is \$5,000 per year.

Paul VandenBosch, Assistant City Manager, spoke briefly on the subject.

Moved by Fitzgibbon, seconded by Patterson to table the discussion on item #8 until the next meeting of the city council.

Voted Yes: All. Motion Carried.

9. Council will be asked to consider introduction of a utility rate ordinance.

Background Information:

During the month of June, 2015 the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and the City Council approved an increase of 2% for the various components of the water and sewer utility rates to be effective July 1, 2015. At that time the BPU wanted to obtain more information about the actual energy cost charges proposed by our supplier for the upcoming year before making any recommendation for possible changes to the electric utility rates. Upon analysis of the data the BPU recommends a 4% increase in the residential energy rate, no change in the commercial energy rate and a 3% increase in the Commercial Power and Industrial energy rates. The Demand customers will also see an increase of 3.1% in the demand rate.

Electric customers have shared in the fluctuations in fuel charges being charged by our supplier by way of the "Fuel Adjustment" shown on the monthly utility bill. The Utility is also charged monthly by our supplier for fluctuations in a PJM open access transmission tariff that appears on our monthly power invoice. These PJM fees were historically an average of \$500,000 - \$600,000 annually and were absorbed by the existing energy rates in effect. The fees now exceed those levels so the BPU has recommended that we share the fluctuations in the PJM fees costs with the electric customers in excess of a base amount of \$500,000 annually. The PJM and fuel cost adjustments will be included on one line on the monthly utility bill called "Energy Cost Adjustment".

Moved by Fitzgibbon, seconded by Patterson to introduce a utility rate ordinance.

Voted Yes: All. Motion carried.

10. Interested Citizens in the Audience Will be Heard on Items Not on the Agenda

Mary Lynn Bugge of 70 Gabriel Drive South Haven, MI – Spoke to council regarding her concerns of zoning restrictions that allowed a car lot in the central business district.

11. City Manager's Comments

Compliments to Police Department, SHAES, and DPW for the outstanding work controlling crowds and cleaning up afterwards on July 3rd Fireworks and the July 4th holiday weekend.

12. Mayor and Councilperson's Comments

Arnold: No comment.
Fitzgibbon: Thanked Mary Lynn Bugge for bringing her comments to City Council. Also thanked DPW crews for their outstanding job of cleaning up litter after Fireworks. Reported that residents of Brockway Street were

- pleased with the parking plan of having cars only park on the south side of the street for the fireworks.
- Gruber: Great job to staff.
- Kozlik Wall: Remarkd that she had also received complaints about the car lot on the corner of Phoenix and Broadway as well as the banners over Broadway Street. Good job by Mayor on fireworks show. Kudos to Fire, Police, and Parks for work over the weekend.
- Patterson: Remarkd on the great work making the weekend fabulous – thanks to all the staff. Reminder to dog owners that at the beach, dogs must stay on the sidewalk and cannot go on the sand.
- Burr: Thanked Fireworks donors for their contributions. South Haven Fireworks show was voted #1 by the Kalamazoo media. Also, South Beach was voted Best Beach by the Kalamazoo media.

13. Adjourn

Moved by Patterson, seconded by Fitzgibbon to adjourn the meeting.

Voted Yes: All. Motion carried. City Council meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,



Kate Hosier
Deputy City Clerk
City of South Haven

Approved by City Council: **July 20, 2015**