

Village of Howard City
Council Meeting Minutes
October 21, 2024

President Heckman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present: Smith, Hagstrom, Heckman, Bassett, Williams, and MacTavish. Absent: VanWagner.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Motion by Smith seconded by Hagstrom to approve the agenda with the addition of B-2) West Bend Insurance. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Motion by Smith seconded by MacTavish to accept the consent agenda as presented. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Public Comment: Vern Crater at 117 Lincoln inquired about joining the fire department. Jackie Bissonette, representative of the Parks and Recreation Committee, informed Council that the committee is going to host a chili cookoff prior to the tree lighting on December 7th and any organization within the community can participate. Jean's Pizza Café will host the event. Voting will be done by the community, must be 18 to vote, and winner will receive a trophy.

President Heckman presented Council with ideas for residential water filtration systems and prices. Mr. Falcon will look at the information provided by President Heckman and will also check into any liability the Village may have if it decides to implement this type of option. Mr. Falcon stated that in a continued attempt to improve the Village water quality, the Village has reached out to and is working with the State of Michigan's Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, (EGLE) for any potential water grant(s)/loan(s) that may be available now or in the future in an effort for the Village to continue to loop dead-end sections of our water system.

Mr. Falcon was contacted by the Village insurance that West Bend Insurance is willing to settle the water/sewer main break back from September 2023 for \$21,621.35. Council agrees to accept this settlement.

Motion by Williams seconded by Bassett to approve the bills with the additions presented by the Treasurer of \$775.36 for a total of \$185,824.14. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Mr. Falcon informed Council that the Band Shell is getting closer to completion. We are still waiting for the flagpoles, cement sidewalk and some aesthetics.

Mr. Falcon also informed Council that the concrete was removed and replaced with new concrete at the tennis/basketball courts. Next Spring Racquet Sports, L.L.C. will complete the project with a rubberized overlay that will have all the lines needed for each court. In addition, they will install the basketball nets and pickleball poles & nets. There will be three (3) pickleball courts and one basketball court.

Motion by Hagstrom seconded by Williams to accept the bid from Ferguson for \$293,195.70, as well as lid replacement costs as needed, for total water meter replacement throughout the Village. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Motion by MacTavish seconded by Hagstrom to accept the bid from Integrated Controls for the installation of a SCADA system for water and sewer for a total of \$215,950.81. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Mr. Falcon informed Council that he and the Clerk/Treasurer will be attending a presentation from the Village attorneys regarding the new Earned Sick Time Act.

Mr. Falcon also reminded Council that Halloween in the park will be on October 31 from 6-7pm giving trick-or-treaters time to go around town as well.

Public Comment: Brady Heckman at 721 Hazel thanked Trustee Bassett for his eight years of service and thanked entire Council for their service as well and continued to speak on the upcoming election. Commissioner Baker stated that the County has been discussing the extra funds and how those funds will be distributed.

President Heckman informed Council that he and Mike Falcon met with the engineers and received a lot of information regarding the Village water and sewer systems. He stated he is grateful for the pickleball court

improvements and the band shell. President Heckman stated there is a meeting set up on January 8 between Harvest Festival, the downtown businesses, and the library to brainstorm about possibly hosting one main event in the Village. President Heckman also thanked Trustee Bassett for his eight years of service. President Heckman touched on a local business, Mooney's Autobody, who stepped up to take a semi load of supplies for hurricane relief in North Carolina. President Heckman stated Howard City is a great community, Council has been great to work with, and he is proud of all that has been accomplished in the last ten years.

Motion by Williams seconded by MacTavish to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 pm. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Melissa Kuzmik, Clerk

Randy Heckman, President