

Village of Howard City  
Council Meeting Minutes  
April 15, 2024

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Motion by Smith seconded by Bassett to approve the agenda with the addition of B-4) Emily Trann, Harvest Festival. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Deputy Lincoln presented the monthly police report for March.

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

Public Comment: Mallery Wert, Owner Karve Nutrition and Edgerton Alley, represented the Edgerton businesses and requested permission to shut down Edgerton Street on December 14 for safety concerns. Ms. Wert also stated the Edgerton businesses would love to work with the Village in 2025 to combine Christmas events if possible. The closing of Edgerton will be on the May council agenda.

Council agreed to allow Jim and Patty Cooper to sell strawberries in the Buck Pole area during the summer from June – August as long as dates and times they will be selling are communicated with the Village Manager.

Motion by VanWagner seconded by MacTavish to approve 2024-3 Resolution Adopting 80% / 20% Employer/Employee Health Care Cost. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

President/Fire Chief Heckman addressed Council with the possibility of purchasing a new fire truck and the possibility of cancelling the Sheriff contract to help pay for the new truck. Mr. Falcon stated that as the Village did not budget for the purchase of a fire truck in this fiscal year that it would be wise to wait until next year, so we are able to budget properly. After more discussion, President/Fire Chief Heckman asked to remove the request.

Emily Trann, Harvest Festival Chair, requested approval for a beer tent and DJ for September 14. Harvest Festival does have a company that will do tents, fencing, and security as well as provide licensed bartenders, insurance, and liquor license. Motion by Hagstrom seconded by MacTavish to approve a beer tent to be held in the Buck Pole area with set up Friday, September 13, and shut down Friday night, set up Saturday, September 14, and shut down Saturday night, and tear down on Sunday, September 15. Motion CARRIED (5-0) VanWagner abstain

Motion by Hagstrom seconded by MacTavish to approve the bills with the additions presented by the Treasurer of \$1,487.47 for a total of \$38,571.65. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Mr. Falcon updated Council on the insurance payment for the sewer and water main break on Shaw Street last fall.

Mr. Falcon informed Council that he is looking at doing a overlay on the tennis and basketball courts in order to get them reconditioned.

Mr. Falcon presented Council with a brush policy. Council requested that the number of days to put brush out prior to pick up be eliminated, add that pick up will be at least twice a month, and remove the length of branches. Mr. Falcon will update and bring to next meeting.

Mr. Falcon updated Council on 568 W. Shaw in that the owner has submitted a variance request to change the zoning back to residential as the owner is currently using the building as a rental unit. This will be presented to Planning Commission in May and brought before Council/ZBA in June for a final decision.

Mr. Falcon updated Council on the progress of the Band Shell. We are currently waiting on Consumers Energy for electricity and Nugent Builders would like to get started on the project this month.

Mr. Falcon informed Council that we applied for a grant that was due April 1 and so far it looks promising. There will be a 35% match if we do obtain this grant of \$400,000.

Mr. Falcon reminded everyone of the Clean Up Day on May 18 and that music on Main Street will be starting again on Thursdays through the summer again.

Council agreed to allow Mary Rousch to allow a plant sale for the Tri County Soccer team for a fund raising event the weekend before Memorial Day.

Public Comment: Sharon Ogren brought attention to having problems with kids laying in the street on Edgerton, leaving bikes parked behind cars that need to back out of parking spots, and being disrespectful when asked to move. She requested new signage stating no bikes or skateboards on sidewalks.

Mallery Wert inquired as to how many hours of actual patrol the Village is supposed to receive with the current contract.

Mr. Baker updated everyone on the County Commissioner's meeting in that they approved a grant for fencing at animal control, passed a resolution to increase everyone's telephone surcharge by \$0.15 to support 911 program, they hired a new Commission on Aging director who started this week, and also had an audit resulting in a clear opinion and are considering disbursing any excess funds to communities who ask.

Lori Kropewnicki asked for an update on the Fortis Health building.

Mallery Wert informed Council that there are a couple of bases missing on the field at Peck Park and that there is a lot of grass in the infield.

Trustee VanWagner noticed the bike maintenance center that was installed at The Depot and stated it looked good.

President Heckman informed Council he was approached by an individual inquiring about purchasing the property across the street from Off Season's Sports. Council agreed that since this was donated property it would not be a good idea to sell.

Motion by MacTavish seconded by VanWagner to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

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Melissa Kuzmik, Clerk

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Randy Heckman, President