

Village of Howard City
Council Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2024

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

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

Deputy Lincoln presented the monthly police report for February.

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

Public Comment: None.

Mr. Falcon discussed the DNR Trust Fund Grant for a Splash Pad in Ensley Park. Mr. Falcon outlined the specifics of the project in that the Village will have a 34% match of \$157,000 with grant funding of \$300,000 for a total of the project to be \$457,000. Mr. Falcon asked for public comment regarding the project. Trustee Hagstrom inquired about vandalism and if the splash pad would be secure, i.e., surrounded by a fence that could be locked at night. Mr. Falcon stated there will not be anything we can lock but we would be installing new cameras for monitoring. Trustee Smith asked if the splash pad could be expanded in the future. Mr. Falcon stated we can expand. There will be a timer on the feature that will turn on and off at programmed times and there will be a timer as to how long the water will run if not in use.

Motion by MacTavish seconded by VanWagner to approve of the DNR Trust Fund Grant for Splash Pad in Ensley Park submission. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Motion by VanWagner seconded by MacTavish to approve 2024-2 Resolution of Authorization DNR Splash Pad Grant. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Motion by MacTavish seconded by Smith to pay bills as presented for a total of \$92,815.95. Motion CARRIED (6-0)

Council approved the ballfield reservations for Tri County Little League without a charge but with the agreement that the Little League will help with maintenance of the ballfields.

Mr. Falcon informed Council that he is looking at replacing water meters in the Village in the 2025-2026 budget year.

Mr. Falcon stated that the band shell is in progress and should be up and running before the first Music in the Park concert in July pending any complications.

Mr. Falcon reminded Council of the Easter Egg Scramble this Saturday, March 23, at 11 am at Ensley Park.

Mr. Falcon discussed his attendance at the MML CapCon in Lansing.

Public Comment: None.

Pro-Tem Williams stated she is glad to hear the Village will be getting our new chipper soon. Mr. Falcon stated that it should be here mid to late April. Mr. Falcon also spoke with Village of Lakeview Village Manager, and it was agreed that the Village of Lakeview will buy us out for the shared chipper at \$4,000, half of its value. Mr. Falcon stated he will be updating our brush policy within the next month.

Motion by MacTavish seconded by VanWagner to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 pm. Motion CARRIED (6-0)