

VILLAGE OF SPARTA
Kent County, Michigan
Village Council Meeting
Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:00pm.
75 N. Union St. (Sparta Civic Center)

Present: Council President Whalen, Council Members Brenda Braybrook, Robert Carlstrom, Dave Cumings, Courtney Mais, Tom Peoples, and Bill Taylor.

Absent: None.

Also present: Village Manager Jim Lower, Police Chief Andy Milanowski, DPW Director Bill Hunter, Airport Manager Mike Kryciok, and Village Clerk Katy Shelton.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

2. Pledge of Allegiance: The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Roll Call: Formal roll call was taken. Those in attendance/absent are noted above.

4. Additions or Corrections to Consent and Business Agenda
Consent Agenda:

- a. Approve Regular Village Council Meeting Minutes of December 11, 2023
 - b. Approve Special Village Council Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2023
 - c. Approve Fire Board Minutes of December 21, 2023
 - d. Approve DDA Minutes of December 12, 2023
 - e. Approve Planning Commission Reappointments of Robert Liscombe, Emilie Henry, Jon Braybrook, and Rose Frederick to 3-year terms. The seat formerly occupied by Ryan Wolford shall remain vacant.
- No additions or corrections noted.

5. Approval of Consent and Business Agenda: Motion by Carlstrom with a second by Braybrook to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Public Comment for Agenda Item:

Please Note: This Public Comment portion of the meeting is reserved for comment on agenda items. Personal or abusive attacks on Council members, staff members, or other participants will not be tolerated and may result in the Village President taking action, up to and including, having the speaker removed from the meeting by law enforcement officers.

A. None.

7. Public Hearing

a. None.

8. Old Business

a. None.

9. New Business:

a. Res. 23-21 A resolution of Tribute offered as a Memorial for Tom Bliss. As stated on the resolution, “Tom Bliss has dutifully served the Sparta Community both as a police officer and a school resource officer. This tribute acknowledges his dedicated service to the community.” Police Chief Milanowski addressed the Council as well as Tom Bliss’s family members who were in attendance. He gave a synopsis of Bliss’s career along with some personal reminiscences. Motion by Cumings with a second by Braybrook to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Res. 24-01 A resolution of intent to alter the Village boundaries. The owner of 1055 13 Mile Rd, Chad Momber, has asked that this parcel be brought into the village via annexation. The parcel is surrounded by Village

property already to the north, west, and east. The Mr Momber wishes to connect to Village water and sewer utilities. His goal is to operate a vehicle sales operation on the property. It is the Village's understanding that the Township does not oppose this annexation. Chad Momber, 2124 12 Mile Rd, Sparta, was present to answer any questions. Motion by Braybrook with a second by Taylor to approve this resolution. Motion passed unanimously. The next step will be to get a hearing on this matter by the Kent County Board of Commissioners. Once a date is set for the hearing, the meeting will be advertised, and a public hearing (by the Kent County Board of Commissioners) will be held. After this hearing, the Kent County Board of Commissioners may vote to approve or not approve the request. Their determination in this matter is final and not subject to referendum or any other means of overturning it.

c. Res. 24-02 A resolution to approve a Lease

Agreement between the Village of Sparta and Sowing

Seeds Child Care LLC. Allison Houseman, the owner of

Sowing Seeds Child Care LLC, was present to answer questions. She said that her current facility on State St. in Sparta provides services to 84 children. The facility proposed to be leased by the Village to her company will provide services for an additional 80 children

(approximately.) She said that she has approximately 160 kids currently on her waiting list. She also said that the new location will employ about twenty new employees. She anticipates opening some time later this year. She said that the exact date depends on approval from the State of Michigan as well as the timing of the renovations needed in order for her to begin operations. The Village believes that this agreement is a huge win for the residents of Sparta. It will greatly increase the availability of child care as well as bringing in some extra revenue for the Village. Motion by

Mais with a second by People to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

d. Approval of Village Complex design work for construction and bid package. This is for the actual construction/engineering drawings to be created and prepared for bid for this project. In order to move forward with this project, these items need to be completed soon. Motion by Carlstrom with a second by Mais to approve payment in a not to exceed amount of \$80,000 to Andrus Architecture to complete these drawings. It was noted that this is a maximum cost, but that the final cost could well be less depending on how the design process plays out. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Village Manager & Department Reports: Council member Taylor asked Airport Manager Kryciok about the recent emergency landing of a plane from Sparta airport in Ravenna. There were no additional reports from any departments.

11. Communications:
a. None.

12. Payments of Bills:

December Payables

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|-------------------------|--------------|
| PAYABLES | |
| (101) General Fund | \$128,787.11 |
| (202) Major Street Fund | \$1,715.81 |
| (203) Local Street Fund | \$22,008.50 |
| (581) Airport | \$17,553.07 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| (590) Sewer Department Fund | \$140,663.87 |
| (591) Water Department Fund | \$26,429.84 |
| (661) Equipment Rental Fund | \$41,519.92 |
| Total | \$378,678.12 |

Informational:

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|---|--------------------|
| (206) Fire Department | \$33,894.83 |
| (208) SRA Park Fund | \$1,726.58 |
| (248) Downtown Development Authority | \$48,761.55 |
| Total | \$84,382.96 |

Motion by Cumings with a second by Mais to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$378,678.12. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Public Comment:

a. None.

14. Council Member Announcements:

a. None.

15. Adjournment: The meeting with adjourned by President Whalen at 7:25pm.

Submitted by Katy Shelton, Village Clerk.