

**VILLAGE OF SPARTA**  
Kent County, Michigan  
**Village Council Meeting**  
**Monday, June 10, 2024 at 7:00 PM**  
**75 N. Union St. (Sparta Civic Center)**

**Present:** President Whalen, Council Members, Braybrook, Mais, Peoples, Taylor, Carlstrom & Cumings

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Village Manager Jim Lower, DPW Supervisor Bill Hunter, Airport Manager Mike Krzciok, Mark Moody, Joel Langlois, John Paasch, Lori Pant, Christie Cane, Rich Hiadder, John Kozal, Rob Steffens, and Barb Johnson

1. **Call to Order:** The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **Roll Call:** Formal roll call was taken with those in attendance noted above.
4. **Additions or Corrections to Consent and Business Agenda**  
Consent Agenda:
  - a. *Approve Regular Village Council Meeting Minutes of May 13, 2024*
  - b. *Approve Planning Commission Minutes May 6, 2024*
  - c. *Approve Fire Board Minutes of May 22, 2024*
  - d. *Approve DDA Minutes April 9, 2024*
5. **Approval of Consent and Business Agenda:** Motion by Mais, supported by Carlstrom to approve the consent and business agenda with the addition of new business item e. 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.  
  
No public comment for agenda items.
7. **Public Hearing**
  - a. None.
8. **Old Business**
  - a. None.
9. **New Business**
  - a. **Ord. 24-02 An ordinance to amend Chapter 82 Zoning: Multiple Sections:** Village Manager Lower provided a brief overview noting the ordinance was unanimously recommend for approval by the Village Planning Commission. Moved by Braybrook, supported by Cumings to adopt ordinance 24-02. Motion passed unanimously.

- b. Ord. 24-03 An ordinance to repeal Chapter 58, Article 3, Section 58-102 “Snow Removal”:** Village Manager Lower provided a brief overview of the new ordinance. Motion by Carlstrom, supported by Braybrook to adopt ordinance 24-03. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Ord. 24-04 An ordinance to amend Chapter 70, Article 1, Section 70-9 “Yard Parking”:** Village Manager Lower provided a brief overview of the new ordinance. Motion by Cumings, supported by Mais to adopt ordinance 24-04. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. PFAS Class Action Settlement:** Village Manager Lower & DPW Supervisor Bill Hunter both provided an overview of this agenda item. Motion by Braybrook, supported by Mais to approve the village’s participation in the 3M-Dupont PFAS class action settlement and authorize the Village Manager to take all necessary steps to effectuate the settlement. Motion passed unanimously
- e. Township Master Plan Presentation:** Barb Johnson on behalf of the Sparta Township Board of Trustees and Planning Commission presented the survey results of the townships survey. It was noted that the survey had 369 respondents, 331 live in the township only, 27 live in the village/township, and 11 lived in neither and were presumably business owners. It was clarified that if a resident lives in the village they are also a township resident and the village makes up approximately half of the total township population. Johnson’s interpretation of the results are that people like the rural feel of the area and they want development but not at too fast of a rate. She indicated Roads, Fire, and Emergency Service were biggest priorities for survey respondents.

**10. Executive Session**

- a. Closed Session A as permitted under Michigan OMA Section 8(1)(h) to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute:** Moved by Braybrook, supported by Cumings to enter into closed session a for the allowable purpose stated on the agenda at 8:04pm. Motion passed unanimously. Council returned to open session at 8:34pm.
- b. Closed Session B as permitted under Michigan OMA Section 8(1)(h) to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute:** Moved by Braybrook, supported by Cumings to enter into closed session b for the allowable purpose stated on the agenda at 8:35pm. Motion passed unanimously. Council returned to open session at 8:51pm.

**11. Village Manager & Department Reports:** Village Manager informed council of the grand opening of High Standard Cannabis in the Village of Sparta on Father’s Day Weekend.

**12. Communications:** None.

**13. Payment of Bills:** Motion by Mais, Supported by Peoples to approve the payment of bills as presented. Motion pass unanimously.

**May Payables**

PAYABLES	
(101) General Fund	\$171,348.94
(202) Major Street Fund	\$8,862.24
(203) Local Street Fund	\$3,897.72
(581) Airport	\$43,118.48
(590) Sewer Department Fund	\$59,607.84

(591) Water Department Fund	\$30,949.52
(661) Equipment Rental Fund	\$16,880.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$334,665.07</b>

Informational:

(206) Fire Department	\$10,068.22
(208) SRA Park Fund	\$20,145.09
(248) Downtown Development Authority	\$16,350.11
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$46,563.42</b>

- 14. Public Comment:** Public Comment was opened immediately after new business due to the fact there were two executive sessions on the agenda and the Council did not want to make those in attendance leave and then come back in before making their comments.

Mark Moody, 335 Robins Ln spoke about his desire to close of the emergency access drive at the back of the development he lives in due to excessive traffic. Joel Langlois spoke about his candidacy for Kent County Commissioner. John Paasch spoke about his candidacy for 63<sup>rd</sup> District Court Judge. Lori Pant, Christie Cane, Rich Hiadder, John Kozal, and Rob Steffens (all of which reside outside of the Village of Sparta in Sparta Township) spoke generally about agriculture preservation, the townships master plan, and the hypothetical annexation of property to the West of M37 into the Village of Sparta. Cane spoke about public notices and being informed of when meetings happen.

- 15. Council Member Announcements:** None.

- 16. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by President Whalen at 8:57pm

Respectfully submitted by Village Manager James Lower, acting as recording secretary for the meeting.