

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

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

**Absent:** None.

**Also present:** Village Manager Jim Lower, DPW Supervisor Bill Hunter, Airport Manager Mike Kryciok, Police Chief Andy Milanowski, 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 June 10, 2024
  - b. Approve Fire Board Minutes of June 20, 2024
  - c. Approve DDA Minutes of May 14, 2024
5. **Approval of Consent and Business Agenda:** Motion by Braybrook with a second by Cumings 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. **Ord. 24-05 Crosswalks.** Public hearing opened at 7:02pm. Current state law requires that motorists yield to pedestrians only at signalized crosswalks. In order to enhance pedestrian safety, especially in the downtown area, the Village placed R1-6 signs (pedestrian crossing signs) at unsignalized crosswalks on Division and N Union Streets. These signs are intended to improve pedestrian safety by making crosswalks more visible and reinforcing the expectation for motorists to yield. The Kent County Road Commission requires the Village to approve a local ordinance in order to erect those signs. Although this ordinance will be in effect year round, the signs will not be present in the winter. Public hearing closed at 7:09pm.

## 8. Old Business

- a. **Res. 24-18 Sale of 92 N. State Street:** Habitat for Humanity has expressed an interest in purchasing this lot in order to build a house. The estimated market value of the lot is between 42K-48K. Habitat for Humanity has offered 10K for the property. The Village Manager asked the Village Council for guidance in how to move forward. The consensus from the Council was to put the property on the open market and see what sort of bids it receives. The property is currently zoned RM (residential – medium density.) President Whalen asked if the Council was amenable to a multi family residence being built there, and the Council said yes. Motion by Mais with a second by Peoples to go forward with the sale of this property. Motion passed unanimously.

## 9. New Business

- a. **Ord. 24-05 Crosswalks:** Motion by Cumings with a second by Braybrook to approve this ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. **Traffic Control Order S. Union:** This encompasses traffic control order 24-01 and 24-02, both regulating similar things. It was noted that there will be no parking in the Silver Creek/S Union area. Motions by Carlstrom with a second by Mais to approve. Motions passed unanimously.

## 10. Executive Session

a. None.

11. **Village Manager & Department Reports:** The Village Manager reported that he would be on vacation the next week, and that Airport Manager Mike Kryzciok would be the emergency contact. He also gave an update on the Safe Routes project, mentioning that it's a very long process in order to secure the grants. He said that all of the easements have been secured and the proper paperwork has been submitted. In response to a question by Council member Mais, he said that the Nash Creek dredging is scheduled for 2025. He also gave an update on the splash pad at Rogers Park.

Council member Carlstrom asked Airport Manager Kryzciok about fuel sales at the airport. He said that although current fuel sales are high, that 2020 had the highest fuel sales. He also said that the flight schools at the airport are very busy, which also accounts for a rise in fuel sales.

12. **Communications:**

a. None.

13. **Payment of Bills**

### June Payables

PAYABLES	
(101) General Fund	\$132,546.34
(202) Major Street Fund	\$260,246.91
(203) Local Street Fund	\$4,807.21
(581) Airport	\$39,393.21
(590) Sewer Department Fund	\$55,930.14
(591) Water Department Fund	\$48,286.88
(661) Equipment Rental Fund	\$11,580.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 552,791.12</b>

Informational:

(206) Fire Department	\$18,497.35
(208) SRA Park Fund	\$3,133.66
(248) Downtown Development Authority	\$4,311.67
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,942.68</b>

Motion by Mais with a second by Taylor to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$552,791.12. Motion passed unanimously.

14. **Public Comment:** Eva Wickham, 114 S. Union, Sparta, commented about a problem with a landlord letting a property become very derelict.
15. **Council Member Announcements:** Council member Mais mentioned that she would be out of the country in July.
16. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by President Whalen at 7:53pm.

Submitted by Katy Shelton, Village Clerk.