

**VILLAGE OF SPARTA**  
Kent County, Michigan  
**Regular Village Council Meeting**  
**Monday July 12, 2021 at 7:00 PM**  
**75 N. Union St. (Sparta Civic Center)**

Present: Village President Robert Whalen, Council Members Brenda Braybrook, Robert Carlstrom, Dave Cumings, Jayne Heath, Bill Taylor, and Gale Taylor.

Also Present: Police Chief Andy Milanowski, Code Enforcement Officer Natalie Davenport, Airport Manager Marty Coaker, Finance Director/Treasurer David Carpenter, DPW Supervisor Dennis Brinks, Adam Philipp from Infrastructure Alternatives, Village Manager Shay Gallagher, Village Clerk Katy Shelton.

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Whalen at 7:00pm.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited following the Call to Order.
3. **Roll Call:** A formal roll call was taken. Those in attendance are noted above.
4. **Additions or Corrections to Consent and Business Agenda:** There were no additions or corrections to the Consent and Business Agenda.

Consent Agenda:

- a. Approve Regular Village Council Meeting Minutes of June 14, 2021*
  - b. Approval of Special Council Meeting Minutes of June 28, 2021*
  - c. Approve Regular Fire Board Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2021*
  - d. Approve Regular Planning Commission Meeting Minutes July 6, 2021*
  - e. Approve Regular DDA Meeting Minutes June 8, 2021*
5. **Approval of Consent and Business Agenda:** Motion made by Carlstrom with a second by Braybrook to approve the agenda. 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.

Sue Blackall spoke about landscaping at various locations around the township. This would include trees, bushes, flowers, clearing out invasive species, and so forth. She has applied to Consumer's Energy for a matching grant to help with these efforts and was seeking financial help from the Village. President Whalen stated that because these lands

are owned by the Township and not the Village that it would be improper for the Village to contribute funds for this specific project.

**7. Public Hearing**

- a. None

**8. Old Business**

- a. None

**9. New Business**

- a. 77 E. Division Special Land Use Request: Made by Copper Acorn Interior Design Studios (Matt and Amanda Sherman). This is to rehabilitate the existing structure and to operate a personal service establishment (interior design firm) from this address. Motion by Cummings with a second by Braybrook to approve this request. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. FBO2 Hanger Repair Work: This is the last item to be repaired within the scope of this project. The airport committee agrees with the Village recommendation to award the contract to Sam Kaufman/Countryside Construction in an amount not to exceed \$8500.00. Motion by Braybrook with a second by Heath to approve this contract. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Model Engineering Contract: This was brought to the Council so that Council Members could review the proposed Model Engineering Contract. Since the Village now has four prequalified engineering firms, a single contract that would apply to all the engineering firms would be optimal. No action was required or taken on this issue at this time.
- d. MML Worker's Compensation Fund Trustee Election: This was a motion to vote in favor for the five candidates for the MML (Michigan Municipal League) Workers' Compensation Board of Trustees. Motion made by Carlstrom with a second by Braybrook to approve this motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- e. Resolution 21-07 – Acceptance of American Rescue Plan Act Funds: This resolution allows the Village to officially accept \$460,400 in funds from the Federal Government as part of the American Rescue Plan act. These monies will be used for to help recover revenue losses and negative economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and for investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. Motion by Braybrook with a second by Cumings to approve this resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

**10. Village Manager & Department Reports:**

- 1.** DPW Supervisor Dennis Brinks reported that painting has been completed on some parallel parking spots in the Village.
- 2.** Council Member Gale Taylor asked about the definition of “old business”. He stated that he'd like the Council to continue to deal with old business until it's resolved so that it doesn't get forgotten. Council members supported him. The

consensus was that these old business issues could perhaps be addressed in the Village Manager’s report.

- 3.** Code Enforcement officer Natalie Davenport stated that the Village is continuing to work with several properties that are still in violation of code ordinances. She said that tickets will be issued for continued noncompliance.

**11. Communications**

- 1.** Council member Carlstrom asked about upcoming sewer projects. Adam Philipp from Infrastructure Alternatives stated that there is a “top five” list of water and sewer projects that will utilize stimulus money, and that now that the Village has a prequalified list of engineers, the projects can begin to move forward.

**12. Payment of Bills:** Motion by Heath with a second by Carlstrom to approve the following payables. Motion passed unanimously.

July 2021 Payables

(101) General Fund	\$ 50,939.95
(202) Major Street Fund	\$ 6,274.23
(203) Local Street Fund	\$ 47,024.72
(230) Civic Center	\$ 1,314.32
(401) Sidewalk Fund	\$ 1,390.00
(581) Airport	\$ 26,013.66
(590) Sewer Department Fund	\$ 34,651.87
(591) Water Department Fund	\$ 31,512.93
(592) Sewer Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 24.36
(593) Water Capital Improvement Fund	\$ 6,189.59
(376) 2008 USDA Sewer Debt	\$ 36.31
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 212,533.30</b>

Informational:

(250) Downtown Development Authority	\$ 3,677.87
(208) SRA Park Fund	\$ 9,170.29
(206) Fire Department	\$ 14,804.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 27,652.41</b>

**13. Public Comment:** Sue Blackall wanted to thank Village Manager Gallagher and DPW Supervisor Brinks for their help in getting 47 trees planted in the area.

**14. Council Member Announcements:** Town and Country Days will occur this weekend. There will be a big aerial photoshoot after the parade. Past and present members of SARA are the grandmasters of the parade.

**15. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned by President Whalen at 7:48pm.

Submitted by Katy Shelton, Village Clerk,