

VILLAGE OF SPARTA
Kent County, Michigan
Village Council Meeting
Monday, September 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM
75 N. Union St. (Sparta Civic Center)

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

Absent: Courtney Mais.

Also present: DDA Director Liz Morse, DPW Supervisor Bil Hunter, Airport Manager Mike Krzciok, Village Manager Jim Lower, 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 August 12, 2024
- b. Approve Fire Board Meeting Minutes of August 22, 2024
- c. Approve Fireworks Displays for Michigan Apple Fest September 20th, 2024 or rain day
- d. Approve Fireworks Display for Sparta Homecoming Game October 11, 2024
- e. Approve Fireworks Display for Shop Sparta November 22, 2024 or rain day

The Village Manager asked to add item “e”: an update on the Wacker Neuson equipment to be purchased to the business item.

5. **Approval of Consent and Business Agenda:** With the addition of the above item “e”, motion by Carlstrom with a second by Cumings to approve. It was then stated that President Whalen would be abstaining from voting on the agenda due to the inclusion of item “e”. Motion therefore passed 5:0:1.

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. **Res. 24-22 A resolution approving a commercial redevelopment certificate application for Greystone 616 LLC at 390 E. Division Street:** Public hearing opened at 7:02pm. Village Manager Lower explained this item. He said that Graystone 616 LLC (Bays Water Treatment) is putting \$250,000 into the property at 390 E Division. The investment will rehabilitate the building and will allow it to become a permanent home for their water treatment business, including storage for supplies and offices. This commercial rehabilitation credit will abate 100% of the Village, Township, and County taxes for up to ten years on the taxable portion of the investment made into the building. Andrea and Travis Grey are the owners of Bays Water Treatment. Mr Grey was present to answer questions from the Council. He said there will be brick on the front of the building with vertical metal siding. The front of the building will be office space with a portion of that to be rented out. The back 8000 sq' will be for warehouse space. There was no public comment. Public hearing closed at 7:08pm.

8. Old Business

- a. None.

9. New Business

- a. **Res. 24-22 A resolution approving a commercial redevelopment certificate application for Greystone 616 LLC at 390 E. Division Street:** The Village Manager stated that this application is much like the ones the Village granted earlier for JNJ Investments in the same area. It fits in nicely with the goals of the Village Council to encourage commercial rehabilitation in the Village. This would be for a period of five years initially with the credit holder eligible to apply for another five years at the end of the first period. Motion by Braybrook with a second by Peoples to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. **Res. 24-23 A resolution to designate September 20th as POW/MIA recognition day:** The Michael J. Bost Chapter 18 of the Vietnam Veterans of America annually requests a resolution to commemorate POW/MIA recognition day. This is done to raise awareness of the fact that nearly 2000 Americans are still officially designated as POW/MIA. Motion by Cumings with a second by Peoples to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Res. 24-24 A resolution to approve amendment No. 42 in the GVMC Article of Inc.:** This approves amendment No. 42 to the Grand Valley Metro Council's articles of incorporation. Blendon Township would like to join the GVMC. Such action requires the passage of the resolution by each local unit of government that makes up the GVMC. Motion by Braybrook with a second by Carlstrom to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. **Airport Tree Trimming Project:** Airport Manager Krzciok explained this item. He said that during the last MDOT airport inspection, several trees were identified as obstructions to the aircraft approach path. Obstruction mitigation is required by our federal grant assurances. Since then, staff have been removing trees that are located on airport property. However, several of the trees are on private property and require removal or trimming by a licensed tree service company. Quotes

were requested, and after review, staff recommends Alpine Tree Service as they seemed the best suited to work with the property owners as their trees were trimmed and/or removed. Motion by Taylor with a second by Cumings to award the contract to Alpine Tree service in the not to exceed amount of \$19,250.00 Motion passed unanimously.

- e. **Wacker Neuson update:** The Village Manager stated that Finance Director David Carpenter noticed that Coopersville was selling a piece of equipment that the Village could use. It has low hours and is in good condition. It would be used to plow sidewalks and snow blow as well as other season use. He said that if the Village purchases it, it would then sell its Kaboda. He needs the authority to spend up to 45K to purchase the Wacker Neuson piece of equipment. Motion by Braybrook with a second by Carlstrom to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

10. Executive Session

- a. None.

11. Village Manager & Department Reports:

- a. None.

12. Communications:

- a. **KIA Banner Update:** DDA Director Liz Morse gave an update on this project. She said that after many many months of trying to work with Consumers Energy so as to allow the Village of Sparta to place banners on the Consumer Energy Poles, the DDA has decided to go a different route. They have decided to print these banners such that they will be able to fit on the smaller downtown light poles. These KIA banners will be displayed from Memorial Day through the summer on a seasonal basis. The Village can then put up and take down these banners as they prefer with the intent to still have fall, holiday, and winter banners installed on the poles in an alternating fashion. She noted that there will be one side per KIA, so each KIA hero will be placed through the Central Business District in downtown Sparta, and each banner will have two fallen soldiers on it, back to back. She noted that the money for this project did not come from the DDA; rather it was from grants and donations.
- b. **Sewer Plant Project Update:** Village Manager Lower gave this update. He said that the Utilities Committee had just met earlier that evening. He said that Sparta was one of only sixteen entities to get funding from the CWSRF fund. Sparta was approved for a 19 million dollar loan at 2% over thirty years. However, he said that because Old Orchard was no longer an issue, the loan would be reduced to eleven million. He said that Old Orchard would stay in Sparta; they just do not want to be part of our sewer project.

13. Payment of Bills

August Payables

PAYABLES	
(101) General Fund	\$76,025.40
(202) Major Street Fund	\$4,708.81
(203) Local Street Fund	\$63,647.18
(581) Airport	\$6,330.73
(590) Sewer Department Fund	\$79,844.35
(591) Water Department Fund	\$40,032.78
(661) Equipment Rental Fund	\$783.61
Total	\$271,372.86

Informational:

(206) Fire Department	\$12,227.69
(208) SRA Park Fund	\$3,365.77
(248) Downtown Development Authority	\$7,198.72
Total	\$22,792.18

Motion by Peoples with a second by Carlstrom to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$271,372.86.

14. Public Comment

a. None.

15. Council Member Announcements

a. None.

16. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned by President Whalen at 8:01pm.

Submitted by Katy Shelton, Village Clerk.