

**VILLAGE OF SPARTA**  
Kent County, Michigan  
**Regular Village Council Meeting**  
**Monday April 11, 2022 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: DDA Director Elizabeth Morse, Police Chief Andy Milaowski, Airport Manager Marty Coaker, DPW Supervisor Dennis Brinks, Adam Philipp from Infrastructure Alternatives, Village Manager Shay Gallagher, 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**
  - a. *Approve Regular Village Council Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2022*
  - b. *Approve Regular Fire Board Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2022*
  - c. *Approve Downtown Development Authority Regular Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2022*
  - d. *Approve Regular Planning Commission Minutes of March 7, 2022*

No additions or corrections.

5. **Approval of Consent and Business Agenda**

Motion by Heath with a second by Carlstrom to approve. Motion passed unanimously.
6. **Public Comment for Agenda Items**

Please Note: This Public Comment portion of the meeting is reserved for comment on agenda items.

Comment was made that as regards the “social district request” discussed at the last meeting, that item “H” under “new business” needs to be listed as Resolution 22-07 and 22-08 and that item “I” listed as “Resolution 22-07 ARPA Funding Allocation” needs to read as “Resolution 22-09 ARPA Funding Allocation.”

Jim Lynema of 291 Doris Street had questions regarding the social district request. He believes that allowing it to last until 10pm is too late. He also wanted to know if there would be a vote on this. The Village Manager said that no vote was required.

Kristin Beck of 8708 Spruce Avenue in Newago also spoke. She said that these social districts came about as a result of COVID, and were a way for people to visit various communities and spend money which helps the local economies. She said that it involves people purchasing alcoholic drinks from designated businesses and then walking around in the community while waiting to be seated inside the businesses. She said that both Cedar Springs and Rockford have created these social districts, and that those communities have seen an increase of 25% in revenue at the businesses which sell these drinks. She said that there was been no negative impact at all, including no increase in cases of public intoxication.

**7. Public Hearing**

- a. Stormwater Ordinance: Public hearing opened at 7:04pm. The Village of Sparta is working to obtain a new stormwater discharge permit from the State of Michigan. Part of this process includes updating the existing stormwater ordinance which will help to standardize most stormwater ordinances within the Lower Grand River Watershed.

Bill Goodfellow, 2267 12 Mile RD NW asked about retention ponds versus detention ponds.

The public hearing was closed at 7:25pm.

**8. Old Business**

- a. None

**9. New Business**

- a. Village Stormwater Ordinance (as mentioned above): Motion by Carlstrom with a second by Heath to approve this ordinance. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Stormwater Maintenance Agreement: Motion by Brayrook with a second by Cumings to approve this maintenance agreement as proposed and which will grant the Village Manager the authority to enter into future Stormwater Maintenance Agreements as needed. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Water Tower Engineering Proposals: The Southwest water tower is in need of minor maintenance work and a complete exterior overcoat. The Village sought various bids to complete this work. Motion made by Cumings with a second by Carlstrom to award this contract to Nelson Tank Engineering and Consulting Inc for the not to exceed price of \$11,380.00. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Concrete Projects Proposals: This involves having the concrete approaches behind the Village Hall replaced as they are in very poor condition. It also involves having the eastern entrance to the Arches parking lot modified to better serve

pedestrian access and slim down the entrance to prevent wrong way exits. Council members questioned whether the bid prices included hauling away the concrete. The Village Manager will investigate this. Motion made by Braybrook with a second by Heath to award this contract to LaRoca Concrete in the amount not to exceed \$9,650.00. Motion passed unanimously. Note: these two projects were budgeted for FY 2022.

- e. Major/Local Streets GSB Proposal: One of the main factors that contributes to roadway deterioration is moisture that gets through the asphalt from cracks into the base and sub-base of roadways. To prevent this on newer roadways, the Village staff has researched applying a treatment called Gilsonite Based Asphalt Sealer or GSB. This works to repel water and moisture by sealing all of the small cracks in the roadway. There is only one vendor who is doing this type of work in our state. Motion made by Bill Taylor with a second by Cumings to award to contract to do this work to Fahner Asphalt Sealers in the amount not to exceed \$37,850.00. The motion passed with a vote of 4:3.
- f. Airport Ground Lease: This would update the current ground lease agreement to allow individuals or companies to construct hangar buildings using loans from banks. The Sparta Airport would financially benefit from allowing this provision. There was a consensus from the Council to move forward with updating the ground lease agreement.
- g. River Road Lift Station: In November 2021, the Council authorized the purchase of a replacement pump for the River Road lift station. Since that time, the second pump at that lift station has been experiencing issues and needs to be replaced also. Commissioner Carlstrom asked about better preventive maintenance in the future. Motion made by Carlstrom with a second by Braybrook to approve the purchase of the second pump at the cost not to exceed \$23,850.00. Motion passed unanimously.
- h. Social District Request:
  - i. Resolution 22-07 which establishes a social district containing common areas in the downtown of the Village of Sparta and Resolution 22-08 which approves social district licensees (Angela's, Brik Haus Brews, Trini's, The Garden Patch, and the North Kent Eagles Club.) Liz Morse from the DDA was here to speak about this request. She said that the Village Manager has the ability to amend the hours of operation and/or boundaries as needed. She said that Police Chief Milanowski is on board with this request. She added that there have been no issues with increased crime or public drunkenness in areas where social districts have been created. Motion made by Heath with a second by Braybrook to approve 22-07. Motion passed unanimously. Motion made by Carlstrom with a second by Cumings to approve 22-08. Motion passed unanimously.
- i. Resolution 22-09 ARPA Funding Allocation: The Village has received funding from the Federal Government via the ARAP which staff has proposed to allocate to the Village's water and sanitary sewer systems. Motion made by Braybrook

with a second by Bill Taylor to approve this resolution. Motion passed unanimously.

- j. **Building Inspection and Permitting Discussion:** Currently, and for the past twenty years, Sparta Township has provided the Village with building inspections and building permitting services. However, at this point the Village is considering using an outside firm to provide these services. The Township is unwilling to include the inspection of rental properties within the Village, which is something which the Village strongly desires. An outside firm would be able to provide that service. That would assist in better enforcing code violations at rental properties. There was a consensus from the Council to move forward in investigating utilizing an outside agency to provide building inspections and building permitting services.

**10. Village Manager & Department Reports:** The Village Manager said that the Alt property is currently being looked at by a developer who is likely buy at least the north portion of the property. In addition, there is an inspection scheduled with the Code Enforcement Officer as well as the Fire Chief to inspect the property at 220/228 Division. A consent order has been issued.

**11. Communications:** None

**12. Payment of Bills**

March 2022 Payables

(101) General Fund	\$76,765.19
(202) Major Street Fund	\$7,971.36
(203) Local Street Fund	\$4,568.72
(230) Civic Center	\$2,595.69
(401) Sidewalk Fund	\$0.00
(581) Airport	\$11,618.45
(590) Sewer Department Fund	\$35,691.27
(591) Water Department Fund	\$27,401.53
(592) Sewer Capital Improvement Fund	\$0.00
(593) Water Capital Improvement Fund	\$3,041.56
(661) Equipment Rental Fund	\$9,990.89
(378) 2008 USDA Sewer Debt	\$59,424.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$239,068.66</b>

Informational:

(206) Fire Department	\$29,630.60
(208) SRA Park Fund	\$862.98
(250) Downtown Development Authority	\$9,741.11
Total	\$40,234.69

Motion made by Heath with a second by Braybrook to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$239,068.66. Motion passed unanimously.

**13. Public Comment:** Jim Lynema of 291 Doris Street asked about New Business letter “J” regarding building inspections. He asked if the Village would have copies of violations. He also said it was a good thing that rental properties get inspected.

Joe Jangda from Nature’s Releaf, 700 Harley Place, attended the meeting to ask about the progress for a brick-and-mortar marijuana/CBD dispensary in the Village.

**14. Council Member Announcements:** Commissioner Carlstrom asked about an infiltration study and storm sewer issues. Council President Whalen asked about using “in kind work” to have the brush in the SRA area “chipped up” by the DPW. Village Manager Gallagher briefly reviewed items that are considered “outstanding”.

**15. Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned by President Whalen at 8:53 pm.

Submitted by Katy Shelton, Village Clerk.