

VILLAGE OF SPARTA
Kent County, Michigan
Regular Village Council Meeting
Monday June 13, 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: DPW Supervisor Dennis Brinks, Finance Director David Carpenter, Police Chief Andy Milanowski, Village Manager Shay Gallagher, and Village Clerk Katy Shelton.

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. 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 May 9, 2022*
- b. *Approve Regular Fire Board Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2022*
- c. *Planning Commission Meeting Minutes of May 2, 2022*

President Whalen wanted to add “item I – dog park improvements” to the business agenda.

5. **Approval of Consent and Business Agenda:** With the addition of “item I”, motion made by Heath 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.
 - a. None
7. **Public Hearing:**
 - a. None
8. **Old Business**
 - a. None

9. New Business

- a. **Presentation – Sergeant Promotion:** Police Chief Milanowski reviewed Police Officer Dave Price’s history with the Sparta Police Department. He then officially promoted Officer Price to the position of “Sergeant”. He said that Sergeant Price will be even more of an asset in his new position both to the Village and to the Police department.
- b. **2022 Road Spot Repair Project Award:** Weighing the best use of road funds, staff determined that selected spot repairs are a better way to go versus other road treatment/maintenance work. Low bidder to perform those repairs was Midwest Asphalt Maintenance Inc. Motion made by Cumings with a second by Braybrook to award a contract in the estimated amount of \$183,527.00 to Midwest Asphalt Maintenance. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Ordinance 22-07 – An Ordinance to Amend Section 58-102 Snow Removal:** The current ordinance requires Village staff to send notifications via first class mail to property owners who violate the snow removal ordinance. This amendment removes that requirement. Going forward, alternate notifications methods will apply, such as posting at the property, direct contact with the property owners, or formal written notice. The Village Manager said that the ordinance is mainly directed towards abandoned or vacant properties. Motion made by Gale Taylor with a second by Bill Taylor to approve this amendment. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. **Ordinance 22-08 – An Ordinance to Amend Section 70-8 Parking Regulations for Trailers, Semi-Trailers, Travel Trailers and Campers:** This amendment would loosen up the current requirements for the parking of these types of vehicles by removing the enclosed structure storage requirement and also allow for storage of trailers in side and rear yards with a one-foot set back from the property line. Motion made by Braybrook with a second by Carlstrom to approve this amendment. Motion passed unanimously.
- e. **Ordinance 22-09 – An Ordinance to Amend Section 82-130 Storage of Recreational Vehicles and Equipment:** This amendment allows for storage of recreation vehicles and equipment in a side or rear yard with a one-foot set back and allows for driveway parking for not more than 14 days in a 90-day period (which is an increase in allowable time.) Motion made by Cumings with a second by Gale Taylor. Motion passed 6:1.
- f. **Ordinance 22-10 – An Ordinance to Amend Sections 18-61 and 18-62 International Property Maintenance Code:** This ordinance seeks to update the IPMV to the most recent version, the 2021 edition. Motion made by Carlstrom with a second by Braybrook to approve this motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- g. **Resolution 22-11 – A Resolution to Approve Renaming of Buth Field:** Because of the conversion of Buth Field from a baseball field to the Village’s first dog park, a name change and new signage is recommended. The new name will be Buth Field Dog Park. (It was noted that Resolution 20-11 contained a typo.

Subject to that error being corrected, motion made by Carlstrom with a second by Braybrook to approve this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

- h. Resolution 22-12 – A Resolution to Seek Grant Funding Via The Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Program:** The Village is seeking grant funding from the State of Michigan for a new storm sewer in an area which has consistently had flooding issues due in large part to the age of the existing storm sewer. Up to now, only “band aid” types of repairs have been made. The total amount for this project (including both state and local funding) would be in the neighborhood of \$605,000. Motion by Bill Taylor with a second by Cumings to approve this resolution. Motion passed unanimously.
- i. Buth Field Dog Park improvements:** President Whalen said that he’d like to see some trees planted to provide shade at the park as well as a source of water for both people and pets. The Village Manager and DPW Supervisor said that approximately 200’-250’ of water lines will need to be added. Total cost for the improvements will be approximately \$2000.00. Grant funding will be sought to fund at least some of this. There was a consensus from the Council to move forward with this. Several Council members also mentioned that the fencing that was added to prevent dogs from being able to escape the park looked less than professional. They would like a better-quality fencing installed. Questions were also asked about pouring a concrete pad by the entrance. DPW Supervisor Brinks will check costs for this.

10. Village Manager & Department Reports: The Village Manager had nothing to be added to his report. Council member Carlstrom expressed concern about the wastewater violations concerning excess phosphorous. Finance Director Carpenter said that property tax bills are going out shortly. It was brought up that the Police Department is seeking grant funding to provide for another officer. DPW Supervisor Brinks said that his department would be painting parking spots and curbs within the Village. Questions were asked about using a longer lasting paint. He will check into that to see if it is allowed in the storm water permit.

11. Communications: None

12. Payment of Bills

May Payables

(101) General Fund	\$ 43,410.24
(202) Major Street Fund	\$ -
(203) Local Street Fund	\$ 76.99
(351) Capital Improvement Bond	\$ -
(376) 2008 USDA Sewer Debt	\$ -
(381) Water Redemption Fund	\$ -
(401) Sidewalk Fund	\$ -
(581) Airport	\$ 499.59
(590) Sewer Department Fund	\$ 53,695.88
(591) Water Department Fund	\$ 109,379.72
(661) Equipment Rental Fund	\$ 1,557.14
Total	\$ 109,436.61

Informational:

(206) Fire Department	\$ 9,703.44
(208) SRA Park Fund	\$ 1,649.92
(248) Downtown Development Authority	\$ 8,489.75
Total	\$ 19,843.11

- a. Motion by Heath with a second by Bill Taylor to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$109,379.72. Motion passed unanimously.

13. Public Comment: Jim Lynema of 291 Doris St NW, asked about the abatement of the parcel of land at the end of W Mark St between 333 Doris and 31 Mark St. President Whalen said that this has not moved forward yet. He said the issue complicating the Village giving up rights to this parcel is that there are public utilities underground in that area. The Village needs to retain the right to access those utilities.

14. Council Member Announcements: None

15. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by President Whalen at 7:58 pm.

Submitted by Katy Shelton, Village Clerk