

VILLAGE OF SPARTA
Kent County, Michigan
Special Village Council Meeting
Monday, January 30, 2023 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.

Also present: Julius Suchy, Ada township manager 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 take. Those members in attendance or absent are noted above.
4. **Additions or Corrections to Consent and Business Agenda**
Consent Agenda:
 - a. None.
5. **Approval of Consent and Business Agenda**
 - a. Motion by Braybrook with a second by Cumings 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. 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.

Also note: President Robert Whalen opened up this portion of the Council meeting for public comment on non agenda items. This was because discussion under the "new business" items was expected to be fairly involved and protracted. He didn't want to inconvenience any members of the public by making them wait until after those items were discussed.

Callie Melton from the West Michigan Arts Council Board appeared in support of the renovation of the Opera House in Sparta and the affiliated survey. President Whalen told her that the DDA was in charge of this project and referred her to

Elizabeth Morse, president of the DDA. He also told her that the DDA meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:45am.

Jim Lynema, 291 Doris St, Sparta, spoke about the advertisement/publication of Village Council meetings. He said that the “public meetings act” required more public notice of meetings than what the Village was currently doing. He believes that the Village Council should do a better job of informing the people of Sparta about all public meetings. President Whalen told him that the Village was absolutely in compliance with all requirements that Act.

7. Public Hearing

a. None.

8. Old Business

a. None.

9. New Business

a. Discussion and Appointment to fill vacant Village Council position.

Julius Suchy, who is heading the search for the new Village Manager, said that the next step in the search would be to invite selected candidates to come in for in person interviews.

b. Closed session as permitted under Michigan Open Meetings Act Section 8(1)(f) to review and consider village manager candidates requesting confidentiality. Motion by Peoples with a second by Braybrook to enter into closed session. Motion passed unanimously. Closed session began at 7:11pm.

c. Motion made by Carlstrom with a second by Mais to return to open session. Motion passed unanimously. Open session began at 8:29pm. The Council decided to invite candidates 4, 9, 10, 11, and 12 in for interviews. Candidates 2 and 8 were alternates.

10. Public Comment:

a. None.

11. Council Member Announcements:

Motion by Mais with a second by Braybrook to invite the selected candidates in for in person interviews. Motion passed unanimously. Mr Suchy proposed February 7th and 8th starting at 5pm each night for the interviews. The Council affirmed that.

12. Adjournment: President Whalen adjourned the meeting at 8:44pm.

Submitted by Katy Shelton, Village Clerk.