

VILLAGE OF SPARTA
Kent County, Michigan
Village Council Meeting
Monday, July 20, 2026 at 6:30 PM
276 W. Division St. (Sparta Village Complex)

Present:

President Robert Whalen, Council Members Brenda Braybrook, Robert Carlstrom, David Cumings, Christina Owens, Tom Peoples, Bill Taylor

Absent:

Also Present:

Village Manager James Lower, Chief Andrew Milanowski, Airport Manager Mike Krzciok, Village Clerk Kristen Phelps, DPW Director Bill Hunter, Deputy DPW Director Conrad Bowman

1. Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Whalen.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

- a. The Pledge was recited.

3. Roll Call

- a. Formal Roll call was taken. See above for attendance.

4. Additions or Corrections to Consent and Business Agenda

Consent Agenda:

- a. *Approve Regular Village Council Meeting Minutes of June 15, 2026*
- b. *Approve Regular DDA Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2026*
- c. *Approve Regular DDA Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2026*
- d. Additon to the agenda about the Library Millage by Braybrook as letter A

5. Approval of Consent and Business Agenda

- a. The Consent and Business Agenda was approved with the addition of letter a.
 - i. Motion: Carlstrom moved to approve the consent agenda with support of Braybrook.
- Motion passed 7-0**

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. Jim Lynema 291 Doris Commented
- b. Emily Henry 196 Ida Red Commented
- c. Ricky Johnson 29 Centennial Commented
- d. Marcy Savage Sparta Township Clerk Commented
- e. Ed Morris 1262 12 Mile Commented
- f. Carol Hockeborn 480 Nelson Commented
- g. Mark Marsy 1276 12 Mile Commented

- h. Gerald Bierline 1290 12 Mile Commented
- i. Marshall Penland 9920 Sparta Ave Commented

7. **Public Hearing**

- a. None.

8. **Old Business**

- a. None.

9. **New Business**

- a. Library Millage
- b. Property Sale Offers
 - i. Motion: Consensus to take 27 S. Union from the market and retain the property for continued use as public parking. **Consensus was unanimous**
 - ii. Motion: Councilmember Carlstrom moved to authorize the Village Manager to negotiate the final terms and sale price for 195 Washington, with Support by Braybrook. **Motion passes 7-0**
 - iii. Motion: Councilmember Cumings moved to accept the proposal submitted by Zach Austin and Jordan Morse for purchase and development of 299 E. Gardner and authorize Village Manager to negotiate and execute a purchase agreement, with support by Braybrook. **Motion passes 6-1. Nay Vote: Peoples**
- c. Ord. 26-02 An Ordinance to amend Section 82-152 of the Village of Sparta Code of Ordinances “Zoning Map”
 - i. Motion: Braybrook moved to amend Ordinance 26-02 by removing 299 E. Gardner St. from the proposed rezoning and adopt the ordinance as amended, rezoning only 195 Washington St. from RM to B, with support by Peoples. **Motion passes 6-1. Nay Vote: Owens**
- d. Waste Water Treatment Plant Furniture
 - i. Motion: Peoples moved to approve the proposal as presented, with support by Cumings. **Motion passes 6-1. Nay Vote: Taylor**
- e. Cityhood Update/LARA Map Feedback
 - i. A consensus was taken to send the original boundary to LARA. **Yay: Peoples, Taylor, Owens, Braybrook, Cumings, Whalen. Nay: Carlstrom**

10. **Executive Session**

- a. None.

11. **Village Manager & Department Reports**

- a. Manager Lower spoke

12. **Communications**

- a. None

13. Payment of Bills

- a. Motion: Peoples moved to approve the payables as presented, with support from Cumings.
Motion passes 7-0

June Payables

PAYABLES	
(101) General Fund	\$157,070.63
(202) Major Street Fund	\$6,443.48
(203) Local Street Fund	\$7,084.14
(581) Airport	\$69,725.36
(590) Sewer Department Fund	\$1,929,126.96
(591) Water Department Fund	\$43,915.01
(661) Equipment Rental Fund	\$13,143.19
Total	\$2,226,508.77

Informational:

(206) Fire Department	\$25,204.70
(208) SRA Park Fund	\$15,157.60
(248) Downtown Development Authority	\$19,686.60
Total	\$60,048.90

14. Public Comment

- a. Jim Lynema 291 Doris Commented
b. Kessler 480 Nelson Commented
c. Jeff Christians 98 E. Division Commented
d. Ricky Johnson 29 Centennial Commented
e. Mark Moody 335 Robin's Lane Commented
f. Gerald Bierline 1290 12 Mile Commented
g. Susan Marsy 1276 12 Mile Commented
h. Marcy Savage Township Clerk Commented

15. Council Member Announcements

- a. None

16. Adjournment

- a. Adjournment at 8:59 pm by President Whalen.

