

**CITY COUNCIL
121 N CHURCH STREET, HUDSON, MI
REGULAR MEETING
September 21, 2021**

747387:

The regular meeting was called to order by Mayor Carmel Camp at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Carmel Camp, Lee Ann Minton, Rick Moreno, Carl Sword, Pam Ely, Darlene VandeZande and Lee Daugherty
ABSENT: none

ALSO PRESENT: Barb Ireland – Hudson Post Gazette, Dan Schudel, Willis Terrill, Mike McClellan Jr., Rich & Carolyn Halliwill, Richard Cole, Rebecca White, WWTP Superintendent Ted Hutchison, DPW Superintendent Jay Best and Candi Best, Interim City Manager Charles Weir, and City Clerk Jeaniene McClellan

Approval of Minutes of September 07, 2021:**747388:**

Motion by Darlene VandeZande, seconded by Pam Ely **to approve the minutes from September 07, 2021 and place on file.** CARRIED 6-1 by roll call (Camp, Daugherty, Ely, Sword, Moreno, VandeZande – yes Minton -no)

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Daniel Schudel, Grove Street – Clarification that the Mayor and City Clerk just gave him the information for him to write-in for Council. Thank the Fire Department for putting out the fire and the DPW for all the clean up after the storms.

Barb Ireland, Tiffin Street - Council needs to speak up for everyone to hear in the audience and could the audio be available to anyone who ask for it.

Richard Cole 4505 Cramer Hwy – Asking if Council will consider to let him hook up to the City’s sewer system.

NEW BUSINESS:

Authorize: No Parking on Main Street for the Homecoming Parade:

The Hudson High School Homecoming Parade will be held on Friday, October 1, 2021. The parade line-up will originate on Tiffin Street at approximately 5:45 p.m. The parade will

2230

commence west on M-34 to US-127 turning north on US-127, and continue north to Tiger Drive at Thompson Field.

An advanced notice of permitted activity will be sent to MDOT for permission to close Main Street for the duration of the parade. We request that Council authorize “no parking” in the 200 and 300 Block of W. Main Street from approximately 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. for the parade. This will allow for a safer environment for the children and others attending the parade. Allowing parking on Main Street causes people to stand in between the cars and/or on the inside of the cars in the parade route.

If Council authorizes “no parking” in the 200 and 300 block of W. Main Street for the parade, DPW and HPD will take care of setting up and removing the appropriate barricades. In the event that parking can be opened up sooner than 6:30 p.m., they will do so.

747389:

Motion by Lee Daugherty, seconded by Rick Moreno **authorize “No Parking” in the 200 and 300 Block of W. Main Street from 5:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. on Friday, October 1, 2021 for the Hudson High School Homecoming Parade.** CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote.

APPROVE: Set the Date for the Halloween Party:

Halloween falls on a Sunday this year. There is a general consensus that it would be better to have Trick-or-Treating on Saturday October 30th 5:30 pm-7:30 pm.

Mayor Camp suggested that the costume judging and treats take place in the Community Center parking lot at 7:30pm-8:30pm as opposed to being inside the Fire Department.

747390:

Motion by Pam Ely, seconded by Carl Sword **Set Trick-or-Treating for Saturday, October 30, 2021 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. with the party to follow afterwards.** CARRIED 6-1 by roll call (Camp, Sword, Ely, Minton, Moreno, VandeZande – yes Daugherty -no)

Approve: Linda Cross for City Treasurer:

The City has been without a treasurer since April of this year due to the previous treasurer's termination. Deputy Treasurer Linda Cross and the rest of the City Staff, along with the assistance of Interim Treasurer Brandon Hudson and Mike Sessions have done a great job of helping the City re-establish financial stability.

Linda has recently advised me that she is interested in the Treasurer's position. After some discussion and consideration with Linda and the rest of the office staff, I have appointed Linda to the Treasurer position. With Linda's experience, and the new BS&A financial software upgrade, I know she will do a great job as the City's Treasurer. Mr. Brandon Hudson and Mr. Sessions will be assisting Linda in the short term with additional training.

Linda has been serving as the Deputy Treasurer since April 4, 2016 and has been performing the treasurer's duties since April of this year. She is also the City's Income Tax Administrator.

747391:

Motion by Lee Daugherty, seconded by Rick Moreno **Confirm the appointment of Linda J Cross as City Treasurer and Income Tax Administrator.** CARRIED 6-1 by roll call (Camp, Daugherty, Ely, Sword, Moreno, VandeZande – yes Minton -no)

Approve: Cathodic Protection Corrosion Control System:

The City's water storage tanks are serviced on an annual basis. Corpro has been doing the inspections and servicing of the City's tanks for a number of years now.

The annual service agreement for the period of 12/01/2021 through 11/30/2022 is for \$1,900.00.

747392:

Motion by Rick Moreno, seconded by Carl Sword **approve the Interim Manager to sign the annual service agreement with CORRPRO for inspection and service of the City's water towers at the contract price of \$1,900.00. Funds coming from line item 590-571-818 Water Distribution Contractual Services.** CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote

Authorize: Purchase of Point & Pay Software:

With the implementation of BS & A accounting software it was suggested that the City use Point & Pay for it's vendor for credit card transactions received by the City. Point & Pay is the preferred vendor by BS & A software.

Right now office staff has to manually separate credit card transaction and credit to separate accounts which is time consuming and less efficient. Point & Pay would process the transactions and credit them to the proper accounts automatically.

Customers can make payments on line as well using the different modules.

The set up fee is \$500.00 and a \$50.00 monthly maintenance fee. They also offer a one time fee of \$2,000.00 with no monthly fee. Other local communities use Point & Pay and are very happy with the product.

747393:

Motion by Lee Daugherty, seconded by Carl Sword **authorize the purchase of Point & Pay software for the one time fee of \$2,000.00 and authorize Interim City Manager to sign the agreement. Funds coming from 590-570-801 (Utilities Admin.) and 101-299-934 Office Operations.** CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote

Discuss: City Manager Position:

The City Manager position needs to be filled due to former manager Steven Hartsel's departure. To keep the City moving forward and stabilizing, it is necessary that a new City Manager be appointed to the position.

Charles Weir has filled the role as Interim Manager since April 24, 2021 and previously served for five months in 2009 as Interim Manager. The last six months have been very challenging and quite honestly exhausting at times. Because of the dedicated hard working employees of the City

2232

of Hudson, and the citizens he has had a pleasure of serving over the past 30 years, he would like to be considered to fill the role as Hudson's new City Manager.

If Council decides to conduct a search for a new Manager, he will be willing to stay on as Interim Manager until the position is filled.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Waive late charges on utility bills:

At the Council meeting on September 7, 2021 during Council Comments, Councilmember Lee Daugherty wanted to revisit the policy on the late charges for the residents that will not be able to pay another utility bill this month. At that meeting the Council heard from two residents that they were on fixed incomes and they will not be able to pay another utility bill until next month. They stated that it would be after the late charges were to be added and that would not be fair to them, since they did not have enough time to prepare for this. There was a motion made by Councilmember Lee Ann Minton to waive the late charges until January 2022 and a second was made by Rick Moreno. There was not a vote taken at that time, after discussion Councilmember Lee Daugherty asked Interim City Manager to bring this back to Council at the next meeting on September 21, 2021.

747394:

Motion by Lee Ann Minton, seconded by Rick Moreno **approve to waive the late charges until January 2022.** DENIED 0-7 by roll call vote (all voted no)

747395:

Motion by Pam Ely, seconded by Carl Sword **approve to waive the late charges on the utility bills until October 25, 2021 billing cycle.** CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote.

Posting the lots for sale:

At the Council meeting on July 6, 2021 meeting, the council approved to sell the vacant City Lots but did not give direction on how to make the sales. Council will need to make a decision on how they want to sell the lots.

Interim Manager knows there are some concerns about the sale of lots (400 Railroad Street and 458 Cross Street). Council can choose not to sell these lots at this time.

The lots can be sold through a Realtor, sealed bids or flat fee amount. He does have some adjacent property owners that are interested in some of the lots. He also attached some excerpts from the City of Jackson process of selling vacant city lots for Council's consideration.

747396:

Motion by Darlene VandeZande, seconded by Carl Sword **approve to put the vacant residential lots that are for sale in the newsletter and on the website.** CARRIED 6-1 by roll call (Camp, Daugherty, Ely, Sword, Moreno, VandeZande – yes Minton -no)

Bills:

Bills to Council
September 21, 2021

Bills to be Approved

BHS Insurance	\$17,304.50	2nd Quarter Payment - October
Aladtec	\$1,094.00	Ambulance employee scheduling software
Total		
	\$18,398.50	

Bills to be Confirmed

Consumers Energy	\$2,227.94	Street Lights for August 2021
Kapnick	\$1,499.00	20201-22 VFIS Accident Renewal
Consumers Energy	\$1,053.45	Community Center
Consumers Energy	\$2,109.55	DPW Electricity
Consumers Energy	\$3,250.37	WWTP Electricity
Consumers Energy	\$1,007.64	WTP Electricity
Total		
	\$11,147.95	

747397:

Motion by Carl Sword, seconded by Rick Moreno **to pay the bills.** CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote

Account Balances:

Old National accounts

ALS Membership	\$1,071.88
Combined Deposit	\$114,586.82

DDA account	\$3,180.95
Drug Enforcement	\$1,213.40
HPD Abandon Property	\$233.42
Payables Account	\$37,390.80
Payroll Account	\$79,794.42
CD -36 Months – 47 months	\$5,312.40
CD – Public Funds	\$2,269.57
Balance Totals	
Total Deposit Accounts	\$237,471.69
Total Investment Accounts	\$7,581.97

2234

County National Bank

Income Tax account	\$101,007.14
Bonds	\$281,390.60
Property Tax	\$696,056.21

747398:

Motion by Carl Sword, seconded by Darlene VandeZande **to accept the account balances & check register and place on file.** CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote

747399:

Motion by Darlene VandeZande, seconded by Lee Daugherty **to accept the revenue expenditure report and place on file.** CARRIED 7-0 by roll call vote

MANAGER’S REPORT:

- Hudson Fire Chief Tanner advised that about 100,000 gallons of City water was used on extinguishing the structure fire Mechanic Street on Sunday. Water was also drawn from Bean Creek as well. No injuries but the structure is a total loss. Hudson Police Department is conducting a criminal investigation of the fire.
- The DWAM Grant application as updated and sent back to EGLE. With the new criteria from the State regarding the grant, the City is requesting \$377,409.67 for the 187 service lines to be identified. \$25,029.67 of the funds will cover the labor costs to the City.
- Several properties in Hudson received damage from the heavy storms on Tuesday. There were a few trees down that were an immediate safety hazard that DPW was not able to

remove from homes and sidewalks. Charles Weir authorized the removal of the trees. There will be charges exceeding the \$1,000.00. Cost will be covered by funds from the Forestry Line Item in the budget. Jay Best and his crew have been doing a great job of

2235

cleaning up. DPW has been especially busy with trees and brush this year due to the several storms we have had.

- The Police Department has been short handed due to resignations and illness. Acting Chief Keck, Officer Sandy and all of the part-time staff have been making personal sacrifices to make sure the City has 24/7 police services. Unfortunately there are some overtime costs. There is a shortage of police officers not only in Hudson, but across the whole State and Nation.
- Council asked the question about the Water Bond pay off with the new monthly water bond rate and when the water bond payment charge can come off the water bills. Looking over the budget and factoring in the revenue coming in under the new rates, we determine that the Utility Fund will still have a deficit for another year. The Utility Fund for the City of Hudson is set up to account for all rates and surcharges to be deposited straight into the Utility Fund. As of this writing, the Utility Fund has a trial cash balance of (-383,132.17). What this means is that there are not separate funds for the “Water Bond Payment” or the “Sewer Bond Payment” and that those come directly from the Utility Fund. The Utility Fund is comprised of the dollars that are coming in for sales for water, sewer, monthly flat fees, and the bond payment surcharges.

Even with the bond proceeds, there will still be a negative trial cash balance of the Utility Fund at least a year. The bond proceeds essentially are making sure that the Utility Fund does not go further in the negative. Had the bond proceeds not been received, the City of Hudson Utility Fund balance would have been (-756,000.00) at the end of the month.

It is important to remember that the bond proceeds are covering the payment on this year’s water and sewer bond, the loan payments on the ambulance and the fire truck and providing some funding for the two main lift stations that are in very bad condition. The City is essentially receiving money to pay on existing debt because there was not enough cash flow to cover the existing debt. The Water Bond surcharge is essentially allowing the City to recover from the deficit within the Utility Fund.

ADJOURNMENT:

747400:

Motion by Lee Ann Minton, seconded by Carl Sword to **adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm**

APPROVED: _____
Carmel Camp, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Jeaniene McClellan, City Clerk