

VILLAGE OF KALKASKA

MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023
AT THE VILLAGE OFFICE, 200 HYDE STREET, KALKASKA, MICHIGAN 49646.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

President Larsen called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: President Larsen and Trustees Bishop, Dunham, Miller, Moses, Needham and Yanz

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Aaron Popa, Village Manager; Angie Koon, Village Clerk; Michael McCormack, DPS Officer.

PUBLIC PRESENT: Heidi Kato, David McKinnon, James Hagler, Al Parker, Jessica Swift, Jeff Sieting, Scott Yost and Ryan Oakley.

President Larsen led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF REGULAR AGENDA

Motion by Needham, second by Yanz, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Miller, second by Bishop, to approve as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Scott Yost of 407 S. Cherry Street thanked the Village for clearing the snow from the east side of the 400th block of Cherry Street. Yost also thanked Council for their consideration of the Fireworks Ordinance amendment at tonight's meeting. Yost requested that a patrol car be on duty on New Year's.

James Hagler reminded Council of the request he received from the Village Manager to remove his business sign downtown. Hagler stated he called the Village Office following last month's Council meeting, and advised the Manager that a sign variance was obtained around the year 1990. Manager Popa stated the Village Clerk was unable to find record of this. Hagler stated he believes Village Council has all the authority to either tell him to remove or repair the sign. Hagler added he is also a Pastor in Central Lake, where he recently submitted a request to change a sign with no application being needed. Hagler advised he has been paying taxes in the Village for (50) years. Hagler stated he feels it was a mistake to adopt the original Sign Ordinance. Hagler further stated he believes the downtown area is hurting, and business owners are not able to get their message across to passing traffic without the use of signs. Hagler distributed information to Council regarding the business sign located in Central Lake, and stated he wishes he had spent the past (50) years in that location. Hagler stated he will do whatever the Council asks in regards to repairing or replacing the sign. Hagler reiterated he remembers obtaining a variance for this sign, and stated it may have been in 2003. Popa stated that records from this time period will be searched.

Written communication from Marcus Wilson, as received electronically by the Clerk, was provided to Village Council members. It read as follows:

“This is for the Kalkaska board for the 12/11/23 board meeting.

Angie,

I haven't heard anything from yourself or the board, on the streaming camera! I get it's not a legal requirement as Commissioner Miller stated, and was only done as a courtesy, and that if members of the public want to know what's going on they can come to the meetings. I would like to add it's a courtesy the village has done for years, I don't understand how informing the citizens that elected all of you in every way possible isn't top priority? How many elderly voted for you that it's simply impossible to go to a meeting? Or a single parent with kids? Or people that work and will watch later. Does the board not care about those people? Or is it to hide what you are doing? If it's something you have done in the recent past, and your not against being transparent, will cost you nothing because I am offering to buy a camera so the Kalkaska village people can be informed as possible about what the village is doing. It's sad that spending 50-100\$ on a streaming camera to keep the public educated on what you are doing is something you haven't done, because the simple fact you don't want the public to know what your doing. Please get back to me ASAP.”

PRESENTATIONS – None

BILLS/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Dunham stated the committee reviewed current invoices, payroll reconciliations, monthly payroll, journal entries and bank reconciliations.

Motion by Dunham, second by Miller, to pay bills as presented in the amount of \$94,510.24. A roll call vote was then taken: Ayes – President Larsen and Trustees Bishop, Dunham, Miller, Moses, Needham and Yanz; Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion carried.

Dunham stated the committee continued its conversation regarding Village Council pay structure. Dunham stated the committee will make a recommendation at the next Council meeting to take effect after the next Village election.

REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES

Housing Development Committee – Manager Popa stated the committee discussed the proposed Short-Term Rental Ordinance. Popa stated he received a different response on the matter from the new attorney, who advised the Village may want to wait until the conclusion of a pending U.S. Court of Appeals case before proceeding. Popa stated the committee wishes to schedule a Public Hearing with the full Council to obtain public input on how to move forward.

REPORTS FROM VILLAGE OFFICERS

POLICE REPORT

Officer Michael McCormack stated he has submitted his resignation and two weeks' notice with the Department of Public Safety, as he has accepted a position with the Kalkaska County Sheriff's

Department. McCormack reported his last day with the Village will be December 22, 2023. Village Council members thanked McCormack for his service.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Manager Popa advised the Village now owns (5) less properties, as payment has been received from the purchaser of these properties. Popa added that paperwork has been submitted to the State of Michigan for reimbursement of remediation costs.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Larsen thanked the Village Department of Public Works for clearing the streets and sidewalks of snow.

Larsen stated the Michigan Municipal League (MML) will hold a training session for Council members at the Village. Larsen stated a communication was sent to members via email to gauge their interest. Manager Popa added that the MML is also hosting FOIA training for Village staff.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Consider Approval of 2024 Projected Meeting Dates for Village Boards – Discussion took place regarding the proposed meeting dates in February and November of 2024. The February meeting will be held on Thursday, February 15, 2024; and the November meeting will be held on Monday, November 18, 2023 (the second Monday of November falls on a holiday).

Motion by Dunham, second by Miller, to accept the 2024 meeting dates as presented. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Consider Appointment of Village President Pro-Tem – Motion by Moses, second by Yanz, to appoint Trustee Dunham as President Pro-Tem. A roll call vote was then taken: Ayes – President Larsen and Trustees Bishop, Dunham, Miller, Moses, Needham and Yanz; Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion carried.

Consider Appointment of Village of Kalkaska Engineer of Record – Motion by Dunham, second by Miller, to retain Gosling Czubak as the engineer of record. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Consider Appointment of Village of Kalkaska Architect of Record – Motion by Dunham, second by Needham, to retain C2AE as the architect of record. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Consider Appointment of Village Underground Contactor of Record – Motion by Yanz, second by Dunham, to retain Matt’s Underground as the underground contractor of record. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Appointment of Standing Committee Chair and Members – Appointed by the Village President.

Consider Approval of Amended Council By-Laws – Motion by Miller, second by Bishop, to approve the amended Bylaws as presented. A roll call vote was then taken: Ayes – President Larsen

and Trustees Bishop, Dunham, Miller, Moses, Needham and Yanz; Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion carried.

Consider Adoption of Ordinance 2023-021 Amending Consumer Fireworks Ordinance – Motion by Dunham, second by Yanz, to adopt Ordinance 2023-021. A roll call vote was then taken: Ayes – President Larsen and Trustees Bishop, Dunham, Miller, Moses, Needham and Yanz; Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion carried.

Consider Adoption of Resolution 2023-023 Seer Deficit Elimination Plan – Motion by Needham, second by Miller, to adopt Resolution 2023-023. A roll call vote was then taken: Ayes – President Larsen and Trustees Bishop, Dunham, Miller, Moses, Needham and Yanz; Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion carried.

Schedule Public Hearing for Adoption of Downtown Development and TIF Plan – Motion by Dunham, second by Miller, to schedule the Public Hearing for the February 15, 2024 Council meeting to be held at the Commission on Aging. A roll call vote was then taken: Ayes – President Larsen and Trustees Bishop, Dunham, Miller, Moses, Needham and Yanz; Nays -None; Absent – None. Motion carried.

It was noted that the meeting will be held at the Railroad Square Pavilion if Commission on Aging is not available.

Authorize Distribution of Master Plan Draft to Neighboring Jurisdictions to Start the 63-day Public Review Period – Motion by Dunham, second by Needham, to authorize distribution of the Master Plan draft and start the 63-day public review period. A roll call vote was then taken: Ayes – President Larsen and Trustees Bishop, Dunham, Miller, Moses, Needham and Yanz; Nays – None; Absent – None. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Oakley re-addressed the topic of the Sewer Lift Station proposed to be placed on Cherry Street, near his property. Oakley requested a meeting with Council members to discuss the general disturbance he believes this will cause, and to illustrate its proposed proximity to his residence.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business coming before this Council, President Larsen adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Recorded By: Angie Koon, Village Clerk