



City of White Cloud
12 N. Charles Street
White Cloud, Michigan 49349 & via Zoom

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for April 4, 2023, at 6:00 P.M.

A. Meeting Called to Order

The Regular Meeting of the White Cloud City Council was held on the above date. Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Council Members Present: Damon Anuci, Herm Becker, Candice Dault, Brian Miller, Jeff Murchison, Lori Shears

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager April Storms, Clerk Kelli Arnold, Chief of Police Dan Evans

Guest sign-in: Richard Dault, Dan Abid, Leann Piccard, Joe Lucas, Amy Barnhard

Via Zoom: None

2. Approval of Agenda

Approval of the agenda as presented.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Shears.

Mayor requested approval of amending the agenda for Tuesday, April 4, 2023, add New Business item #14, White Cloud Sherman Utility Authority (WCSUA).

Motion restated by Dault, **Seconded** by Shears to approve agenda as amended.

Vote: Yes-All No-None Absent-None Abstained-None Motion Carried

3. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Murchison.

B. Reserved Time

Adam Chiles, Deputy Chief, representing WC Fire Department shared a presentation regarding Medical First Responders (MFR). WCFD is the only Fire Department in the county to not offer MFR to its residents. There are three (3) priority levels for medical calls, Priority 1 is the most serious, lights and sirens are used and need assistance ASAP; medical first responders only respond to priority 1 calls, unless requested by Life EMS. WCFD currently has 6 licensed MFR's, 2 licensed Paramedics and another will join when the MFR program starts.

Startup cost is approximately \$40,000.00, the City of White Cloud portion of that would be approximately \$4,988.00. The average yearly cost based on past priority 1 calls is estimated at \$125 per call, annual cost of \$15,625.00 (that annual cost includes Family Health Care and Newaygo County Jail). Options to cover the cost of MFR's are a millage, pay out of the general fund or bill to residents that receive the service.

C. Public Comment

Chief Evans, Dan Abid

Received

D. Approval of Minutes

Approval of the Regular meeting Minutes of March 7, 2023.

Motion by Murchison, **Seconded** by Dault to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 7, 2023.

Vote: Yes-All No-None Absent-None Abstained-None Motion Carried

E. Unfinished Business

None

F. New Business

1. Resolution 2023-18 March expenditures

A resolution to approve city expenditures for March 2023.

Motion by Shears, **Seconded** by Dault to adopt Resolution 2023-18.

Roll Call Vote: Yes- Shears, Dault, Anuci, Becker, Murchison, Miller

No-None Absent-None Abstained-None Motion Carried

2. Resolution 2023-19 Setting date/time for public hearing 2023/24 Fire Protection Special Assessment

A resolution to approve setting the date of May 2, 2023, and time at 6:00pm for a public hearing and directing that notice of the public hearing be given for the 2023/24 fire protection services special assessment roll.

Motion by Becker, **Seconded** by Murchison to adopt Resolution 2023-19.

Vote: Yes-All No-None Absent-None Abstained-None Motion Carried

3. WCAFD Medical First Responder (MFR) discussion

Council consensus is to build the startup cost into the budget for the fiscal year then bill citizen's if/when they receive service. Discussion included ways to make citizens aware of the service and the costs and how to cover the costs when it is unpaid.

City Manager will do some research and follow-up with Council. **Received**

4. Special Events Application for Memorial Day Parade

An application for the VFW Memorial Day Parade on May 29th, 2023, beginning at 9:00 a.m. from the flag poles (on Wilcox in front of County complex) to City Cemetery. A request from member Dault to waive the fee as it does meet the requirements for a fee waiver.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Shears to approve the Special Events application for a Memorial Day Parade.

Vote: Yes-All No-None Absent-None Abstained-None Motion Carried

5. City Council vacant seat appointment

Dan Abid and Amy Barnhard each turned in an application for the vacant City Council seat; the term is through 11/09/2026. The mayor asked each applicant why they felt they were most qualified and/or why they chose to serve on the Council.

Dan's response was that he as a business owner brings a different perspective to the group that is lacking in White Cloud especially with no DDA, there is not a great deal of business perspective that comes to the Council and in the business district it shows; he would add as an asset in that perspective when making decisions that are in the best interest of the citizens, not just self or businesses, but the citizens of White Cloud.

Amy's response was that she is very interested in seeing more development in the community, being a member of this committee, has had a love for the community for a very long time, and would be happy to serve and hopefully help with anything she can.

Motion by Becker, **Seconded** by Dault to appoint Dan Abid to the vacant City Council position.

Roll Call Vote: Yes- Becker, Anuci, Miller

No-Dault, Shears, Murchison **Absent**-None **Abstained**-None

Motion Failed

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Murchison to appoint Amy Barnhard to the vacant City Council position.

Roll Call Vote: Yes- Dault, Murchison, Shears, Anuci, Miller

No-Becker **Absent**-None **Abstained**-None

Motion Carried

6. Resolution 2023-20 Consumers Energy Foundation Grant application

A resolution to approve submitting a grant application to Consumers Energy Foundation for a North Street ballfield project.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Anuci to adopt resolution 2023-20.

Vote: Yes-All No-None **Absent**-None **Abstained**-None

Motion Carried

7. Resolution 2023-21 Department of Justice (DOJ) Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant application

A resolution to approve submitting a grant application to DOJ for COPS grant program. The goal of the grant is to provide funding to law enforcement agencies to hire and/or rehire additional career law enforcement officers in an effort to increase community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Becker to adopt resolution 2023-21.

Vote: Yes-All No-None **Absent**-None **Abstained**-None

Motion Carried

8. Resolution 2023-22 Bridge Builders Main Street Microgrant

A resolution to approve submitting a grant application to Bridge Builders Main Street Microgrants Program for a placemaking activity that will transform a space.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Anuci to adopt resolution 2023-22.

Vote: Yes-All No-None **Absent**-None **Abstained**-None

Motion Carried

9. Resolution 2023-23 Purchase police package 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe

A resolution to approve purchasing a 2023 Chevrolet Tahoe 4WD Police Package and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents pertaining to the purchase of the police cruiser from Berger Chevrolet for \$40,619.00.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Shears to adopt resolution 2023-23.

Roll Call Vote: Yes- Dault, Murchison, Shears, Becker, Anuci, Miller

No-None **Absent**-None **Abstained**-None

Motion Carried

10. Master Plan: Planning Commission recommendation

Council members were given a copy of the Master Plan proposal presented to the City Planning Commission by Williams and Works. Planning Commission recommendation to City Council is approval of Williams & Works to prepare the new City Master Plan for a not-to-exceed fee of \$50,150.00.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Shears to approve Williams and Works to complete the City Master Plan.

Roll Call Vote: Yes- Dault, Shears, Becker, Murchison, Anuci, Miller

No-None Absent-None Abstained-None Motion Carried

11. Authorization to sell the 2015 Chevy Tahoe Patrol Vehicle
Recommendation of City Manager is to put the vehicle out for sealed bids at a minimum bid of \$15,500.00.

Motion by Murchison, **Seconded** by Dault to approve selling the Police Department Tahoe through a sealed bid process at minimum bid of \$15,500.00.

Roll Call Vote: Yes- Murchison, Dault, Anuci, Shears, Becker, Miller
No-None Absent-None Abstained-None Motion Carried

12. Personnel Committee recommendations

a. Employee increases FY 2023/2024

Personnel Committee recommendations for July 1, 2023

DPW Supervisor.....	3% (received a 4% increase January 1, 2023)
Police Chief.....	3% (received a 4% increase January 1, 2023)
Full-Time Police Officers	3% (received a 4% increase January 1, 2023)
Part-Time Police Officers	5%
Clerk	5%
DPW Operator II.....	5%

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Shears to approve employee increases effective July 1, 2023.

Roll Call Vote: Yes- Dault, Shears, Murchison, Becker, Anuci, Miller
No-None Absent-None Abstained-None Motion Carried

b. Police Department Recruit Hire

Through the MCOLES Public Safety Academy Assistance Program, up to \$24,000.00 can be paid to the City per recruit for academy costs and salary while attending an academy. A resume has been turned in to WC police department. The Personnel committee recommends to Council to hire a temporary full-time employee at a rate of \$15.00 and put that person through the academy.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Anuci to approve hiring a temporary full-time employee through the MCOLES Assistance Program.

Roll Call Vote: Yes- Dault, Anuci, Becker, Shears, Murchison, Miller
No-None Absent-None Abstained-None Motion Carried

c. Employee optical benefit

Personnel Committee recommends optical insurance effective May 1, 2023. The city would cover 100% of the employee coverage cost, along with 50% of spouse/family coverage (similar to the medical coverage). The max cost for the city to fund the optical benefit would be \$15.78 (per employee).

Motion by Shears, **Seconded** by Dault to add employee optical as a benefit to the City employee's.

Roll Call Vote: Yes- Dault, Anuci, Becker, Shears, Murchison, Miller
No-None Absent-None Abstained-None Motion Carried

d. Employee dental benefit

Personnel Committee recommendation for Council approval to offer employee dental insurance effective May 1, 2023. The dental benefit would be like the current medical coverage covering employee coverage cost 100% and if employee chooses to add spouse/children, the additional

cost would be funded 50% by city and 50% by employee. The maximum cost to the city per month to fund dental benefits would be \$90.61 per employee.

Motion by Murchison, **Seconded** by Dault to add dental insurance as a benefit to the City employee's.

Roll Call Vote: Yes- Murchison, Dault, Shears, Anuci, Becker, Miller

No-None **Absent-**None

Abstained-None

Motion Carried

e. Employee medical insurance

The Personnel Committee recommendation for approval from the City Council to change employee medical insurance from Blue Care Network to Priority Health effective May 1, 2023. The out-of-pocket maximum in the Priority Health plan is a slight increase for the employee; the savings for the city is approximately \$15,000.00 annually.

The Personnel Committee also recommended "in lieu of medical insurance" payment continue at \$350.00 per month.

Motion by Murchison, **Seconded** by Dault to change employee medical insurance to Priority Health plan and keep "in lieu of insurance" at \$350.00 per month.

Roll Call Vote: Yes- Murchison, Dault, Shears, Anuci, Becker, Miller

No-None **Absent-**None

Abstained-None

Motion Carried

13. Special Events Application: Four-Twenty Party

An application for a special event with vendors giving away free stuff at 1363 Washington on April 21st from 4pm-8pm.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Anuci to approve the Special Events application for a Four-Twenty party.

The owner, Joe Lucas, was in attendance for council questions. Member Shears requested a description of the event as it was unclear on the application. Lucas stated a lot of vendors coming in as a customer appreciation for customers of Michiganja that will give away swag and samples. City Manager asked if samples would be marihuana, Lucas acknowledged it would be. Lucas stated it is not taking place under their license, it is basically a private party on private property; not using any city resources or property. Lucas stated it is similar to alcohol on St. Patrick's Day, people who use cannabis celebrate 4-20 but party is on the 21st.

Mayor Miller stated his understanding is that a state permit for a temporary marihuana event had not been filed with State of Michigan LARA.

Clerk Arnold asked if product would be given away and if there would be consumption on the property, Lucas stated there would be.

Clerk Arnold read what she had received from the State Regulator (shown below):

If they wanted to have an event at the property that he owns in the industrial park that is a future proposed grow site the following would be allowed. If he had vendors come in and talked about their product and gave away tee shirts and hats with no product onsite they would not need a permit. If vendors are going to be on site with product or giving out samples for a penny then they would need to apply for a TME (temporary marijuana event) 90 days out. They would submit a plan and it would be reviewed and approved or denied. Basically if product on site TME needed.

Roll Call Vote: Yes- None **No-** Anuci, Dault, Murchison, Becker, Shears, Miller

Absent-None **Abstained-**None

Motion Failed

14. White Cloud Sherman Utility Authority

City Manager gave brief overview of motion that had been passed at the previous WCSUA board meeting that because there is no maintenance and service agreement, it basically passes the

repair costs of sewer lines in the City to the City. The request to Council is to hire a Utility Attorney who specializes in municipal utilities that would look at the history of what has been done, give us options what can be done to remedy the charter violation that was done by the City and to draft a maintenance and service agreement between the City of White Cloud and Sherman Utility Authority.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Shears to work with the City Attorney to find and work with an attorney who specializes in utilities.

Roll Call Vote: Yes-Dault, Shears, Becker, Anuci, Murchison, Miller
No-None **Absent**-None **Abstained**-None **Motion Carried**

G. Correspondence

1. Police Department report
2. DPW report
3. City Manager report/Treasurer report
4. WCSUA packet

Received

H. Public Comment

None

I. Council Member Comments

Shears, Dault, Miller

Received

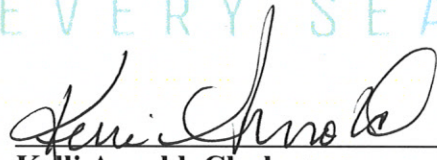
J. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Mayor Miller at 7:37 p.m.

Motion by Becker, **Seconded** by Shears to adjourn.

Vote: Yes-All No-None **Absent**-None **Abstained**-None **Motion Carried**


Brian J. Miller, Mayor


Kelli Arnold, Clerk
Approved on 5/2/2023