



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

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for September 5, 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, Amy Barnhard, Herm Becker, Candice Dault, Jeff Murchison, Lori Shears, Brian Miller

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: City Manager April Storms, Clerk Kelli Arnold, CEDAM Fellow Andrew Stafford

Guest sign-in: Rich Dault, Dan Abid, Dennis & Cheryl Hult, Kay Scott

Via Zoom: None

2. Approval of Agenda

Approval of the agenda for September 5, 2023, as presented.

Motion by Dault to approve.

Shears request to remove New Business item #3 as it is a duplicate of New Business #11 and replace #3 with Police Department Tahoe.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Anuci to approve the agenda as amended.

Vote: Ayes-All No-None Absent- None Abstained-None

Motion Carried

3. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Murchison.

B. Public Comment

None

C. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the Regular Council meeting Minutes from August 1, 2023.

Motion by Shears, **Seconded** by Dault to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 1, 2023.

Vote: Ayes-All No-None Absent- None Abstained-None

Motion Carried

2. Approval of the Special Council meeting Minutes from August 7, 2023.

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

Vote: Ayes-All No-None Absent- None Abstained-None

Motion Carried

D. Unfinished Business

None

E. New Business

1. Resolution 2023-41 August expenditures

A resolution to approve the city expenditures throughout the month of August 2023.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Anuci to adopt Resolution 2023-41.

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

No-None Absent-None Abstained-None

Motion Carried

2. Resolution 2023-42 MI PAR Plan Grant application (DPW Security Camera)

A resolution to approve submitting an application to Michigan Township Participating Plan Risk Reduction Grant for security cameras at the DPW building.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Shears to adopt Resolution 2023-42.

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

No-None Absent-None Abstained-None

Motion Carried

3. Police Department Chevy Tahoe bids

No bids were submitted for the used Chevy Tahoe. Minimum bid was \$15,500.00. City Manager Storms recommended that the minimum bid be lowered to \$12,500.00 & put out for bid for the month of September.

Motion by Becker, **Seconded** by Dault to reduce the bid amount of the Tahoe as recommended by the City Manager.

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

No-None Absent-None Abstained-None

Motion Carried

4. WCSUA Board Member Term

April Storms term expired June 30, 2023, on the White Cloud Sherman Utility Authority (WCSUA) board. Mayor Miller would like to re-appoint her for another two (2) year term.

Motion by Miller, **Seconded** by Becker to re-appoint April Storms to the WCSUA board.

Vote: Ayes- All No-None Absent-None Abstained-None

Motion Carried

5. WC Area Fire Board resignation

After serving twenty-nine (29) years, Herm Becker has submitted his resignation from the WC Area Fire Board.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Shears to accept Herm Becker's resignation from the WC Area Fire Board.

Vote: Ayes- All No-None Absent-None Abstained-None

Motion Carried

6. WC Area Fire Board Appointment

Jamie Steffes has turned in an application to fill the vacant seat on the WC Area Fire Board. Mayor Miller would like to appoint Jamie Steffes to the board.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Barnhard to appoint Jamie Steffes to a six (6) year term on the WC Area Fire Board.

Vote: Ayes- All No-None Absent-None Abstained-None

Motion Carried

7. Tax Board of Review resignation

Cindie Thompson is selling her home and will be moving; she turned in a resignation for the Tax Board of Review.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Shears to accept Cindie Thompson's resignation from Tax Board of Review.

Vote: Ayes- All No-None Absent-None Abstained-None

Motion Carried

8. Tax Board of Review Appointment

Richard Dault has turned in an application to fill the vacant seat on the Tax Board of Review. Mayor Miller would like to appoint Richard.

Motion by Murchison, **Seconded** by Shears to appoint Richard Dault to a two (2) year term on the Tax Board of Review.

Vote: Ayes- All No-None Absent-None Abstained-None

Motion Carried

9. Proposal 2022-02 Early Voting Options

Newaygo County Clerk has provided each municipality in the County a cost breakdown for the Early In-Person Voting which is mandatory for all statewide and federal elections. Each election would require election inspectors, a staff person, a polling place, equipment separate from the tabulator and VAT used on election day, along with a security cage for the voting equipment, supplies and notices to the public for early voting. Each polling place must have internet and a generator. The implementation cost for the first election, not including the equipment, is approximately \$21,000.00 and the ongoing cost would be approximately \$13,160.00 per election. The options are for A) local units to implement individually, B) partner with other jurisdictions or C) partner with the County. Clerk Arnold recommends Option C to partner with the County. The cost for partnering with the County is approximately \$1,450.00 to \$2,800.00; this will vary depending on how many municipalities partner with the County and whether costs are based on % of registered voters or equal cost per jurisdiction.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Barnhard to approve Option C, partnering with Newaygo County for mandatory Early In-Person Voting.

Vote: Ayes- All No-None Absent-None Abstained-None

Motion Carried

10. Early Voting Agreement – Draft

Council was presented with the draft version of the Newaygo County Agreement for Election Services (Early in-person voting).

Motion by Anuci, **Seconded** by Becker to approve the Early Voting Agreement with Newaygo County.

Vote: Ayes- All No-None Absent-None Abstained-None

Motion Carried

11. 1st Read: Ordinance 2023-03 Fire Protection and Merger Agreement

Amending and restating the previously adopted Code of Ordinance, Chapter 31, Fire Protection and Merger Agreement.

Received

12. Zoning Administrator

John Wallace provided thirty (30) day notice resigning from the part-time Zoning Administrator position; John is unable due to time constraints to administer permits, zoning code violations, court dates, respond to e-mails and phone calls. He will continue to work with the City Manager until the end of September per his current contract; after September he is willing to be a consultant at an hourly rate of \$50 per hour to participate remotely in Master Plan Consultant Review/Planning Commission, Site Plan Reviews and Zoning Board of Appeals guidance. This leaves an opening for a Zoning Administrator to perform the daily duties such as Zoning Permits and Code Enforcement. The cost of keeping John as a consultant and hiring a part-time Zoning admin will not have a significant effect on the budget.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Anuci to approve an hourly consultant rate with John Wallace for the duties mentioned and authorization to hire a part-time zoning administrator.

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

13. Business Licenses – LARA Regulations

City Manager Storms has received complaints regarding a business that may not have a business license and may not be paying the required business taxes, work comp. etc. This information is being shared so that the Council is aware and can discuss if this is something the city should be involved in.

Storms reached out to other local municipalities; they do not regulate business licenses but do offer resources. Newaygo County Clerk’s Office shared with her; they do not do anything with business license other than a DBA (doing business as). The State of Michigan, LARA handles and regulates partnerships, corps, LLCs etc. The Department of Treasury handles suspected tax fraud complaints. The city and the staff are not equipped to take on regulating business licenses, the State of Michigan has agencies and positions in place to enforce and regulate. **Received**

F. Correspondence

- 1. Police Department report
- 2. DPW report
- 3. Zoning Administrator report
- 4. CEDAM Fellow Report
- 5. City Manager report/Treasurer report
- 6. WCSUA packet
- 7. Clerk memo – November meeting date change due to election **Received**

G. Public Comment

Cheryl Hult, Dan Abid, Dennis Hult **Received**

H. Council Member Comments

Becker, Miller **Received**

I. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Mayor Miller at 7:20 p.m.

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

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



Brian J. Miller, Mayor



Kelli Arnold, Clerk

Approved on 10-3-2023