



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

CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
Minutes for May 13, 2025, 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, Candice Dault, Brian Miller, Jeff Murchison, Lori Shears

Members Absent: Amy Barnhard, Herm Becker

Staff Present: April Storms, Jon Patterson, Adam Hoover

Guest sign-in: Rich Dault, Marva Shears, Deb Higgins, Dennis & Cheryl Hult

Via Zoom: None

2. Approval of Agenda

Approval of the agenda for Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

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

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

3. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Murchison

B. Public Comment

Dennis Hult, Cheryl Hult

C. Reserved Time

None

D. Approval of Minutes

1. Approval of the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2025.

Council was presented with the draft meeting minutes of April 1, 2025.

Motion by Murchison, **Seconded** by Dault to approve the regular meeting minutes.

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

2. Approval of the Budget Workshop Minutes of April 15, 2025

Council was presented with the draft minutes of the budget workshop from April 15, 2025.

Motion by Anuci, **Seconded** by Dault to approve the budget workshop meeting minutes.

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

E. Public Hearing

1. Call to order Public Hearing at 6:06 pm

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Shears to open the Public Hearing.
Roll call: Dault, Shears, Murchison, Anuci, Miller

2. Public Hearing for the purpose of receiving public comment regarding the Fire Services Special Assessment for the assessment period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, at 1.752 mills of the taxable value of all taxable real property in the special assessment district.

3. Public Comment

Dennis Hult – Is the special assessment only for so long and then it disappears?

4. Close Public Hearing at 6:11 pm

Motion by Shears, **Seconded** by Anuci to close the Public Hearing.

Roll call: Shears, Anuci, Murchison, Dault, Miller

F. Unfinished Business

None

G. New Business

1. Kid's Free Fishing Application & waiver

An application for Saturday, June 7th to host Russell Gilbert Memorial Kids Free Fishing and a fee waiver application. An event for kids aged 3-16 to participate in trying to catch fish. Prizes are awarded in different categories.

Motion by Shears, **Seconded** by Dault to approve the application and waive the fee for Kid's Free Fishing event.

Vote: Ayes-All No-None Absent-Barnhard, Becker Abstained-None Motion Carried

2. VFW Memorial Day Parade Application & waiver

An application for VFW Memorial Day Parade on May 26th at 10:00 am including police escort and closure of Wilcox Avenue as well as an application fee waiver.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Anuci to approve the application and waive the fee for the VFW Memorial Day Parade.

Vote: Ayes-All No-None Absent-Barnhard, Becker Abstained-None Motion Carried

3. Personnel Committee Recommendations

a. Michigan Earned Sick Time Act (ESTA) added to the Employee Personnel Manual.

This act requires employees to accrue one (1) hour of sick time per 30 hours worked. This policy will be retroactive for employees back dated to February 21, 2025. Personnel manual to read:

All employees (excluding contracted employees) will accrue one (1) hour for every thirty (30) hours worked. New employees are eligible to use ESTA days upon satisfactory completion of their ninety (90) day probation period. Sick hour accrual shall not accrue while an employee is absent on disability, leave without pay, military leave, etc. (if absent longer than 4 weeks).

ESTA days can be used for appointments or illness or the care of an immediate family member who is seriously ill. Employees should notify their supervisors as soon as possible if they cannot report to work due to illness. Sick time can be taken by an

employee in .25-hour increments (1/4 hours), by designating ESTA hours on their timesheet. A retiring employee, or employees separated from employment by voluntary termination or resignation will receive compensation for fifty percent (50%) of their unused sick leave, up to the maximum of 100 hours. All employees shall accrue a minimum of one hour of paid earned sick time for every 30 hours worked but shall not be entitled to use more than 72 hours of paid earned sick time per year. Contracted employees are not entitled to ESTA benefits.

Motion by Shears, **Seconded** by Dault to adopt the ESTA and update the personnel manual.

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

b. Personnel manual amendments

Recommended changes to the personnel manual include:

Change page 29 Training period to read: All new employees are subject to an "introductory period" for six (6) months of continuous employment with the City beginning with their date of hire. The introductory period is designed to give newly hired employees the opportunity to familiarize themselves with their job and to give the city an opportunity to evaluate the performance of its newly hired employees. Completion of the introductory period does not change one's status as an "at will" employee.

Change description of Non-Exempt Employees, Exempt Employees and Temporary Employees to read as follows:

Non-Exempt Employees, according to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), a non-exempt employee is an employee that the City is obligated to compensate, using overtime pay and /or compensatory time for hours worked that exceed 40 hours in any given week.

Exempt Employees: According to the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), an exempt employee is an employee that the city is not obligated to compensate for hours that exceed 40 hours in any given week.

Temporary Employees: Temporary employees are employed in a position for a specified period. These employees are generally hired for the purpose of relieving staff members who are absent due to illness, vacation, or for supplementing the staff to meet requirements that may be caused by periodic workloads. Temporary employees will not be entitled to receive fringe benefits such as but not limited to health insurance, earned time off (ETO), holiday pay or retirement benefits. Seasonal employees are considered temporary employees.

Page 35: Required Testing

Remove Pre-employment; this is done only when needed for licensing purposes.

Motion by Anuci, **Seconded** by Dault to adopt and update the personnel manual.

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

c. City Manager Employment agreement Proposal under the green contract" model. The draft proposal includes the following key changes: 2% Salary Increase: As outlined in the budget

recommendations, salary will reflect a 2% increase for the upcoming fiscal year. (Contingent upon budget approval & staff increases; this is not a point of contention in the contract negotiation.)

Benefits: Benefit package remain unchanged, continuing to offer the same benefits currently in place.

Severance: The severance clause is proposed to be increased to six months. The adjustment ensures that both the City and City Manager have ample time to provide notice should either party choose to not automatically renew the contract. The six-month notice period will allow for an orderly transition in the event that a change in administration is deemed necessary.

Motion by Shears, **Seconded** by Murchison to adopt and update the City Manager Employment Agreement.

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

No-None **Absent**-Barnhard, Becker **Abstained**-None

Motion Carried

4. Library Board expiration/appointment

Pat Ebenstein's board term will expire on June 30, 2025. Pat is interested in retaining her position on the board for another four-year term.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Murchison to appoint Pat Ebenstein to another four-year term on the WC Library Board.

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

5. WC Sherman-Sewer Board expiration/appointment

April Storm's board term will expire June 30, 2025, on the White Cloud Sherman Utility Authority board, she has stated she would like to continue, the board is making good progress.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Shears to appoint April Storms to another two-year term on the WCSUA board.

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

6. Resolution 2025-16 April expenditures

A resolution to approve City expenditures for April 2025 in the amount of \$145,708.19.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Anuci to adopt Resolution 2025-16.

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

No-None **Absent**-Barnhard, Becker **Abstained**-None

Motion Carried

7. Resolution 2025-17 Establish Funding Level

A resolution establishing funding level of 1.752 mills for the White Cloud Area Fire District for Fiscal Year 2025/2026.

Motion by Murchison, **Seconded** by Dault to adopt Resolution 2025-17.

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

No-None **Absent**-Barnhard, Becker **Abstained**-None

Motion Carried

8. Resolution 2025-18 Fire Assessment in Proportion

A resolution determining assessments are in proportion to benefits received, confirming special assessment roll, establishing lien, and providing for the payment and collection of special assessments.

Motion by Shears, **Seconded** by Dault to adopt Resolution 2025-18.

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

Motion Carried

9. Resolution 2025-19 Schedule Public Hearing for FY 2025/2026 Budget

A resolution to set the date for a public hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2025/2026 budget.

Motion by Anuci, Seconded by Dault to adopt Resolution 2025-19.

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

10. Resolution 2025-20 Close Park for Event

A resolution to close the portion of Lake White Cloud City Park within Fifty foot of Waters Edge from Friday, June 6, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. until Saturday, June 7, 2025, at 8:00 a.m.

Motion by Shears, Seconded by Dault to adopt Resolution 2025-20.

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

11. Resolution 2025-21 Delinquent water to Taxes 2025

A resolution to add delinquent water bills to 2025 Summer taxes.

Motion by Dault, Seconded by Anuci to adopt Resolution 2025-21.

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

12. Resolution 2025-22 Fixed Assets

A resolution revising fixed assets for the City of White Cloud.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Anuci to adopt Resolution 2025-22.

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

No-None Absent-Barnhard, Becker Abstained-None

Motion Carried

13. Police Cruiser (2018) Bid Auction

The City Manager recommendation to list the retired 2018 Ford Explorer (Police Cruiser) on Miedema Ranger Bid Auction Site with a minimum bid of \$4,500.00 and authorize that all proceeds be deposited into the Equipment fund for future capital equipment purchases.

Motion by Murchison, **Seconded** by Anuci to approve the retired police cruiser listing with Miedema Auction for minimum \$4,500.00 bid and authorize proceeds into the equipment fund.

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

No-None Absent-Barnhard, Becker Abstained-None

Motion Carried

14. Collaboration NCRESA/FACF (tiny homes)

The City Manager is seeking Council direction whether to be involved in a potential collaborative project involving the City of White Cloud, Newaygo County Career Tech Center (NCCTC), Fremont Area Community Foundation (FACF) and Haven Design Build in exploring the creation of a tiny-home community within The City of White Cloud. John Wallace, The Zoning & Planning Consultant for the City, was asked for his opinion and recommendation; he responded that the project is feasible.

Motion by Shears **Seconded** by Dault to continue collaboration for the tiny home community.

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

15. DWRSF Contract bid approval

Lead Service Line Replacements, DWSRF Bid Review. Three bids were received; all bids appear to be in order with the required submittals. Gustafson HDD LLC, of Whitehall, was the lowest bidder with a bid of \$3,359,050.00. Holland Engineering has worked on multiple water

main replacement projects where Gustafson replaced lead service lines as a subcontractor efficiently and successfully.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Anuci to accept and approve the DWRSF bid by Gustafson HDD LLC bid.

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

No-None Absent-Barnhard, Becker **Abstained**-None

Motion Carried

16. Perceptive Controls – Water tower alarm system updates

Perceptive Controls services the computer system for our water distribution; They have recommended an upgrade to our callout alarming package that notifies the DPW Supervisor via callout & text with an automated message detailing an event has been triggered in the system. The initial setup is \$1,500.00 and the annual fee is \$800.00.

Motion by Dault, **Seconded** by Shears to approve the initial upgrade to the water tower alarm system with Perceptive Controls.

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

No-None Absent-Barnhard, Becker **Abstained**-None

Motion Carried

H. Correspondence

1. Police Department report
2. DPW report
3. City Manager report/Treasurer report/CM Memo
4. River Country Chamber of Commerce verbal update
5. Miscellaneous

Received

I. Public Comment

None

J. Council Member Comments

None

K. Adjournment

Motion by Shears, **Seconded** by Dault to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: Ayes-All

Meeting adjourned by Mayor Miller at 7:15 p.m.


Brian J. Miller, Mayor


Kelli Arnold, Clerk
Approved on 4/3/2025