



**CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING**  
**1087 Newell, White Cloud, MI 49349 (NC Commissioners Boardroom)**  
**Minutes for May 19, 2025**

**A. Meeting Called to Order**

The Special Meeting of the White Cloud City Council was held on the above date. Mayor Miller called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

**1. Roll Call**

**Council Members Present:** Damon Anuci, Amy Barnhard, Candice Dault, Jeff Murchison, Lori Shears, Brian Miller

Herm Becker at 3:32 pm

**Members Absent:** None

**Staff Present:** Arnold, Patterson, Barnhard

**Guests:** David Collier, Steve Smith, Ken Follett, Amy Stockwell, John Stivers, Steve & Bonnie Fetterley, Tim Deater, Tom & Rhonda Coon, Steve & Linda Carroll, Thomas Horak & Luke Trumble (EGLE), Rich Dault, John & Arnetta Stump, Kelly Rider, Carole Lovas, Rich Wheeler (Times Indicator), Mark Hryns, Donna Nichols, Joe & Robin Heykoop, Leslie & Barry Anderson, Bob & Sheila Reed, Marcella Hansen, Marva Shears, Charles Chandler, Bryan Budnaughs, Sharon Davis, Cynthia Sharp, Lance & Elizabeth Decker, Charolette Johnson, Leroy Stratton, Nichole Postema & Drew Bozell, Leon May, Barry Flintoff, Laura Watkins, Dave Dean, Tanya Debski, Brian Thomas, William Doering, Pamela Miller, Pam Monson, Annette Gilbert, Maranda Lee, Debra Tanis, Gabrielle Fessenden, Shannen Fessenden, Roger Lindsey, Trisha, Jay & Joe Fox, Kayden King, Diane P, Abby Watkins, Patty & Jamie Steffes, Chuck Christenson, Cynthia Stowell, Aimee Vincent, Bryan Kolk, Joseph Fox, Krista Reynolds, Norman K, Kay Scott

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Approval of the Agenda for the Special Meeting May 19, 2025.

**Motion** by Dault, **Supported** by Shears to approve the special meeting agenda for May 19, 2025

**Vote:** Ayes-All Nays- None Absent- None

**Motion Carried**

**3. Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**

Led by Murchison

**B. Public Comment**

None

**C. New Business**

Presentation of GEI Consultant's Recommendation for Drawdown of the water at the White Cloud Dam and Council Action on Expenditure Authorization of Permit to proceed.

Dan DeVaun, Senior Project Manager for GEI Consultants, informed the Council and Public that over the past year & a half, GEI has been engaged in evaluating the dam. He gave a quick summary of what had been done. The things they were looking at during the evaluation were: the dam's



ability to safely convey flood flows, they performed geotechnical investigations and analysis to gain an understanding of stability under normal and flood conditions as well as performed some structural investigations on some of the various structural/ concrete components of the dam and evaluated whether or not those components meet current criteria and safety requirements in structural stability. Out of those investigations there were a number of deficiencies; some are more significant than others. Within the Feasibility studies, pages 42 & 43 list the deficiencies. The most significant being the hydraulic capacity is deficient, not capable of passing the required design flood, its not safely able to pass the 100-year flood (an annual exceedance probability which is 100 years, a 1 in 100 chance of it occurring, a 1% chance that storm will occur in any given year; 200 years would be a 0.5% chance could have that storm in any given year. It is a probability that is derived statistically from past precipitation events) that coupled with the other significant issue being the slope stability/the ability of the embankment to maintain factors of safety, to resist the forces during flood conditions, it would create a risk of slope stability failure. Based on continued conversations with the City of White Cloud and with EGLE, it was requested that GEI prepare a recommendation for moving forward to address issues in the interim. There were some issues with the bridge that were handled very quickly by the City with regards to putting in the steel plates which allowed traffic back on it but with regards to the overall concerns of the stability of the dam, GEI recommendation that was provided in a letter on April 4<sup>th</sup> stated it would be appropriate to pursue drawdown of the dam as quickly as practical; given the elevated risk it is the opinion of GEI that taking whatever immediate measures are reasonably achievable to mitigate the risk of failure is in the City's best interest. The recommended drawdown will lower the normal water surface elevation in the impoundment approximately 6-7 feet during normal flow (similar to what was seen in late August/early September 2024 when a board broke). Following initial discussions with the City and with EGLE, it was requested that GEI put together a proposal for implementing the drawdown, putting together a permit application and working through regulatory requirements, GEI submitted a time and materials not to exceed contract/proposal to submit a Joint Permit Application to EGLE. GEI's cost is estimated at \$40,000.00 which would be invoiced monthly based on time and materials expended. Task:

Task:	Fee:
1. Joint Permit Application Preparation	\$10,000
2. Wetland Delineation	\$6,000
3. Stranded Organism Monitoring	\$18,000
4. Project Management & Meetings	\$6,000

The White Cloud Dam is classified as a high hazard potential dam; high hazard potential means there's potential for significant environmental & economic damage and the likelihood of loss of human life.

1. The mayor is seeking a motion to approve the expenditure for GEI of \$40,000 for White Cloud Dam permitting Support.

**Motion** by Dault, **Supported** by Anuci to approve the \$40,000 expenditure for GEI support in the White Cloud Dam permit process.

**Roll Call:**

**Ayes:** None **Nays:** Dault, Anuci, Barnhard, Murchison, Becker **Abstain:** Miller, Shears

**Motion Failed**

2. The mayor is seeking a motion authorizing the City Manager to obtain cost estimates from other engineering firms for the EGLE permit application with the drawdown to begin on or after June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion** by Dault, **Supported** by Barnhard to seek other engineering firms to assist with EGLE application and drawdown after June 9<sup>th</sup>.



**Roll Call:**

**Ayes-** Dault, Barnhard, Murchison, Anuci **Nays-** Becker

**Abstain-** Shears, Miller

**Motion Carried**

**D. Public Comment**

Dennis Hult, Cheryl Hult, Joseph Fox, Kayden King, Tanya Debski, John Stump, Leslie Anderson, Deb Tanis, Joe Fox, Ken Follett, Jim Maike, Marce Hansen, Steve Smith, Marva Shears, Pam Miller, Don Barnhard

**Received**

**E. Council Member Comments**

J. Murchison

**Received**

**F. Adjourn**


Adjourn the special meeting.

**Motion** by Becker **Supported** by Dault to adjourn the special meeting at 5:06 p.m.

**Vote:** Ayes-All Nays- None

**Motion Carried**

  
Brian J. Miller, Mayor

  
Kelli Arnold, Clerk  
Approved on 6/3/2025