WHITE CLOUD CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
1087 Newell S, White Cloud, MI 49349
July 21, 2026, at 6:00 pm

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 6:00 pm.

1. **Roll Call**

Council Members Present: Damon Anuci, Amy Barnhard, Herm Becker, Kay Scott, Brian Miller, Jeff Murchison, Lori Shears
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: April Storms, Kelli Arnold
Sign-in: Joe Fox, Tom Horak-EGLE, Gary Anderson, Brian Shafer, Brandy Allen, Pam Miller, Charles P Smith, Donna Brown, Mim Maike Jr, Leroy Stratton, Marce Hansen, Dave Dean, Dianne Taylor Chandler, Charles Chandler, Laura Watkins, Carole Lovas, Adam Chiles, William Smith, Steve Smith, Jan Smith, Jackie Smith, Charles Twing, Ken Follett, Rich Wheater–Times Indicator, Joh S, Marva Shears, Gene & Donna Schotanus, Ray Schinler, Chris& Wendy Hanna, Pat & Rhonda Hedlund, Bill & Ginger Bowen, Sheila Reed, James Ensign-Wade Trim
Via Zoom: Larry, Jay Peasley

2. **Approval of Agenda**

Approval of the Agenda for the Special Meeting July 21, 2026.
Motion by Becker, **supported** by Anuci to approve the agenda for the special meeting July 21, 2026.
Vote:
Ayes-All **Nays-** None **Absent-** None **Motion Carried**

3. **Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**
Led by Murchison

B. New Business

1. White Cloud Dam Alternative Analysis presentation by James Ensign of Wade Trim Engineering

Alternative 1 – Dam Repair includes

- Increasing capacity of auxiliary spillway
- Move boat launch to James Street and construct floodwall
- Install buttress w/filter
- Install sheet pile cutoff wall
- Install erosion protection
- Repair concrete
- Overlay existing RCC spillway

Estimated Cost: $8.5-$10.7 million; EGLE permit required for construction, funding opportunities are very minimal. Pros: restores historic

impoundment/Cons: high cost, ongoing operation, maintenance and inspection costs, EGLE regulation.

Alternative 2 – Modify Existing Structure to Deregulate Dam

- Placement of earthen fill on downstream face of dam
- Series of Rock Riffles and Pools
- Designed to allow for fish passage

Estimated Cost: $7-$8 million; EGLE permit required for construction, funding opportunities are little/none. Pros: maintaining impoundment, potential for fish passage/Cons: high cost, land acquisitions and impacts, rotary park, kayak launch

Alternative 3 – Dam Removal with Active River Restoration

- Removal of center section of the earthen embankment
- Excavation of a 2-stage channel from toe of dam upstream close to M-20
- Active plantings, seedings, and placement of in-stream structures
- Disposal of excavated spoils

Estimated Cost: $7.2-$7.8 million; EGLE permit required for construction, funding opportunities high (Trout Unlimited, MDNR), Pros: No longer regulated as a dam, provides for fish passage, river recreation/Cons: high cost, loss of impoundment.

Alternative 3.1 Dam Removal with Passive Restoration

- Removal of smaller center section of the earthen embankment
- Excavation of a smaller 2-stage channel from toe of dam upstream close to M-20
- Allow for floodplain to develop naturally (both physically and biologically)
- Disposal of excavated spoils onsite

Bridge Options
-None
Cheapest option
Loss of access for passenger cars, recreational vehicles and pedestrians

-Pedestrian Bridge
Span full river width
Can be designed for both pedestrians and recreational vehicles
Cost $500-000-$750,000

-Vehicle Bridge
Span full river width
Cost $1.0-$1.5 million

Estimated Cost with passive restoration: $5.2-$5.8 million; EGLE permit required for construction, funding opportunities medium. Pros: No longer regulated as a Dam, provides for fish passage, river recreation/Cons: Cost (Lower than active restoration), loss of impoundment.

Alternative 4 – Removal of Existing Gate Structures

- Remove existing gates, stoplog structures and all associated frameworks at both main and auxiliary spillways
- Allows for higher discharge through dam
- During large storm events water will impound behind the structure
- Capable of passing the 200-year storm without overtopping
- Potential for lowering dam hazard classification (requires additional engineering)

Estimated cost: $50-$100 thousand; EGLE permit required for construction, funding opportunities are none. Pros: low cost/Cons: Loss of impoundment, ongoing operation, maintenance and inspection costs, ongoing EGLE regulation, uncertainty of need for Dam repairs.

Alternative 4 is the most affordable, short-term solution that buys time for the city to pursue larger funding, however, does not resolve the dam's regulated status or eliminate ongoing maintenance obligations.

C. Public Comment

D Anuci, H Becker, D Hult, P Hedlund, D Twing, K Follett, G Schotanus, Jason, B Shafer, L Anderson, C Hannah, B Anderson, C Smith, B Wieten, J Smith, P Miller, M Shears, D Brown, M Hansen, S Smith, T. Horak **Received**

D. Council Member Comments

Anuci, Becker, Shears, Miller **Received**

E. Adjourn

Adjourn the special meeting.

Motion by Shears, **supported** by Becker, to adjourn the special meeting at 7:42 p.m.

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

Brian J. Miller, Mayor

Kelli Arnold, Clerk
Approved on 8/11/2026