

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2022**

The Regular Meeting of the Grand Haven City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Mayor Cathy McNally in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Present: Council Members Mike Fritz, Karen Lowe, Kevin McLaughlin, Ryan Cummins, and Mayor Cathy McNally.

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Patrick McGinnis, Assistant City Manager Ashley Latsch, Public Works Director Derek Gajdos, Senior Accountant Emily Greene, and Community Affairs Manager Char Seise.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AND REGULAR AGENDAS

A. 22-195 Moved by Council Member **McLaughlin**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the consent and regular agendas, as amended. This motion carried unanimously.

City Manager McGinnis requested the removal of two items from the agenda; consideration of the Hispanic Heritage Festival and Pedro's Pig Roast, pending further clarification.

Mayor McNally requested the transfer of the Loutit Library event from the Consent Agenda to New Business to provide the opportunity to discuss a request to waive fees.

GENERAL BUSINESS/CALL TO AUDIENCE

Mayor McNally made a call to the audience, allowing audience members to address Council on any issue.

Mac Davis, 209 S. 3rd Street, reported on progress made by the GREEN group at Grand Haven High School. Davis asked that council read the report completed by the group and consider continuing to work with the students. He stated how proud he was of the student's work.

Margot Frendt, Junior at GHHS, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to speak to council on issues related to the GREEN group. Frendt felt that Grand Haven could be a model community for engaging youth and making progress on environmental issues.

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Jerry Troke, 11933 Juniper Hills Ct., active chair of the Musical Fountain Committee, introduced himself and provided council with an update on fountain operations. Troke presented that 2022 is the 60th year anniversary of the fountain and that various celebrations were being planned throughout the year.

Joselyn Toliver, 1858 Far Hills Ct., thanked Council for approving her disability awareness event and waiving the associated fees. Toliver invited Council to attend her event the coming weekend.

Renee Denslow, 17865 Oakwood Dr., from Bluebird Cancer Retreat introduced herself. Denslow explained the programming provided by her organization. She further expressed gratitude for the consideration of their upcoming event at the Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium.

Cara Galbavi, 128 Columbus Ave., spoke on behalf of the MSDDA, expressing concern about the gravity of the snowmelt billing resolution on the agenda and the request from Coast Guard Festival to suspend the Social District during the festival.

Kirsten Runschke, 1609 Pine Ridge Dr., spoke on behalf of the local Rotary Club, requesting support for the Jump for Polio event on the agenda.

Jenny Shepard Kelly, Candidate for County Commissioner, introduced herself.

Jim Hagen, 400 Lake Ave., spoke regarding his concerns about infrastructure problems; in the context of a recent water main break. Hagen explained the impact of the break on his property and expressed frustration with the City about failure to address these infrastructure concerns.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. 22-196 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the Special and Regular City Council Minutes of May 2, 2022. This motion carried unanimously.

B. 22-197 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the bills memo in the amount of \$984,841.44. This motion carried unanimously.

C. 22-198 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to accept, with regret, the resignation of City Clerk Kelly Beattie. This motion carried unanimously.

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D. 22-199 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the appointment of Anna Darwin as Interim City Clerk. This motion carried unanimously.

E. 22-200 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve a resolution recognizing and proclaiming the month of June 2022 as Pride Month. This motion carried unanimously.

F. 22-201 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the awarded grant in the amount of \$8,000 from the William H. Young and Dorothy Young Mixer Field of Interest Fund of the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation to cover the cost of historical and wayfinding signs and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the necessary documents. This motion carried unanimously.

G. 22-202 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the following slate of 2022 Summer Sessions Concerts: June 20 Big Head Todd & The Monsters wsg 10,000 Maniacs, July 7 Phil Vassar wsg Jamie O'Neal, July 14 Spin Doctors wsg Sister Hazel, August 18 John Waite wsg Ambrosia. This motion carried unanimously.

H. 22-203 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the recurring special event request to hold the "Memorial Day Parade" (from 7th and Franklin to Harbor Drive) and "Ceremony," (Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium) on Monday, May 30, 2022, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This motion carried unanimously.

I. 22-204 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the recurring special event to hold the "Bolt Park Market" on Wednesdays, beginning June 15 through September 7, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and allow one food truck weekly and waive \$650 in park rental fees. This motion carried unanimously.

J. 22-205 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the recurring "Meet Up & Eat Up" event, to be held during the Farmer's Market, on Wednesdays, beginning June 8 through August 10, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. This motion carried unanimously.

K. 22-206 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the recurring special event, "WGHN Tuesdays in the Park," from June 14 through August 16, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and to authorize the closure of 4th Street and allow amplified sound. This motion carried unanimously.

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L. 22-207 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the new special event, “Rotary Jump! for Polio,” to be held at the Grand Haven Municipal Airport on, Saturday, June 25 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. This motion carried unanimously.

M. 22-208 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the new special event, “USCG SFO Grand Haven Change of Command Ceremony” to be held, on Thursday, July 14, 2022, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., in Escanaba Park. This motion carried unanimously.

N. 22-209 Moved by Council Member **Cummins**, seconded by Council Member **Fritz**, to approve the new special event, “Camp Bluebird’s Bluebird Flock Party Fundraiser,” to be held on Thursday, August 11, 2022, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., at Lynne Sherwood Waterfront Stadium, and to allow amplified sound and consumption of alcohol. This motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Cummins publicly thanked Gary Boyd for his effort in bringing back the Bolt Park Market. Cummins also commended Council for recognizing Pride month for the second year in a row; showing support for the LGBTQ community.

Mayor McNally expressed gratitude towards the Grand Haven Area Community Foundation for funding signage for a historical marker at Mulligan’s Hollow and for wayfinding signage at the Grand Trunk Depot.

NEW BUSINESS

A. 22-210 Moved by Council Member **Fritz**, seconded by Council Member **Cummins**, to approve a resolution to adopt the FY2022-23 budget including the six-year capital plan, fee schedule, proposed millage rates, and operational budgets, and to approve the FY2021-22 budget amendments included in the budget detail and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to execute the necessary documents. This motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Pro Tem Cummins stated his concern regarding the cost of closing the defined benefit program, noting that there’s work to be done to set a sustainable path forward. Cummins commented that he believes a more complete budget package would include considerations in terms of increasing short term rental fees, paid parking along the waterfront, and a possible public safety millage. Cummins explained that he would vote yes, but with the understanding that these items would be discussed at a future date.

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Council Member Fritz commended staff and the City Manager for the work done on the budget.

Council Member Lowe thanked staff work working on the budget. Lowe also inquired about the finality of the fee schedule in the context of considering adjusting short term rental fees.

City Manager McGinnis explained that any changes to the schedule could be made as an amendment.

Council Member Lowe proceeded to explain the City's unfunded pension liability and how it translates into the budget document. She explained that Council was looking to take care of the \$28 million in liability, in segments, while cutting off the unsustainable benefit.

B. 22-211 Moved by Council Member **McLaughlin**, seconded by Council Member **Lowe**, to approve a resolution to direct the Finance Director/City Treasurer to issue FY 2021/22 snowmelt billings in the total amount of \$84,774.65 (excluding interest charges) to the applicable downtown snowmelt customers as designated on the Annual Snowmelt Billing 2022 list provided. This motion carried unanimously.

City Manager McGinnis clarified that the interest was paid for last year in order to keep the ball rolling, but the intention was to include it in the cost of running the snowmelt system.

Mayor McNally recognized that it's a cost of the snowmelt system that is legitimately attributable to the users, but noted that not only the merchants benefit from the system, referencing a greater community benefit. McNally noted she would consider a 50/50 split.

Council Member Fritz remarked that the citizens of Grand Haven are already paying 25% of it. He expressed that while he feels bad, the merchants had pushed for the service years ago.

Mayor Pro Tem Cummins commented that there was still a case to be made for the BLP to be a participant in the split. Cummins also expressed that there was more work that needed to be done and he would like to discuss everything as a whole, capital costs included, not pieced out. Cummins noted he was not ready to pass on the interest costs yet.

Council Member Lowe agreed with Cummins, sharing the sentiment of not burdening the MSDDA merchants with additional costs for now.

C. 22-212 Moved by Council Member **Lowe**, seconded by Council Member **McLaughlin**, to approve the recurring special event, "2022 Coast Guard Festival," from Friday, July 29 through Saturday, August 6, 2022, as outlined, excluding the request to close the social district. This motion carried unanimously.

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Council Member McLaughlin stated he wouldn't support the resolution if the social district were suspended. McLaughlin referenced other compromises the City had made.

Council Member Fritz commended the festival staff for bringing Grand Haven national attention.

Council Member Lowe commented that she was inclined to support keeping the social district open due to lack of concern from the Department of Public Safety.

Mayor Pro Tem Cummins inquired about progress made on concerns from the previous meeting. Cummins also expressed an interest in receiving more of a detailed plan from Public Safety and event organizers regarding how they will manage the social district operations within major special events and maintain the district boundaries.

D. 22-213 Moved by Council Member **Fritz**, seconded by Council Member **Lowe**, to approve a resolution to commit to generating needed revenue up to \$950,000 to match a \$950,000 application for a Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for improvements to the Grand Trunk Depot including possible appropriations of public funds in the 2024 – 2026 City fiscal years. This motion carried unanimously.

City Manager McGinnis explained the upcoming grant opportunity and the intent to maintain the current tenants at the depot while revamping the former Just Goods space into a green room. McGinnis reminded Council of the significant capital needs of the facility in coming years.

Council Member Lowe reiterated the historical significance of the building. Lowe expressed support for the grant application while noting flooding in the basement of the Depot that has gone unaddressed due to budgetary concerns. Lowe stated she feels that Council has a responsibility to take care of the community asset.

Mayor McNally inquired what would happen if the City were to receive the grant funds and not have sufficient match funds.

City Manager McGinnis replied that, if that were the case, at the time of receiving a formal grant agreement, the City would not accept the funds. McGinnis added that he had no concerns about the community's ability to raise such funds.

E 22-214 Moved by Council Member **Fritz**, seconded by Council Member **McNally**, to approve the new special event, by the Loutit District Library, "Inner Seas Harp and Guitar Show," to be held on, Thursday, July 21, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at Lynne Sherwood

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Waterfront Stadium, and to allow amplified sound and waive associated fees. This motion passed. In favor was Cummins, McLaughlin, Fritz and McNally; opposed was Lowe.

Mayor McNally stated that she moved the item due to a request she received from Library Director John Martin to waive the fees for the event.

Council Member Lowe raised concern about waiving actual costs to the city when the Library has a permanent millage for operational funds paid for by tax payers.

Community Affairs Manager Seise explained that, following Council's direction, she had been presenting new events without fee waiver requests and preparing existing events to pay a larger share of fee's in the coming year.

Mayor McNally stated that for now she would like to proceed as the City has in the past, until new policy is drafted.

REPORTS BY CITY COUNCIL

Council Member Fritz reported attending the open house held at Harding Energy and was impressed by the improvements made. Fritz also thanked Rotary and Jeepfest organizers for hosting a successful event. Fritz further asked that staff consider assisting in keeping the boardwalk clear of sand for community members.

Council Member McLaughlin congratulated the GHAPS Science Olympiad team and commended former Mayor Monetza for his continued service to the team. McLaughlin added that he received correspondence from a citizen regarding kids on bikes and skateboards utilizing the sidewalk dangerously; he encouraged Public Safety to monitor the situation.

Mayor McNally reported that the Clerk's office was having trouble recruiting individuals for invocations. McNally asked Council to consider reaching out to any clergy member they might know. McNally also inquired if there was a member of Council willing to act as an alternate for the West Michigan Shoreline Regional Development Commission.

REPORT BY CITY MANAGER

City Manager McGinnis gauged Council's interest in continuing the City Calendar, noting that it was a tight budget year and the calendar comes at a nearly \$10,000 expense.

Council Member Fritz commented on how important the calendar is for residents.

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Mayor Pro Tem Cummins stated that given budget constraints he would be willing to cut it this year, as long as staff find cost-effective ways to creatively get the information out to residents.

Council Member Lowe stated that given the request to departments to make cuts, she feels it would be appropriate to forego it this year and possibly provide a digital/printable alternative online.

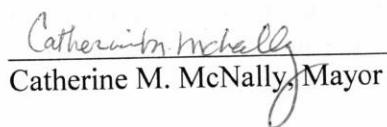
Council Member McLaughlin agreed with Council Member Lowe and Mayor Pro Tem Cummins.

GENERAL BUSINESS/CALL TO AUDIENCE

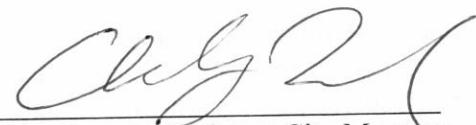
Mayor McNally made a call to the audience, allowing audience members to address Council on any issue. No audience members came forward.

ADJOURNMENT

After hearing no further business, Mayor McNally adjourned the meeting at 9:52 p.m.



Catherine M. McNally, Mayor



Ashley Latsch, Assistant City Manager