

**CITY OF GRAND HAVEN
GRAND HAVEN, MICHIGAN
SPECIAL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021**

The Special Work Session of the Grand Haven City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Bob Monetza in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Present: Council Members Mike Dora, Ryan Cummins, Dennis Scott, Mike Fritz, and Mayor Bob Monetza.

Absent: None.

Others Present: City Manager Patrick McGinnis, Assistant City Manager Ashley Latsch, Human Resources Manager Zac VanOsdol, Public Works Director Derek Gajdos, and Finance Director Amy Bessinger.

1. Economic Development Update

Director of Economic Development Strategic Directions, from the Chamber of Commerce, Elizabeth Butler presented on the current status of employers within the City. Butler explained the many challenges facing employers, including; talent attraction, affordable/regional transportation, lack of industrial land, and access to affordable housing.

Breaking down the work-force dynamics further, Butler explained that the top ten employers in the City employ 65% of jobs. With an eligible work force of 5,600, only 900 of those residents live and work within the city.

With Manufacturing as the City's leading industry, Butler emphasized the importance of finding additional creative options for local growth, noting that manufacturers will otherwise be forced to look elsewhere to expand.

Council Member Cummins asked for an update regarding the regional transportation efforts.

City Manager McGinnis explained that Harbor Transit had received a grant to look into collaboration, whatever that may look like. He stated they were half way through a 12 month study and that the work was still in progress.

Council Member Scott thanked Butler for her presentation remarking that it was eye opening to see how many people work here but do not live here.

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Mayor Monetza commented that he appreciates that the Chamber works across municipal boundaries to find solutions.

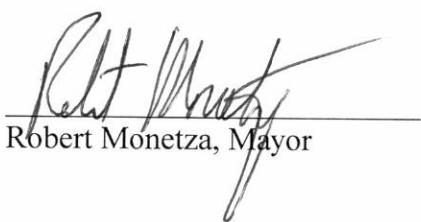
2. Pension Report 2021

City Manager McGinnis provided definitions for the two primary retirement benefits; defined benefit and defined contribution. McGinnis explained that the City's current defined benefit plan, while not sustainable, is not an overly generous benefit, with city employees paying 50% and taking a 22% reduction in pension multipliers.

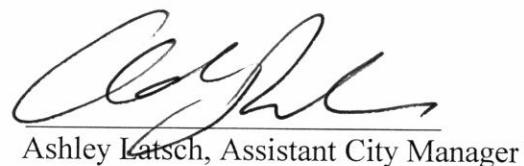
McGinnis shared two options, either staying with the defined benefit plan, or terminating the defined benefit plan and replacing it with a defined contribution plan. McGinnis concluded that it would be \$8 million less expensive to retain the current defined benefit plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Monetza adjourned the meeting at 7:31 p.m. to be continued during the Regular City Council Meeting.



Robert Monetza, Mayor



Ashley Latsch, Assistant City Manager