



City of Vassar
City Council Regular Meeting

1/3/2022 - Minutes

1. Call To Order

Mayor Damm called the meeting to order at 7:00pm

2. Pledge Of Allegiance/Invocation

3. Roll Call

Members present: Mayor Damm; Mayor Pro-Tem Fabbro; Councilor Armstrong; Councilor McTaggart and Councilor Mecham. Members Absent: None

4. Approval/Adjustment To The Agenda

Motion by Fabbro; second by Mecham to approve the Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

5. Adoption Of Regular Minutes

Motion by McTaggart; second by Armstrong to approve the December 6, 2021 City Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried.

6. Public Comment

There was no Public Comment.

7. Consent Agenda Items

Motion by Mecham; second by Armstrong to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried.

7.I. Vendor Listing

December 2021 Vendor Listing

8. Pending Ordinance/Public Hearing

#2021-03 - To Amend in part Chapter 50 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions; Section 2 - Uniform Marihuana Ordinance

Mayor Damm opened a Public Hearing at 7:03pm.
Public Comment- There was no comment.
Mayor Damm closed the Public Hearing at 7:04pm.

Motion by Mecham; second by Armstrong to approve Ordinance #2021-03 - To Amend in part Chapter 50 - Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions; Section 2 - Uniform Marihuana Ordinance as presented.

Yes- Damm; McTaggart; Armstrong and Mecham.

No- Fabbro. Motion carried.

#2021-04 - To Amend in part Chapter 86 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Vassar, Michigan to address Marihuana Businesses within the City of Vassar in accordance with State Law as follows:

Part A - Section 86-50 - Permitted Uses.

Mayor Damm opened a Public Hearing at 7:06pm.
Public Comment - There was no comment.
Mayor Damm closed the Public Hearing at 7:07pm.

Motion by McTaggart; second by Mecham to approve Ordinance #2021-04 - To Amend in part Chapter 86 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Vassar, Michigan to address Marihuana Businesses within the City of Vassar in accordance with State Law as follows: Part A - Section 86-50 - Permitted Uses as presented.

Yes- Damm; McTaggart; Armstrong and Mecham.

No- Fabbro. Motion carried.

9. New Business

9.I. Consideration Of Resolution #2022-01

Resolution #2022-01 – Resolution Declaring for Charter Revision

City Manager Niedzinski stated that it has been a goal of Council to update the City's Charter that was adopted in 1945. Many items in within the Charter are out of date or are no longer relevant to governing this City. The Manager stated that this resolution will allow the issue to be put on the November 2022 ballot for the voters of the City to decided. At the same election, the voters will elect a nine (9)-person Charter Commission that will be responsible for drafting the Charter revision. Once the Commission has completed the revisions, it will be submitted to the State for approval before it is then put back on a future ballot for final adoption by the voters of the City.

Motion by Fabbro; second by Mecham to approve Resolution #2022-01 – Resolution Declaring for Charter Revision as presented. Motion carried.

9.II. Consideration Of Resolution #2022-02

Resolution #2022-02 - Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies - Annual Permitting

City Manager Niedzinski stated that Michigan Department of Transportation requires that the City consider this resolution annually as part of the Right of Way Permitting that the City uses for work with in the Right-of-way on M-15 and when the City requests closure of the Highway for annual events and parades.

Motion by Fabbro; second by McTaggart to approve Resolution #2022-02 - Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies - Annual Permitting as presented. Motion carried.

9.III. Consideration Of Resolution #2022-03

Resolution #2022-03 - To Approve Contract #21-5437 With the Michigan Department of Transportation for Water Street Project

The Council must consider Resolution #2022-03 that names authorized signers, City Manager and City Clerk, for the upcoming Water Street Project that will be partially funded by Michigan Department of Transportation. The City's portion of the project is estimated to be \$136,400 to be paid from the Major Streets Fund.

Motion by Armstrong; second by Mecham to approve Resolution #2022-03 - To Approve Contract #21-5437 With the Michigan Department of Transportation for Water Street Project as presented. Motion carried.

9.IV. Consideration Of Contract For School Resource Officer

City Manager Niedzinski stated that Vassar Public Schools (VPS) had proposed a partnership with the City in order to provide a School Resource Officer that is dedicated to the District. VPS would be the only district within Tuscola County that would have this position and in light of the recent happenings in many Michigan School Districts, a great asset. The School is proposing a three (3)- year agreement that reimburses the City 80% the cost of the full-time Police Officer. Chief Guile believes that this would be a win/win for the City and the school district.

Motion by Mecham; second by Armstrong to authorize the City Manager to sign the contractual agreement between the Vassar Public School District and the City of Vassar for the placement of a School Resource Officer. Motion Carried.

9.V. Consideration Of Park Equipment Purchase

City Manager Niedzinski stated that the City has received a MSHDA Grant for neighborhood improvements. This grant targeted the Sheridan and Butler areas. Part of the grant was written to include park improvements at McKinley Park. The City will purchase 5 items to replace the outdated park equipment. The amount of the grant was \$15,000. The equipment cost is \$15,169. The remaining e costs will come from the parks fund.

Motion by Fabbro; second by McTaggart to authorize the purchase of Playground equipment at McKinley Park in the amount of \$15,169. Motion carried.

9.VI. Consideration Of Musical Equipment Purchase

City Manager Niedzinski stated that City has received a grant from the Tuscola County Community Foundation. A total of \$5,350.00 has been awarded to the City through the Bill and Joanne Kaiser Fund (Based in Millington, MI) for the purchase of four (4) unique, musical 'flowers'. These pieces combine music and art and will be a wonderful addition to the City's parks.

Motion by Armstrong; second by McTaggart to authorize the purchase of Musical Equipment in the amount of \$5,350. Motion carried.

9.VII. Consideration Of 6-Month FY22 Budget Amendments

City Manager Niedzinski stated that the proposed FY22 Budget amendments are a reflection of the actual costs the the City has experienced. The Fire Department and the Water Department had experienced a power surge recently and a claim to the City's insurance was necessary. The additional revenue and expenses are noted in the amendments. The Building Codes Department is no longer needed, so these amendments adjust those revenues and expenses to zero.

Motion by Fabbro; second by Mecham to approve the 6-month FY22 budget amendments as presented. Motion carried.

10. Council Discussion, Direction To City Manager & Future Agenda Items

Council requested updates on the following topics:

- DTE to move the powerlines across the River - for the pedestrian bridge project - by January 22, 2022.
- The City will continue to remove snow in the Downtown area during normal business hours. Business owners will be responsible other times such as weekends.
- Councilor Mecham has requested that the City consider replacing all sidewalks in the Downtown area. City Manager Niedzinski stated that he will search for funding sources but that the City would not be able to fund all on its own.

11. Public Comment

Scott Dianda - Tranquility Fields, Vassar - Mr. Dianda wished to thank the City Council for considering the request made by the owners of Tranquility Fields to allow for Consumption Licensing within the City.

12. City Manager Announcements & Statements

City Manager Niedzinski provided the following updates:

- Thank you to Blasius, Inc for the placement of a new countertop in the front office.
- Councilor Mecham was excepted into the Henry Marsh Institute for Public Policy at SVSU
- They have began to create a succession plan for the Police Department. The Clerk/Treasurer Department is also in need of a plan and will be developed soon.

13. Adjourn

Motion by Fabbro; second by Mecham to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm. Motion carried.