

CALUMET VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023 – 6:00 PM
CALUMET VILLAGE TOWNHALL, 340 SIXTH STREET
Public viewing available via ZOOM.com “Join A Meeting” - Meeting ID: 897 0467 4551
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89704674551> or via phone: 1-312-626-6799

Present: President Tarvis; Trustees Dwyer, Germain, Que, Ranville, Smith, Weir; Clerk Pressel

Absent: None

Also Present from the Village: Manager Haselden

Present from the Public: Al Ayotte; Rebecca Glotfelty; Nathan McParlan; Leah Polzien (*via Zoom*)

I. Call to Order / Roll Call / Pledge of Allegiance

Tarvis called the meeting to order at 6:00pm with roll call and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Petitions from the Public (*members of the public have 5 minutes to speak*)

None.

III. Approval of Regular Agenda

Haselden requests an update to the agenda adding Item VI. 1. Appointment to the DDA.

Que moved, seconded by Ranville to approve the agenda with the addition of Appointment to the DDA under Item VI. 1.

Motion Carried 7/0

IV. Approval of Consent Agenda Items (*items are considered routine by the council and will be enacted by one motion. If discussion of an item is required, it will be removed from the consent agenda and considered separately.*)

Review and approval of Council meeting minutes

Regular Meeting October 17, 2023

Work Session November 14, 2023

Review and approval of bills

Prior paid bills in the amount of \$16,467.00

New bills in the amount of \$36,681.85

Fund Balances Report

Review and acceptance of Reports

Manager Report

Downtown Development Authority Minutes & Transaction Report from October 2023

Planning Commission Minutes from October 2023 (*not included as not yet approved*)

Historic District Commission Minutes from October 2023 (*no meeting in October*)

CALUMET VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023 – 6:00 PM
CALUMET VILLAGE TOWNHALL, 340 SIXTH STREET
Public viewing available via ZOOM.com “Join A Meeting” - Meeting ID: 897 0467 4551
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89704674551> or via phone: 1-312-626-6799

Germain requests that the minutes of the October 17, 2023 Council Meeting be updated to include both the old and new fee schedule, along with the approved changes highlighted on the new fee schedule.

Haselden updated the Manager Report to clarify the 5th bullet point regarding delinquent taxes.

Que moved, seconded by Ranville to approve the Consent Agenda with the above noted corrections to the Minutes of October 17, 2023 and to the Manager Report.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Que, Ranville, Smith, Tarvis, Weir

Nays: Dwyer, Germain

Motion Carried 5/2

V. Unfinished Business

None.

VI. New Business

1. Appointment to the Downtown Development Authority

Tarvis nominates Nathan McParlan to the DDA, as recommended by the DDA board.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Dwyer, Germain, Que, Ranville, Smith, Tarvis, Weir

Nays: None

Motion Carried 7/0

2. Parking Meter Removals

Que moved to remove all parking meters, with the option to keep up to 4 per block. No second.

Discussion for parking meters to be added to the December Work Session agenda.

3. DPW Pay Rates: Superintendent and Street Assistant

Germain moved, seconded by Que to increase the pay rate for the Superintendent to \$25/hour and for the Street Assistant to \$23/hour.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Dwyer, Germain, Que, Ranville, Smith, Tarvis, Weir

CALUMET VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2023 – 6:00 PM
CALUMET VILLAGE TOWNHALL, 340 SIXTH STREET
Public viewing available via ZOOM.com “Join A Meeting” - Meeting ID: 897 0467 4551
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89704674551> or via phone: 1-312-626-6799

Nays: None

Motion Carried 7/0

4. Big Annie Statue Ownership

Que moved, seconded by Ranville to approve ownership of the Big Annie Statue, once installed, with the stipulation that it must be installed on Village owned property.

Roll Call Vote:

Yeas: Dwyer, Germain, Que, Ranville, Smith, Tarvis, Weir

Nays: None

Motion Carried 7/0

VII. Announcements – Other Council Business

Dwyer shared a written statement, attached to the minutes, regarding the name of Main Street Calumet (MSC) and the contract between the DDA and MSC in 2019-2020.

Dwyer moved, seconded by Germain to require the DDA to report to the Village Manager and the Village Manager report to the entire council an itemization of the precise services and value of each service that the DDA received from MSC in return for two \$10,000 payments made in 2019 and 2020.

Motion Failed 2/5

The agreement for services between Main Street Calumet and the DDA is to be added to the December Work Session for follow-up from the Village Attorney.

VIII. Comments from the Public (*members of the public have 5 minutes to speak*)

Glotfelty and McParlan addressed the Council.

IX. Adjourn

Que moved, Weir seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:28pm.

Motion Carried 7/0

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricial Pressel, Clerk

Megan Haselden, Manager

Manager Report

November 20, 2023

- DPW: there have been difficulties in hiring the Street Assistant position. We have called in one of our seasonal full-time employees to start early and help with equipment repairs and maintenance for the season. DPW rates have been added to agenda for discussion. Update: We made a job offer to a great candidate on Wednesday, hopefully he will be able to start Monday, November 27th!!
- I attended Strategic Planning meetings for the Keweenaw Economic Development Alliance and with Visit Keweenaw, they are both working on 5-year plans which will be shared with the council once ready.
- Rob and I met with Village of Laurium President and Manager to discuss potential shared service for garbage collection. Laurium to follow-up on cost of service and then we will draft a proposal to the Council for consideration.
- Master Plan survey is still live, we have received over 80 responses and will be working to get more response from residents and property owners.
- I met with the editor of the Mining Gazette and discussed the delinquent tax news article that was published. In my opinion the article read very specific to the Village of Calumet, though this is not a Village specific problem. I let the editor and Village Council know that since the article published, someone is sharing a list obtained from the County of delinquent taxpayers and I have had multiple people approach me about the names on that list. I personally believe that this type of shaming behavior is wrong and wanted to express that publicly to the Council. ~~to discuss some issues occurring after the delinquent tax news article and discussed that this is not just a Village of Calumet problem, as it seemed in the article. To the Council, I wanted to express that there have been multiple people who have approached me expressing surprise for names on the list, I personally think that this type of behavior of calling out people who are delinquent is dangerous and wrong to do, regardless of the information being publicly accessible.~~
- We are working with Keweenaw Power & Light on the LED street light project; we hope to get all street lights fixed and working with the new LED's before the winter, pending weather.
- Many grant applications are due in December, including the Fiscally Distressed Villages grant through the Dept of Treasury, the Save America's Treasures grant and a preliminary review for Certified Local Government grants. I hope to apply for all.
- We did not receive a bid for the Theatre Boiler project and are working with SHPO to determine next steps.
- The fire site concept plan survey and pdf should be ready to publish to the public the week of 11/20.
- A Notice of Blight letter is ready to be sent to the property owner of the Bill's Electrical building.
- I am working with departments and boards on the budgeting process, so that we will have preliminary budgets to review in December with our updated budget v actuals for all funds as we move into January meetings where we will review the draft budgets for all.

Projects in Process

- Hiring – ~~DPW Assistant~~, Village Secretary (Clerk)?
- Blight Enforcement

- Codification with American Legal Publishing
- Redevelopment Ready Community (RRC) Certification
- Master Plan/Capital Improvement Plan Updates
- Preparing for Strategic Plan/Joint Meetings of all boards

MOTION

Background

- 1) On August 22, 2022, the Michigan Treasury informed the council by a letter of discrepancies with Michigan law that "Actual expenditures exceeded the amounts authorized in the budget."
- 2) On September 14, 2022, the Village Manager responded to the Michigan Treasury department that "The Village of Calumet would closely monitor and amend its budget in future years to prevent exceptions from occurring."
- 3) In discharging their oversight responsibilities as trustees of the Village, Trustees Dwyer and Germain investigated village expenditures and noticed that TWO payments of \$10,000 had been made to the MSC in 2020, which was twice the amount authorized by the DDA at the December 10, 2019 Regular DDA Meeting.
- 4) In response to further inquiries, additional discrepancies were revealed.
 - a) Trustees were informed by MSC chairman Langseth and the Village Manager that the payment from the DDA to the MSC was for the executive director's salary. However, MSC's IRS tax filing, form 990 EZ for 2020, shows the executive director was paid \$0 salary.
 - b) MSC was discharged from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority's Michigan Main Street Program, by letter dated May 7, 2014. The letter specifically directs MSC to cease use of the trademarked name "Main Street." MSC's continued use of this trademark raises issues of fraudulent financial activities.
- 5) Upon further inquiry, the trustees were told by the Village Manager that no further information would be provided, unless ordered by the council.

Therefore, Trustee Dwyer moves the council to require the DDA to report to the Village Manager and the Village Manager report to the entire council an itemization of the precise services and value of each service that the DDA received from MSC in return for the two \$10,000 payments.