



**THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026 AT 6:00 PM
415 WEST WILEY RD, SUITE 103, DOUGLAS, MI
49406**

MINUTES

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** By Mayor North
2. **ROLL CALL:** By Clerk Kasper
PRESENT
Mayor Cathy North
Councilmember Neal Seabert
Councilmember John O'Malley
Mayor Pro-Tem Randy Walker
Councilmember Gregory Freeman
Councilmember Matt Balmer
Councilmember Jeff West
Also Present City Manager Lisa Nocerini
City Clerk Laura Kasper
Planning & Zoning Administrator Sean Homyen
3. **MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR ASHLEY JANIK**
4. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Mayor North
5. **CONSENT CALENDAR**
 - A. Approve the Council Meeting Agenda for January 20, 2026
 - B. Approve the Council Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2026, January 12, 2026, and January 14, 2026
 - C. Approve Invoices in the Amount of \$60,968.03
 - D. Special Events - 2026 Beats on Beery, Town Crier Races

Motion by Seabert, second by Balmer, to approve the Consent Calendar of January 20, 2026 – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.
6. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATION – VERBAL:** None
7. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATION – WRITTEN:** None
8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None
9. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Community Pride - Beery Field Fence Upgrades – Presentation
 - B. Douglas Saugatuck Pickleball Club Check – Presentation
 - C. 2026 Temporary Outdoor Right-of-Way Expansion (S. Homyen)

Motion by O'Malley, second by Balmer, to approve authorizing City Administration to proceed with the application process to allow downtown businesses use of the City's sidewalk right-of-way to expand their business from April 17, 2026, through November 2, 2026. – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

D. Resolution 02-2026 - 2026 Poverty Exemption Guidelines (L. Nocerini)

Motion by Balmer, second by O'Malley, to adopt resolution 02-2026, approving the 2026 poverty exemption guidelines in compliance of MCL 211.7u. – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

10. REPORTS

- A. Commission/Committee/Boards
 - 1. Planning Commission
 - 2. Kalamazoo Lake Sewer Water
 - 3. Downtown Development Authority
 - 4. Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority
 - 5. Douglas Harbor Authority
 - 6. Douglas Brownfield Authority
 - 7. Fire Board
 - 8. Community Recreation
 - 9. Tri-Community Wildlife Committee
- B. Administration Report - City Manager Nocerini provided updates.

11. PUBLIC COMMUNICATION – VERBAL: None

12. COUNCIL COMMENTS: Councilmembers made final comments.

13. MAYOR'S REPORT/COMMENTS: Mayor North provided final comments.

14. CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Balmer, second by Seabert, to enter into closed session per section 8(1)(e) and (h) of the Open Meetings Act, to consider advice of counsel and material related to Case No. 1:25-cv-00593 exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute rules, and regulations. – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by Seabert, second by Walker, to exit from closed session and enter back into regular session of the City Council meeting. – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

15. CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Balmer, second by Seabert, to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 8(c) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268(c), regarding negotiations over a collectively bargained agreement. – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by Seabert, second by West, to exit from closed session and enter back into regular session of the City Council meeting. – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by Balmer, second by Seabert, to approve the Letter of Agreement between the City of the Village of Douglas and the Police Officers Labor Council (POLC) - Douglas Patrol Officers, as presented, and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the City. – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Seabert, second by Balmer, to adjourn the meeting.

Approved on this 2nd day of February 2026

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Cathy North, Mayor

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Laura Kasper, City Clerk

Certification of Minutes

I hereby certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of the minutes of a regular meeting of the City Council of the City of the Village of Douglas held on January 20, 2026, I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Laura Kasper, City Clerk