



**THE CITY OF THE VILLAGE OF DOUGLAS  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 AT 7:00 PM  
86 W CENTER ST., DOUGLAS MI**

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**MINUTES**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER:** By Mayor North

2. **ROLL CALL:** By Treasurer Tien

PRESENT

Mayor Cathy North

Councilmember Jerome Donovan

Councilmember Neal Seabert

Councilmember John O'Malley

Mayor Pro-Tem Randy Walker

Councilmember Gregory Freeman

Councilmember Matt Balmer

Also Present City Manager Lisa Nocerini

City Treasurer Jenn Tien

Planning and Zoning Administrator Sean Homyen

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Mayor North

4. **CONSENT CALENDAR**

A. Approve the Council Meeting Agenda for September 3, 2024

B. Approve the Council Regular Meeting Minutes for August 19, 2024

C. Approve invoices in the amount of \$173,693.00

D. Reappointment – Tarue Pullen – Interurban Transit Authority Board

*Motion by Freeman, second by Seabert, to approve the Consent Calendar of September 3, 2024. – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.*

5. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATION – VERBAL:** Lisa Greenwood – stated concerns on public clearing of sidewalks. Laura Peterson – concerns on brush clarification and clearing of sidewalks. Tarue Pullen – thanked the board for her reappointment to the Interurban Transit Authority. Becky Carten-Crandel – thanked Tarue Pullen for her service to the Interurban Transit Authority. Geri Walsh – concerns on the Halloween parade costs and clearing of sidewalks.

6. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATION – WRITTEN:** None to attend to

7. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None to attend to

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Hystopolis Halloween Parade Equipment Costs Request

*Motion by Walker, second by Freeman, to approve the City Administration to authorize forgiving \$2,187.00 in the Department of Public Works and Douglas Police Department equipment costs for the October 2024 Halloween Parade. – Motion failed by majority roll call vote. Voting Yea: Donovan. Voting Nay: Balmer, Freeman, North, O'Malley, Seabert, Walker.*

### B. Community Pride Oktoberfest Labor/Equipment Costs Request

*Motion by Walker, second by Donovan, to approve the City Administration to authorize forgiving \$1,336.27 in Department of Public Works and Douglas Police Department labor/equipment costs for Community Pride's 2024 Oktoberfest event. – Motion failed by majority roll call vote. Voting Yea: Donovan. Voting Nay: Balmer, Freeman, North, O'Malley, Seabert, Walker.*

### C. Tri-Community Wildlife Committee

*Motion by Balmer, second by O'Malley, to approve the creation of a Tri-Community Wildlife Committee between the City of Douglas, Saugatuck Township, and the City of Saugatuck, pending approval from each jurisdiction while allowing adjustments to the Committee set-up language if necessary. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.*

*Councilmember Neal Seabert volunteered to be the city representative for the City of Douglas. The city will also seek 3-4 residents to be on the committee.*

### D. Bendzinski & Co Municipal Finance Advisors Contract

*Motion by Freeman, second by Balmer, to approve a contract with Bendzinski & Co Municipal Advisors in the amount of \$13,500 to assist with ongoing contract negotiations with the KLSWA, with \$6,750 coming from the water account and \$6,750 coming from the sewer account. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.*

### E. Ordinance No. 07-2024 – Chapter 54 Amendments (Brush, Garbage & Refuse) – Second Reading – Public Hearing

*Motion by Seabert, second by Freeman, to open the public hearing for ordinance 07-2024. -Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.*

1. Administration Comments - Planning and Zoning Administrator Sean Homyen gave an overview of the ordinance
2. Public Comments – Geri Walsh questioned the definition of brush, terms were vague. Laura Peterson – ordinance puts a burden on residents who have large trees that fall during weather events.
3. Council Comments – Freeman – terminology was vague and nonspecific to the average resident. Balmer – definitions need to be clearer. Walker – questioned why titles were not changed in the ordinance. Seabert – language needs to be corrected for titles.

*Motion by Seabert, second by O'Malley, to close the public hearing for ordinance 07-2024. – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.*

*Motion by Balmer, second by Seabert, to table Ordinance 07-2024, which amends Sections 54.02 and 54.05 of Chapter 54 (Garbage & Refuse) in the City of the Village of Douglas to make clarifications for definitions and title corrections. – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.*

F. Ordinance 08-2024 Streets & Sidewalks Amendment - Second Reading - Public Hearing

*Motion by Walker, second by Freeman, to open the public hearing for ordinance 08-2024. – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.*

1. Administration Comments - Planning and Zoning Administrator Sean Homyen gave an overview of the ordinance
2. Public Comments – Geri Walsh questioned a snow event. Laura Peterson – questioned forgiving money for non-profits, yet homeowners pay for 100% of sidewalks in front of their home. Seeing less services when paying taxes. Ricky Zoet DPW Director explained that the snow removal for the school path is covered by the city.
3. Council Comments – ~~Balmer~~ Balmer – enforcement should not be harsh, work with the homeowner. The 78-day timeline is going to cause more problems than it's worth. Freeman – questioned who this policy applies to, the city does some sidewalks, those without sidewalks, etc. Walker – stated that in Chicago you have to shovel regardless, and they list the amount in inches in their ordinance. Donovan questions what a snow event is.

*Motion by Seabert, second by Freeman, to close the public hearing for ordinance 08-2024. – Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.*

*Motion by Balmer, second by Seabert, to deny adopting ordinance 08-2024, which amends Section 93.003 of Chapter 93 (Streets and Sidewalks) in the Code of the City of the Village of Douglas. – Motion carried by majority roll call vote. Voting Yea: Balmer, Donovan, Freeman, O'Malley, Seabert, Walker. Voting Nay: North.*

## 9. REPORTS

A. Commission/Committee/Boards

1. Planning Commission – meeting next Thursday at 5:30 P.M.
2. Kalamazoo Lake Sewer Water – meeting Wednesday to review draft of water agreements
3. Downtown Development Authority – celebrating Michigan Downtown day on 9/28/24, event to shop local and bring business downtown
4. Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority – no meeting
5. Douglas Harbor Authority –meeting next month
6. Douglas Brownfield Authority –update from Taft
7. Fire Board – meeting next Monday
8. Community Recreation – no meeting
9. Playground Committee – no meeting

B. Administration Report – City Manager Nocerini – provided an update to the board on the Ferry Street culvert.

- 10. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATION – VERBAL:** Laura Peterson – asked if there was a way to conceal the porta-potty at Wades Bayou and discussed short term rentals.
- 11. **COUNCIL COMMENTS:** Donovan - stated that Rep Joey Andrews is working on several bills regarding statewide short term rental policies. Balmer – agreed with waiting to see what happens at the state level, have to look at the positives of STR’s as well. Seabert - stated he was sad that there wasn’t the Bridge Walk this year but understood the reasons. Also questing political signs in the right of way.
- 12. **MAYOR’S REPORT/COMMENTS:** Mayor North thanked Tarue Pullen for her service; Lisa Nocerini one year anniversary with the city, would like council members to forward individual concerns/positives to her. O’Malley and Freeman agreed to be on the committee to review the responses. North also noted that she married two individuals earlier today and wished them well. She also noted there will be a ceremony on September 11, 2024 at Veterans Memorial Park at 8:30 A.M.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Approved on this 16th day of September 2024

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 September 3, 2024, I further certify that the meeting was duly called and that a quorum was present.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laura Kasper, City Clerk