

**City of St. Ignace
Council Proceedings
(Official)**

A Regular Meeting of the St. Ignace City Council was held on Monday, October 5, 2020, remotely via Zoom video conference.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Litzner, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilmember Clapperton gave the invocation.

Present: Councilmembers Clapperton, Fullerton, Mayor Litzner, Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin, Councilmembers Pelter, St. Louis and Tremble.

Absent: None.

Staff Present: Darcy Long, City Manager; Kyle Mulka, City Assessor; Charles Palmer, City Attorney; Andrea Insley, City Clerk/Treasurer; Lauren Yoder, Marina Director; Tony Brown, Police Chief; Alycia McKowen, Library Director; Gary Sorenson, Fire Chief.

Public Comment:

It was moved by Councilmember Fullerton, seconded by Councilmember Clapperton, to move Public Comment to the end of the meeting after Councilmember Comments.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Councilmember Fullerton, Mayor Litzner, Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin, Councilmembers Pelter, St. Louis, Tremble and Clapperton.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2020 REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

It was moved by Councilmember St. Louis, seconded by Councilmember Tremble, to approve the minutes from September 21, 2020.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mayor Litzner, Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin, Councilmembers Pelter, St. Louis, Tremble, Clapperton and Fullerton.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS

It was moved by Councilmember St. Louis, seconded by Councilmember Clapperton, to approve payment of the bills in the amount of \$ 71,470.49.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin, Councilmembers St. Louis, Tremble, Clapperton, Fullerton and Mayor Litzner.

No: Councilmember Pelter.

Motion carried six to one.

2x4 Construction Anderson, Tackman & Company PLC	Garage Door Repair/Install Final Billing 2019 Audit	\$837.22 \$7,096.24
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Arrow Signs	Pedestrian Crossing Signs	\$675.00
Astrea	SIPD Tech Support	\$85.00
Belonga Excavating	LBE Park/Connor's Park	\$230.39
Belonga Plumbing and Heating	Water Plant/LBE Park/Lagoons/Stockbridge Lift Station	\$3,669.04
Blarney Castle Oil Company	Marina Gasoline/Diesel	\$21,576.03
Crane Engineering	Impeller and Wear Plate Heritage Lift Station	\$5,478.00
Election Source	Absent Voter Secrecy Sleeves/Voter ID Cards	\$125.13
George's Body Shop Inc	2014 Ford F350 Alignment	\$89.95
KSS Enterprises	City Hall	\$194.85
Mackinac Plumbing	Little Bear	\$147.40
Melissa Hess	LBE Painting Class	\$125.35
MGFOA	2020-2021 Membership Renewal	\$120.00
MI Municipal Risk Management Authority	Installment #2	\$25,844.00
Michigan Municipal Treasurers Assoc	Membership Renewal	\$75.00
Michigan State Police	Token Fee	\$33.00
Northern Shirt Company	LBE Uniform Shirts	\$415.60
Otis Elevator Company	Reagon Street Lift Station-WWTR	\$630.00
Paragon Laboratories	WWTR Plant	\$13.00
Printing Systems	Cemetery Deed Book	\$109.28
Seewald's Towing	SIPD - Towing 2016 Ford Taurus	\$65.00
St Ignace Chamber of Commerce	LBE Annual Membership	\$150.00
Straits Building Center	September 2020 Statement	\$332.29
Summit Companies	Annual City-Wide Fire Extinguisher Maintenance	\$2,392.32
Taylor Auto Supply Inc	DPW Shop Supplies	\$230.53
USA Blue	Reagent Supplies	\$706.58
Xylem-OI Analytical	Water plant - shipping charges	\$24.29

Total \$71,470.49

OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

A. MHS UPDATE ON MUSEUM COLLECTION

Mayor Litzner introduced Erin Vanier, with the Michilimackinac Historical Society (MHS), who presented Council with an update of the current activities surrounding the historical tribal collections MHS is managing.

B. FIRE STATION UPDATE BY STEVEN PAQUIN

Steven Paquin, St. Ignace Building Authority Chairperson, informed Council that the new Fire Hall in its final stages of construction giving a substantial completion date of November 30, 2020. Mr. Paquin noted funds outside of the current millage that will be relied upon to fund expenses that are not part of the USDA Loan's budget, such as the Sault Tribe's 2% contributions and donations received by the public.

C. REQUEST FOR FIRE STATION EQUIPMENT PURCHASE BY GARY SORENSON, FIRE CHIEF

Fire Chief Sorenson requested Council's approval to purchase gear lockers for the new Fire Hall. Chief Sorenson provided the following bids for Council's consideration:

Gear Grid Corporation for \$6,894; Douglass Safety Systems LLC for \$6,776; West Shore Fire Inc for \$6,962; Pomasl for \$6,170.

It was Chief Sorenson's recommendation to make the purchase from Gear Grid Corp due to higher quality and the product is made in the United States.

It was moved by Councilmember Fullerton, seconded by Councilmember Pelter, to approve the purchase for the Fire Department lockers from Gear Grid Corp for \$6,894.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Councilmembers Pelter, St. Louis, Tremble, Clapperton, Fullerton, Mayor Litzner and Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. HALLOWEEN UPDATE ON SAFETY COVID COMPLIANCE FOR TRICK-OR-TREAT

After some discussion regarding questionable Covid-19 guidelines, Council agreed to allow Trick-or-Treating for Halloween on Saturday, October 31st from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Adding that residents should follow the basic safety guidelines such as social distancing, wearing masks and avoiding any direct contact when handing out candy.

E. REQUEST TO PURCHASE CITY PROPERTY NEAR BALSAM AVENUE AND MASSEY PROPERTY

City Manager Long informed Council that a resident of Balsam Street has requested to purchase a portion of City property that is next to her property lines. After some discussion regarding accessibility to other resident properties in that area, it was moved by Councilmember Pelter, seconded by Councilmember Fullerton, to begin the process of investigating the sale of the property and whether it is appropriate.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Councilmembers St. Louis, Tremble, Clapperton, Fullerton, Mayor Litzner,

Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin and Councilmember Pelter.
No: None.
Motion carried unanimously.

F. 2021 BUDGET SCHEDULE

City Manager Long informed Council of his plan to meet with each Department Head separately in October and scheduled a Budget Work Session with Council from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. November 4th and 5th. The proposed 2021 Budget will be presented to Council the first meeting in December.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Long shared with Council his recent visits to the different City departments and facilities and visits with some of the Councilmembers and City residents. He plans to continue to become more familiar by making on-site meetings and visits.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committee reports were given.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS

Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin noted local businesses had a good season even through the difficulties of the pandemic.

Councilmember St. Louis commended the local everyday front-line workers and service people.

Mayor Litzner thanked the participants and providers of the Fall Festival and Pumpkin Roll on Saturday, October 3rd.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was received by several virtual participants regarding the following: virtual Council meetings, in-person Council meetings, commending front-line City and local workers, complaints of the audio of the current meeting, complaint of no return communication from the City Manager and a complaint of a matter with Police Chief Brown.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Litzner informed Council that Police Chief Brown requested that Council enter Closed Session with only the Council, City Manager Long and City Attorney Palmer present, regarding an employee issue, per Section 8(a), MCL 15.268(a).

It was moved by Councilmember Clapperton, seconded by Councilmember Pelter, to enter Closed Session regarding Police Chief Brown's request at 7:55 p.m.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Councilmembers Clapperton, Fullerton, Mayor Litzner, Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin, Councilmembers Pelter, St. Louis and Tremble.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

After Council returned from Closed Session at 9:08 p.m. it was moved by Mayor Litzner, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin, to return to open session.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Councilmembers Fullerton, Mayor Litzner, Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin, Councilmember Pelter, St. Louis, Tremble and Clapperton.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Additionally, it was moved by Mayor Litzner, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin, that Council authorized Councilmember Pelter to take the minutes in Closed Session, relieving City Clerk/Treasurer Insley of her duties, adding that the Closed Session minutes will be held by City Manager Long until approved at the next Council meeting.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Councilmembers Fullerton, Mayor Litzner, Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin, Councilmember Pelter, St. Louis, Tremble and Clapperton.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

At this time, it was moved by Councilmember Pelter, seconded by Councilmember Tremble, that the City Council, with the support of the City Manager, determined any internal investigation of Police Chief Brown to be complete, with no findings of any significance or criminal wrongdoing.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Mayor Litzner, Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin, Councilmember Pelter, St. Louis, Tremble, Clapperton and Fullerton.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

Some discussion continued among Council also recognizing the Attorney General's opinion received on this matter. It was then moved by Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin, seconded by Councilmember St. Louis, to request any internal complaints be directed to City Manager Long to determine the course of action to proceed.

Roll call vote:

Yes: Councilmembers Pelter, St. Louis, Tremble, Clapperton, Fullerton, Mayor Litzner and Mayor Pro-Tem Paquin.

No: None.

Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Connie Litzner, Mayor

Andrea Insley, City Clerk/Treasurer

