



**ALLEGAN CITY COUNCIL  
STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION  
Saturday, January 31, 2015 - 9:00 AM-4:00 PM  
Griswold Auditorium  
401 Hubbard Street  
Allegan MI 49010**

**MINUTES**

Call to order: Mayor Leverence called the special meeting of the Allegan City Council to order at 9:02AM.

Attendance:

Councilmembers: Gratz, Ingalsbee, McDaniel, McKenzie, Tripp,  
Zeter and Mayor Leverence

Others: City Manager R. Hillard, Finance Director T. Stull  
and Deputy City Clerk L. Vander Clay

Absent: None

**I. 2015 Budget Schedule**

City Manager R. Hillard reviewed the schedule with Councilmembers.

**II. Board Appointments/Rules of Procedures**

Mayor Leverence requested limiting the Mayor's term of office to serving only two (2) consecutive years.

Councilmember Ingalsbee, supported by Councilmember Tripp, made a motion for the Mayor to only serve two (2) consecutive years out of their four (4) year councilmember term. A vote was taken: Ingalsbee-yes; Tripp-yes; McKenzie-no; Gratz-no; McDaniel-no; Zeter-no; Mayor Leverence-no. Motion failed.

Councilmember Gratz, supported by Councilmember Ingalsbee, made a motion to remove the following sentence, as contained within the **“Council Standing Committee”**

A. Committee Structure, Terms of Members. Each standing committee shall consist of three (3) Councilmembers appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council. The specific subcommittee is to be established by the City Council. ~~Further, three Councilmembers are to serve for one (1) year each, with rotation of the Council to maintain experience and turn-over in membership.~~

A vote was taken: McKenzie-no; McDaniel-no; Zeter-no; Ingalsbee-yes; Gratz-yes; Tripp-yes; Mayor Leverage-yes. Motion passed 4-3.

Councilmember McDaniel, supported by Councilmember Zeter, made a motion change No. 2 as contained with the **“Board/Commission Selection Process”**

2. The Council shall select a committee which shall consist of three members including one (1) councilmember, preferably the one who sits on the board/committee with the vacancy, ~~one (1) and (2) additional councilmembers. and one representative from staff, recommended by the city manager.~~

Councilmember Gratz, supported by Councilmember Zeter, made a motion to select Councilmember McDaniel to be on the Historic District Commission Selection Subcommittee in replacement of City Manager R. Hillard. Motion passed by acclamation.

Councilmember Zeter talked about having a prayer given by local clergy, at City Council meetings. After much discussion, Councilmember Tripp, supported by Councilmember Zeter, made a motion to invite area ministers to give an innovation at City Council meetings.

A vote was taken: Tripp-yes; Zeter-yes; Ingalsbee-yes; Mayor Leverage-yes; Gratz-no; McKenzie-no; McDaniel-no. Motion passed 4-3.

### **III. 2014 City Council Goals**

City Manager R. Hillard reviewed each goal.

### **IV. Committee Issues**

#### **A. Development**

City Manager R. Hillard informed the Council of an upcoming grant that he would like to apply for that would be for parking lot improvements only. Councilmember Zeter, supported by Councilmember Ingalsbee, made a motion to have staff pursue this particular type of grant. Motion passed by acclamation.

**B. Finance**

Councilmembers discussed a variety of items.

**C. Public Safety**

Many items were discussed.

**D. Public Works**

Councilmembers discussed numerous items. They specifically discussed having staff prepare an RFQ for the Hydro-dam.

**V. 2015 City Council Goals**

**Enhance Neighborhoods throughout the City**

Increased Code Enforcement in the area of Property Maintenance

Research and customize a Neighborhood Building Block Program

Create a Neighborhood Monthly Communication

Label Neighborhoods to display ownership of the citizens

Support efforts of the police in the patrol of neighborhoods

Evaluate the pedestrian route maintenance process, especially during the snow season

Continue to evaluate streets and sidewalks to enhance the aesthetic value of the neighborhoods

**Implement the Riverfront Vision as Developed by the Community**

Construct Amphitheatre

Evaluate the seawall to make more attractive and create an asset

Construct a Kayak/Paddle Boat launch in the area behind the Griswold/Library on the Kalamazoo River

Apply for grants to construct the pedestrian walkways

Create a Tree/Landscaping Plan, keeping in mind future maintenance

Evaluate restroom, public art, ice rink, splash pads by researching grants and locations

Provide regular press releases and other updates to the community, including creating a special section on the city website on the progress

Encourage property owners to improve their buildings along the riverfront

Promote events on the riverfront to demonstrate the excitement of the project

### **Implement Capital Improvements as a Six Year Program**

Continue to incorporate plans and reports into the Six Year Capital Improvement Plan

Reconstruct Ida Street

Study the Bio-Solids option

Seek proposals to evaluate an operational Hydro dam

Township Sewer Hook-up Enforcement

Review the sanitary sewer lift station capacity in the Mill District

Complete and Implement the WWTP/Sanitary Sewer/Storm Sewer Asset Plan

Construct Mountain Bike Trail

Construct Hooker Road Trail

Replace a boiler at the DPW Garage

Replace Downtown Box Lights

### **Promote and Improve Downtown as the Centerpiece for Community Interaction**

Create “Bridgefest 2.0” as the City’s annual event, through volunteer efforts with City Council

Promote Second Story Improvements and Housing Options

Review options in Constructing Public Restrooms

Design better signage options for businesses and events

Promote Building Façade Program

Actively promote Downtown Marketing Plan, not only to residents but to neighboring cities and the lakeshore

Recruit an anchor restaurant to serve in the evening

Recruit a Michigan Craft Brew facility

Evaluate Sidewalk Maintenance in the Downtown

Explore Mill District Development Opportunities including a fish passage habitat grant

Create a Downtown Commercial Redevelopment District

Create a Redevelopment Liquor License District

Downtown Income Study

Work with the Library District to improve and promote the Public Library

Evaluate the pedestrian route maintenance process, especially during the snow season

Implement entertainment plans for the Regent, Griswold and Downtown to enhance activities and opportunities

Attract private investors to renovate buildings and create jobs

**Proactively Promote Economic Investment and Create Jobs**

Continue to seek a Community College Presence in the Allegan Area

Recruit sales for the Highland Business Park Lots

Refresh the Positively Allegan Campaign

Work with property owners on creating and retaining jobs in the City

Develop a link to unify information on the City website for economic development resources with guidance from the Redevelopment Ready Certification Program (RRC)

City Manager R. Hillard indicated he would make adjustments as warranted and provide the 2015/16 goals to the City Council for final approval at a future meeting.

Mayor Leverage adjourned the meeting at 3:49PM.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Lori K. Vander Clay  
Deputy City Clerk**