

# City of Allegan Study Session Minutes

Monday September 27, 2021, at 5:30pm

City Council Chambers, 231 Trowbridge St, Allegan, MI 49010

## **1) CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Andrus called the study session to order at 5:30pm.

## **2) PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Bill Morgan of 201 Spruce St addressed the Council with concerns about lack of enforcement of blight violations in the James Street, Delano Street, and Eastern Avenue neighborhoods. Mr. Morgan also addressed concerns about the Allegan Historical Commission.

## **3) INTRODUCTION OF MICHAELA KLEEHAMMER AS THE NEW DEPUTY CLERK**

## **4) ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION AMONGST COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Council member Bird has a conflict with rescheduling the October 11 City Council meeting to October 12 due to Columbus Day. Mayor Andrus mentioned that she will be absent from the last meeting in October. City Manager Dye informed the Council that there will be an open house in honor of Constable Jim Richardson held at City Hall on October 12 from 4:30-5:30pm. A general discussion occurred with Bill Morgan about the Historic District Commission's regulatory policy enforcement and the possibility of disestablishment.

## **5) DISCUSSION REGARDING A PLAN FORWARD FOR THE GRISWOLD AUDITORIUM**

Staff provided the Council with a presentation highlighting the importance of the Griswold Auditorium to Allegan and surrounding communities and present Staff's vision for the future of the Griswold. Immediate steps for the Griswold would be obtaining a liquor license, remodeling the Marilla Lounge, and created an ADA accessible restroom out of the existing restroom on the main floor. Further steps would include remodeling the kitchen and the Club Room, as well as updating the HVAC system. A general discussion began in which Council members voiced their comments and concerns with

the plans for the Griswold. All Council members agreed to move forward with the immediate steps proposed by Staff. Council member Hanse voiced further concern about obtaining a liquor license.

**6) DISCUSSION REGARDING VARIOUS ORDINANCES AND POLICIES FOR THE WATER UTILITIES DEPARTMENT**

Water Utilities Director Doug Sweeris spoke on the merging of city and township water and sewer ordinances. The changes made to the ordinance now require that both city and township residents that are adjacent to or within 200 feet of a water or sewer line must hook up to it. Mayor Pro-Tem Galloway asked whether all city properties are connected to the city sewer line. Mr. Sweeris stated that all city properties need to be connected to the city sewer line. Other changes to the water and sewer ordinance include removal of the sprinkler discount and the application of RTS charges. At the October 12 City Council meeting, there will be a first reading of the changes made to the water and sewer ordinances. A public hearing regarding these changes will occur at the October 25 City Council meeting.

**7) REVIEW OF FY2022 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORT THROUGH AUGUST 2021**

Mayor Andrus noted that overtime for FY2022 is already at one hundred percent.

**8) REVIEW OF COUNCIL AGENDA**

None.

**9) ADJOURN TO REGULAR MEETING TO BEGIN AT 7:00PM**

Mayor Andrus adjourned the study session at 6:51pm.

Minutes submitted by: Michaela Kleehammer, Deputy City Clerk