

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
OF THE VILLAGE OF BENZONIA  
Monday, March 4, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:

PRESIDENT:	Flynn
COUNCIL:	Moss, Myers, French, Giatti, Hafer, Herryman
CLERK:	Cutler
TREASURER:	Flynn
SUPERINTENDENT:	Pritchard
ASST SUPERINTENDENT:	Cole
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR:	Kirk
PUBLIC:	Bill Kennis
ABSENT:	

CALL TO ORDER: The Regular Meeting of the Benzonia Village Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Flynn.

ATTENDANCE TAKEN BY CLERK

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**French moves, supported by Myers, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion Carried.**

PLANNING COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT:

- Shane Iverson – Recording Secretary for the Planning Commission presented the annual report for YE 12/31/23, Highlights included:
  - New member recruitment
  - SPARKS grant application
  - Zoning Ordinance re-write
  - Updating of Planning Commission by-laws
  - Training members with MSU Citizen Planner
  - Gateway signage
- Myers moves, supported by Giatti to accept the Planning Commission Annual Report. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion Carried.
- Re-appointment of Shane Iverson to Planning Commission - **French moves, supported by Hafer, to approve re-appoint Iverson to Planning Commission. Ayes: All Nays: None. Motion Carried.**

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- February 5, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes - **Myers moves, supported by Giatti, to approve the February 5, 2024 Regular Council Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes: All, Nays: None, Motion Carried.**
- February 17, 2024 Special Council Budget Meeting Minutes - **Hafer moves, supported by Moss, to approve the February 17, 2024 Special Council Budget Meeting Minutes as presented. Ayes: All, Nays: None, Motion Carried.**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Bill Kennis – Presented summary of the Benzie Aquatic Center. The centers plan is to be equipped with a pool, walking indoor track, fitness facility for all ages from school aged children to our aged population. This will provide for swimming lessons, reducing obesity, and accommodating varying levels of abilities. This would be a year around location for connecting people with a healthy lifestyle.

ACTION ITEMS:

- **2025 Appropriation Request** – Kirk presented the resolution with no financial support to support the application for a Congressionally Directed Spending request for FY 2025 to Senator Gary C. Peters Office. **Hafer moves, supported by French to approve Resolution #2024-003 Recommending the Submission of FY2025 Appropriations request to Senator Gary C. Peters Office. Roll Call: French, Myers, Herryman, Moss, Hafer, Giatti, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried.**
- **Consumers Power Electric Franchise Ordinance Resolution** – Clerk presented resolution, last one received may have been over 30 years ago, as this one has a 30-year term. Clerk reviewed the franchise ordinance modifications in each section. **Myers moves, supported by Giatti to approve the Consumers Power Electric Franchise Ordinance Resolution as presented. Roll Call: Herryman, French, Moss, Hafer, Giatti, Myers, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried.**
- **AT & T Metro Act Right of Way Permit Extension** – Clerk presented the requested extension along with the prior extension from 2008. **Moss moves, supported by French to accept the AT & T Metro Act Right of Way Permit Extension as presented. Roll Call: Moss, Hafer, Giatti, Myers, French, Herryman, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried.**
- **Spring Newsletter** – Herryman and Kirk are looking for items to add to the Spring Newsletter. Suggestions: Letter from President, Wellhead information from French, Clean Up Day, Introduce Cole. Looks for more input from Council.
- **Bills List** – **French moves, supported by Myers to approve payment of the bills for the month of March 2024 in the amount of \$101,829.05. Roll Call: Giatti, Myers, Moss, Hafer, Herryman, French, Flynn. Nays – None. Motion Carried.**
- **Treasurers Report** – **French Moves, supported by Hafer to accept the Treasurers Report as presented. Ayes: All Nays: None: Motion Carried.**
  - Treasurer would like to begin to paydown the 91-03 bond, will work with Council in coming months to recommend amount of additional payments that can be made to payoff 91-03 bond.

## UNFINISHED MATTERS:

- **Spicer Additional Fees** –Spicer believes that the additional invoice was out of the initial scope of the contract signed in September 23. Council reluctantly agrees to make additional payment to Spicer for work completed. However, Council believes that this should have been accounted for within the agreement as outlined. **Myers moves, supported by Herryman to pay additional Spicer invoice. Roll Call: French, Giatti, Myers, Moss, Hafer, Herryman, Flynn. Nays: None. Motion Carried.**

## CORRESPONDENCE:

- Clerk reviews new contract from T-Mobile, sent email to Emily Collings from SmarkLink regarding the Proposed Amendment. According to the new agreement T-Mobile is presenting a contract that would reduce annual revenue from \$20,988.12 to \$15,600.00, taking the Village 15 years to regain lost revenue while still maintaining current insurance and maintenance on the tower. Will bring back to next meeting with letter.

## SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

- Written report submitted and will be made part of the Regular March 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- Need letter to Fiber North for water main damage, need to send a bill for \$368.70.

## COMMISSIONER REPORT:

- No Report this month.

## ZONING ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- Written report submitted and will be made part of the Regular March 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes.
- Kirk reminds Council about softball sign up beginning and that the Village should prepare the baseball fields. The diamond should be made playable, with bases installed and leveling out field.

## FINAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

French moves, supported by Hafer to adjourn meeting at 7:26 p.m. Ayes – All. Nays – None. Motion Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Maridee Cutler,  
Village Clerk

DRAFTED: March 9, 2024

APPROVED: April 1, 2024