

**VILLAGE OF SCHOOLCRAFT  
COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS  
May 15, 2023**

The Regular Meeting of the Village Council held at 442 N. Grand Street, was called to order by President Keith Gunnett at 7:00 p.m.

The Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance were led by President Gunnett.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: President Gunnett, Trustees Rochholz, Mastenbrook, Bergland, Barnes and Beck.  
Absent: Trustee Carlin.  
Also Present: Village Manager Cheri Lutz, Village Clerk Theresa O'Leary, Chief Scott Smith, Rob Coffman, Mike Presta, Linda Barnes, Steve Waldron, Brian Julian, Emily Munson, Dan Lewis, and Kim Parker.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Rochholz, seconded by Barnes, to approve the agenda as presented.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

Motion by Bergland, seconded by Mastenbrook, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. All aye.

**CITIZEN'S ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Ms. Kim Parker, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee, informed the Council the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks will be near the Golf Dome.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Mr. Mike Presta from Prein and Newhof presented the Final Project Planning Document for Water System Improvements and Designating an Authorized Project Representative.

Mr. Presta made the following statements:

- He stated lead pipe replacement must be completed by 2041.
- He stated there are approximately 365 lead water services that need to be replaced, as well as other undersized pipes that need to be replaced.
- He stated the Village needs a secondary water source.
- He stated construction on water mains will begin in 2026.
- He stated the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund is a 40-year loan. At present, the interest rate is a fixed rate estimated at 1.875%.
- He stated scoring for the DWRF program is based on size of the community and the scope of the project.
- He stated monies acquired from the loan can be used for purchasing a well site property, connecting well to the water main, upgrading from a 4" main to an 8" main.
- He stated if the Village gets a partial loan, they can apply again.
- He stated in the future, there may be opportunities for loan forgiveness and/or grants.
- He stated the Drinking Water Asset Management (DWAM) Grant of \$368,500 has been awarded to the Village of Schoolcraft.
- He stated the Project Planning Document is good for five years if the Village does not receive a loan for FY 2024.

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Motion by Mastenbrook, seconded by Bergland to go into a Public Hearing to hear comments related to the Final Project Planning Document for Water System Improvements and Designating an Authorized Project Representative. By Roll Call, all aye.

- Mr. Brian Julian stated this loan is a good opportunity for the Village.

Motion by Beck, seconded by Rochholz to close the Public Hearing. By Roll Call, all aye.

Motion by Gunnett, seconded by Bergland to adopt Resolution 2023-07. A Resolution Adopting a Final Project Planning Document for Water System Improvements and Designating an Authorized Representative. By Roll Call, all aye.

The Council thanked Mr. Mike Presta for the presentation saying it was well done.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion regarding vacating the alley between lots 68 and 69 took place. Village Manager Lutz will contact the Village Attorney to find out if all alleys have been already vacated.

**TABULATION OF BIDS:**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

**STATEMENTS FROM CITIZENS AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS**

President Keith Gunnett made the following statements:

- He stated the meeting with Josh Baird was postponed.
- He asked Village Manager Lutz to contact MDOT to find out why US 131 construction is not starting at the railroad tracks south of the Village, but starting about ½ mile further south.
- He stated Lockport is looking for another engineering firm to handle their sanitary sewer project.

Village Manager Cheri Lutz made the following statements:

- She stated Council Training by MML will be held May 25, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
- She stated there are several properties being addressed in the Village that are not in compliance with specific ordinances.
- She stated there is a process to address ordinance violations and depending on the violation, can take a very long time. At times, the court system and other organizations need to be involved and it can take time to schedule meetings and hearings, if needed.
- She stated she will write a newsletter article explaining the process of addressing ordinance violations.
- She asked Mike Presta if there were funds available to the Village of Schoolcraft to help defray the costs of building the new Lee Street. Mr. Presta will follow up.

Chief Scott Smith made the following statements:

- He stated some residents with ordinance violations have come into compliance.
- He stated he is going to put a job posting on various sites for a part time police officer.

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Department of Public Works superintendent, Rob Coffman introduced DPW employees Mr. Dan Lewis and Ms. Emily Munson to the Council.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

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Keith F. Gunnett, Village President

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Theresa O'Leary, Village Clerk