



VILLAGE OF SUTTONS BAY
VILLAGE COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
420 N FRONT ST., SUTTONS BAY, MI 49682
APRIL 18, 2022
5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by President Pro-Tem Christensen.

Present: Bahle, Case, Christensen, Smith and Suppes
Absent: Long and Lutke
Staff present: Fay and Miller

Consent Agenda

Bahle moved, Case seconded, CARRIED, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The Village Council meeting minutes of March 22 and April 4, 2022, are approved. The payment of invoices is approved. The application from Elizabeth and Marc Huntoon for a new Off-Premises Tasting Room license to be located at 417 N. St. Joseph Street, Suttons Bay, MI, be considered for approval by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission. Ayes: 5, No: 0.

Agenda approval

Smith moved, Case, seconded, CARRIED, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: 5, No: 0.

Public Comment

William Crackel commented on the pavement and drainage in front of his house on St. Mary's, requesting both be reworked and repaired. He further stated non-compliance with onsite parking with short-term rentals on the 400 block of St. Mary's Street. Crackel stated there is a two-garage conversion into rental units on the 400 block without any permits posted.

Kirk Moll commented on the sale of public land agenda item, stating his offer to purchase Village property would create tax revenue and would restore his lot to a functioning lot.

VSB Report 2022-24 Street Light Evaluation

Council members discussed the following:

- Does the Village have legal obligations with street lights?
- Would removing the light cause a safety issue to the neighborhood?
- Can the Village just remove the light bulb from the requested area?
- Is there a process in general when requests such as this come to the Village?
- Illumination can be a positive thing; without it there would be no illumination at the end of Broadway.

- Is the Village charged by the presence of the light rather or not it is illuminated?
- This could set a precedence if we disconnect the bulb because a few residents request it.
- Is there a liability issue if the bulb is removed?
- How does it impact others if the bulb is removed?
- There is inconsistency throughout the Village with the Village lights, such as the bulb type, height, illumination, etc.
- All of the lights in the Village should be evaluated and inventoried, and changed to be consistent.
- It is believed that a goal of the Zoning Ordinance is to not have light pollution.
- Some of the lights in the Village are offensive.
- The other neighbors in the area of the Broadway light should be surveyed to see if they would like the light removed as well.
- There are other areas in the Village where there is no lighting, such as west of Lincoln and Jefferson Streets.

It was the consensus of Council members to place this item on the next General Services Committee meeting agenda.

VSB Report 2022-25 Sale of Public Lands

Bahle moved, Case seconded, FAILED, that inquiries regarding the sale of public land or granting of easements across public lands will not be considered until a time in which the properties are placed for sale by the Village. Ayes: 0, No: 5.

Bahle moved, Case seconded, CARRIED, that inquiries regarding the sale of public land will not be considered until a time in which the properties are placed for sale by the Village. Ayes: 5, No: 0.

Special Committee/Staff reports

DPW Director Miller stated Village staff has started brush and leaf pickup and that chlorination and hydrant flushing will take place next week. A robo call will go out. He further stated street sweeping will be scheduled soon. Christensen said the sound panels for Council chambers are here and the installation will hopefully begin by next meeting.

Good of the Order

Smith asked who was responsible for cleaning out ditches that have been filled in by dirt. Miller stated that it is a mutual understanding that the homeowners keep ditches clean, much like cutting the grass in the ditches.

Case stated the service panel down by the Marina is deteriorating and needs reconstruction. If the Art Festival will no longer be down by the Marina, perhaps the Village would consider moving the panel up to Front Street, or at least put an accessory panel there.

Public Comment

Perkins agrees with Case and that the service panel is too far away for the Art Festival Food vendors to have access to. They need power and it should be moved closer to Front Street.

Lois Bahle commented on street lights, stating a lot of LED lights are controllable and that they can be adjusted. She said the Village should check their Consumer bills and make sure we are not paying for more lights than the Village has.

Gary Cheadle thanked Council members for considering removing street light.

Bill Crackle cautioned about taking out all the street lights, noting a variety of lights that can be used.

Kirk Moll, who lives across from the ice rink parking stated the Village should install a screen there because car lights shine into the home.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Meeting minutes submitted by Shar Fay, Village Clerk.