

CITY OF ST. JOHNS
CITY COMMISSION MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

The special meeting of the St. Johns City Commission was called to order by Mayor Dzurka at 5:00 p.m. at the Clinton County Courthouse, 100 East State Street, 2nd Floor, Suite #2200, St. Johns, Michigan.

CITY COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:	Eric Hufnagel, Jean Ruestman, Brad Gurski, Scott Dzurka, Chris Hyzer
CITY COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:	None
STAFF PRESENT:	Chad Gamble, City Manager; Mindy J. Seavey, City Clerk; Kristina Kinde, City Treasurer; Justin Smith, Director of Public Services

Agenda

Mayor Dzurka asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Hyzer seconded by Commissioner Hufnagel that the city commission approve the agenda as presented.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Welcome, Meeting Overview

Mayor Dzurka thanked everyone for attending. He said this special meeting is the first of its kind and we hope to hold it annually. He discussed: the purpose; thanked everyone for their service; he thanked the city commission team and introduced commissioners; we have been talking about communications for a while and this is another medium to reach out and share what is going on within the city. He asked the audience to listen intently and share what you hear with others. He discussed a visit to a 3rd grade class at Oakview Elementary. We have lots to celebrate and be proud of.

Presentation of the 2023/24 Annual Report

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City Manager Gamble welcomed everyone. He said so many of you sacrifice to serve the city in a number of ways and are ombudsmen and women of the city.

He presented the 2023/24 annual report.

- 2020 Master Plan.
- 23/24 City Action Plan.
- Strategic Roadmap for Success.
- Social Media/Marketing.
- Public Works Department
 - August 2023 storm.
 - Depot doors.
 - Road program.
- Wastewater Department
 - Security of system (SCADA system).
 - Revision of IPP ordinance.
 - CIPP lining.
 - Replacement of influent pump #3.
 - No violations of NPDES permit.
 - Encouragement of employee licensure.
- Water Department
 - Security fencing.
 - Ground storage tank cleaning.
 - Certificate of excellence for city lab testing.
 - Replacement of high service pump #1.
 - Conversion of meters to radio read.
- City Clerk
 - Elections
 - Encourage early voting.
- IT Department
 - Transfer to SuAnn Prince.
- Code Enforcement
 - Removed 28 junk vehicles, including a bus.
 - Tall grass complaints.
 - Property on Cass Street.
- Community Development & Zoning
 - 10 zoning/ordinance amendments; 3 special use approvals; 2 rezonings; 3 variances; 7 planning commission site approvals.
- Police Department

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- Entered 2024 with all funded positions filled.
- First intern in the police department.
- Shared-time administrative assistant.
- Body cameras.
- National Night Out.
- Fire Department
 - 2023 fire statistics.
 - Serves multiple different communities.
 - 2 grants: fire hose & personal protective equipment.
- Parks and Recreation Department
 - 2 DNR Trust Fund Grants: sand volleyball court & Scott Road connector trail.
 - Security lighting & access controls.
 - Spray Park recirculation system upgrades.
 - Fantasy Forest 2.0.
 - Wilson Community Center.
- 23/24 City Action Plan
 - Status & activity.
- Exciting things in store for St. Johns
 - DDA façade grants & parking lot improvements.
 - Prevail Solar Investments.
 - Wilson Center project commencement.
 - Collaboration agreement with Bingham Township.
 - Depot interior/property improvements.
 - New part-time grant writer position.
 - AmeriCorps member – Rachel Hoten.
 - Fantasy Forest 2.0 construction.

Public Comments

Mayor Dzurka asked if there were any public comments.

Anne Rademacher said kudos to city staff for the storm clean-up. She said it was great that people didn't have to go online to have things picked up. She said it is great to see people at the soccer field and park. You always are going to have negative people, especially on Facebook. She said everyone is in love with M-21 right now. Her mother was employed with the City for a long time and was a county commissioner and she serves on a board.

Emily Baudoux was present. She said the annual report is a great idea, kudos.

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Anne Rademacher said to put out another notice, not just with the water bills. She said people don't always see things out on Facebook.

Commissioner Hufnagel thanked staff for putting all the work into the annual report. He said it was gratifying to see the list of activities that were included. He said some things we have been working on for many years. Thank you and keep up the great work.

Commissioner Ruestman said it is nice to see a strategic plan put into work and nice to tie it all together. Kudos to Chad and the staff for putting it into action.

Mayor Dzurka said kudos to the team that sits up here; it is great to work with you all. He said Chad's presentation hit the highlights and celebrates the things that are moving ahead. Thank you to all the staff, you really are the fabric that keeps it all running together.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Hyzer seconded by Commissioner Gurski that the city commission meeting be adjourned.

YEA: Hufnagel, Ruestman, Gurski, Dzurka, Hyzer

NAY: None

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.