



MINUTES
Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council
February 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fedell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held at City Hall located at 28 N. State Road, Newaygo, MI 49337.

Presiding officer: Mayor Fedell

Secretary: Clerk, Kim Goodin

Roll Call: Present: Black, Burns, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Walerczyk, Walker
Absent: None

Motion by Burns, second by Walker to approve the agenda as presented. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Black, second by Engemann to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Council regular meeting minutes from 01/12/2026 and approval of accounts payable of \$131.14, \$119,961.83, \$21,696.79, \$25,648.65, \$35,017.08, \$131,267.37, \$511.51 and \$1,755.21. AIF/MC

RESERVED TIME

Motion by Burns, second by Black to open public hearing at 7:02 pm to discuss and take comments on the Police, Fire and EMS Services Special Assessment District. AIF/MC Fedell and Schneider explained the Special Assessment. They stated that the process is not new and has been utilized for decades to fund Fire protection services and it expires every 15 years and now needs to be renewed. They said that the language of the Special Assessment has been broadened to also include Police and EMS Services should the need arise, but the current plan moving forward is to be status quo on taxing levels. They discussed special assessment millage rate history for fire protection and said that the Newaygo Area Fire District is funded by the City, Brooks Township and Garfield Township.

Public comments and discussion included:

- Use of general funds instead of special assessment.
- Process of determining special assessment rate for Fire District.
- Process of how Fire District Budget is determined.
- Property and Business Taxes.
- Clarification on clause relating to cost estimates not being increased by 10% or more.
- City researching potential grant funding which may be available.
- Cross training between public safety departments.
- Bridge closings at the lower bridge along Bridge Street.
- Resident discussed his property lines.
- Speed limits not being enforced. (Interim Police Chief Rood said resident should contact Police Department and they will follow up on area of concern.)

Board and Schneider response comments and discussion included:

- This Special Assessment process is a renewal.
- A public hearing is done each year before approval of Fire District special assessment.
- Letters will be sent out each year to residents about the annual public hearing for Police/Fire/EMS special assessment along with posting in the paper.

- Explained taxable value stating increase each year is determined by formula according to State law.
- Explained that the special assessment millage rate is determined by the Fire District Budget.
- Newaygo Area Fire District has monthly or bi-monthly meetings which are open to the public.
- Any tax increases affect all Council members and they do not want tax increases.
- Explained the clause relating to cost estimates not being increased by 10% or more stating that the intent is to not increase, but stay status quo.
- City does apply for many grants and has been awarded a few over the years.
- Discussed grants that the City has received over the years for local businesses.
- Explained study that was done two years ago regarding public safety and results did not recommend doing a Department of Public Safety.

Schneider noted that a letter of objection concerning the Special Assessment had been received from 120 W Pine Lake Dr and was included in packets. Motion by Black, second by Engemann at 8:00 pm to close public hearing. AIF/MC

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS

Newaygo County Commissioner Lori Tubbergen Clark discussed Newaygo County Commission on Aging Services, and County and State unemployment data and said information regarding Michigan State University Extension Programs, 2025 Newaygo County Annual Update and information on current Economic Conditions had previously been emailed to Council members.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Schneider discussed upcoming meeting with the engineer on designs for water main work on the north side of the Muskegon River along M82 stating that this project may be postponed depending on what Muskegon River Watershed Assembly plans are with Penoyer Creek and proposed dam removals. He gave updates on the Pocket Park, J&H Gas Station and new apartments being built behind Leppinks.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, said that J&H Gas Station is preparing to put in sewer lines.

Interim Police Chief Rood said that their 2025 crime clearance rate was 88% which is significantly better than the State rate.

BOARD BUSINESS

Motion by Walerczyk, second by DeVries to approve the request by the Heritage Museum of Newaygo County for a car display in front of the museum on Thursday, June 11, 2026 between approximately 8:00 am until 9:00 pm. AIF/MC

Motion by Walker, second by Black to approve Ordinance 2026-01 amending sections of Chapter 14 of the Newaygo City Code relating to Short-Term Rentals. AIF/MC Schneider gave an overview of amendments included in Ordinance.

Motion by Black, second by Engemann to approve Revitalization & Placemaking Program Grant Agreement for the Pocket Park and designate the City Manager as the authorized representative to sign agreement and all other relevant documents to bring the project to completion. AIF/MC Schneider said the grant agreement is for \$185,000 and the plan is for the park to be near completion by mid-to-end of May.

Motion by Walker, second by Burns to approve Letter of Intent for Purchase/Development Agreement and Right of First Refusal between the City and Sable Homes. AIF/MC Schneider said the letter is in regards to the Muskegon River Holdings (MRH) property and that this would go into effect the day the City closed on the property and would be voided if the City did not purchase the property.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Members thanked the DPW and Police Department for their work.

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Burns to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 pm. AIF/MC