



MINUTES
Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council
April 13, 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, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Walerczyk, Walker
Absent: Burns

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Engemann to excuse the absent member. AIF/MC

Motion by Black, second by DeVries to approve the agenda as presented. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Black, second by Walker to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Council regular meeting minutes from 03/09/2026, approval of accounts payable of \$111,414.19, \$900.00, \$453,124.18, \$10,024.36, \$148,066.29, \$122,965.08, \$31,043.00 and \$159.00 and Resolution 2026-06 approving the appointment of Andrew Gunneson to the Planning Commission. AIF/MC

RESERVED TIME

No items listed under Reserved Time.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS

Newaygo County Commissioner Lori Tubbergen Clark discussed Newaygo County Jail inmate statistics and spoke about the Newaygo County Equalization Report that she distributed. She discussed the various programs available through the Juvenile Court System.

Tim Liberty, representing the River Country Chamber of Commerce, spoke about Chamber events that are occurring in the coming months.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Schneider discussed tree removal around City wells stating that the contractor offered to remove trees at no charge with possible revenue for the City depending on the types of trees and the number of trees removed. Council had no concerns and said for Schneider to proceed. Schneider gave updates on the pocket park project, apartments behind Leppinks (Highbank Apartments), J&H Gas Station, water service line project and the City Welcome Sign. He said that the City closed on the Riverbank property on March 16th and stated that he is working with a developer on the potential development of the first phase of the property.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Andres said that everything is going well in the Police Department and they have been very busy.

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, said that they are working on hydrant flushing and they have also been very busy.

BOARD BUSINESS

- Motion by Engemann, second by Walker to approve the Right of First Refusal Agreement between the City and Sable Developing Inc. AIF/MC Fedell said that this has been discussed at several meetings and this final agreement will be recorded. Prior documents were letters of intent.
- Motion by Walker, second by DeVries to approve Ordinance 2026-02 to amend Sections of Chapter 17 (Industrial I-1) of the City Zoning Ordinance. AIF/MC Schneider discussed the proposed amendments stating that the biggest changes would allow compatible retail operations to be located in the Industrial Park.
- Motion by Black, second by Walerczyk to approve Ordinance 2026-03 to amend Sections of Chapter 78 (Utilities) of the City Code. AIF/MC Schneider said that the proposed changes had been discussed in detail at the March meeting.
- Motion by Engemann, second by Black to approve Resolution 2026-07 adopting Rules, Regulations and Fees to the City Utility Billing and water and sewer operations pursuant to Chapter 78 of the City Code. AIF/MC Schneider said that this Resolution included information to make it easier if changes were ever needed to be made in the future.
- Motion by Walker, second by Engemann to approve Resolution 2026-08 establishing Water and Sewer Charges. AIF/MC Fedell said that the previous Water and Sewer Rate Resolution was expiring and this was a new Resolution with a term of ten years.
- Motion by Black, second by Walerczyk to approve Resolution 2026-09 adopting Newaygo Area Fire District's Budget for FY 2026-2027. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Walerczyk, Walker Nays: None Absent: Burns MOTION CARRIED Fedell said that the City, Brooks Township and portion of Garfield Township fund the Newaygo Area Fire District. The Newaygo Area Fire District Budget for FY 2026-2027 was included in packets.
- Motion by Engemann, second by Walerczyk to approve Resolution 2026-10 a determination to proceed with the establishment of a Special Assessment District to defray costs of police, fire and EMS Services; approval of plans and cost estimates; final determination of a Special Assessment District; and directive to the City Assessor to prepare the Special Assessment Roll. Yeas: Black, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Walerczyk, Walker Nays: None Absent: Burns MOTION CARRIED Schneider stated that a public hearing discussing the special assessment renewal had been held at a previous Council meeting and one more public hearing will be held in the coming months for this renewal process. He 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 Resolution for the first year is to cover only the City's portion of the Fire District Budget.
- Motion by Black, second by Walker to approve Resolution 2026-11 approving the Newaygo Community Recreation Authority (NCRA) Budget for FY 2026-2027. Yeas: Black, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Walerczyk, Walker Nays: None Absent: Burns MOTION CARRIED
- Motion by Engemann, second by Walerczyk to approve request by Newaygo Area District Library for the use of Brooks Park on Tuesday, June 16th (12:00pm-3:00pm), Thursday, July 9th (9:30am-1:00pm), and Thursday July 23rd (10:00 am-2:00pm) for summer reading events. AIF/MC
- Motion by Walker, second by Engemann to approve the annual review of City Manager, Jon Schneider, which was completed by the Council Personnel Committee. AIF/MC The written meeting minutes from the Personnel Committee were in Council packets. Comments from Council were that Schneider does a great job, to keep up the good work and thanking him for all he does. Schneider thanked everyone and said he works with good Boards and staff.
- Motion by Black, second by Walker to approve the Employment Agreement with the City Manager, Jon Schneider effective June 1, 2026. Yeas: Black, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Walerczyk, Walker Nays: None Absent: Burns MOTION CARRIED Fedell stated that Schneider's current employment agreement expires on May 31st and discussed minor changes in the proposed updated employment agreement which was included in Council packets.
- Schneider went over the budget; discussed some highlights and explained some revenue and expenditures. He said that budget detail sheets were also included in the packets and stated that overall the budget is right where it should be.
- Fedell said that the Planning Commission 2025 Annual Report was included in packets stating that this report contains a record of the Planning Commission's activity during 2025.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- A local resident voiced her safety concerns with the mid-block crosswalk downtown stating that she had spoken with a representative from MDOT. She gave an update on response she received from the MDOT representative. Council Members and Chief Andres discussed the safety concerns of the crosswalk and

thanked the resident for reaching out to MDOT. Chief Andres took the MDOT contact information from the resident and said that she will follow up with MDOT.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

No Council member comments.

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Walker to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 pm. AIF/MC

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Goodin