CITY OF NEWAYGO

MINUTES
Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council
October 12, 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 Walker, second by Walerczyk to excuse absent member. AIF/MC

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Engemann, second by Walker to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Council regular meeting minutes from 09/14/2026 and approval of accounts payable of $690,339.87, $12,035.70, $23,808.12, $63,516.15, $55,081.65, and $2,808.80. AIF/MC

RESERVED TIME

No items under reserved time.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS

Newaygo County Commissioner Lori Tubbergen Clark gave an update on Newaygo County Veterans Affairs Department and provided Commission on Aging statistics. She stated that the County was awarded a three-year State grant to expand public transportation in the County.

Ramona Deters, representing the River Country Chamber of Commerce, discussed recent and upcoming Chamber events. She said that the Chamber Charity Event would be on November 5th and proceeds would go to Disability Network.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Schneider discussed financial summary (treasurer's report) of bank accounts which was included in packets and gave updates on employee transitions in the City office, DPW department and Police department. He discussed two renderings included in the packet for the Riverbank property along Mundy Ave (also known as the Ridgeway project). The first rendering considered Phase 1 (approximately 20 acres) will contain approximately 100 dwelling units stating that the City is working with Sable Homes on this phase. Schneider discussed the second rendering which included the entire 200 acres stating that with the exception of Phase 1, the remaining designs serve as a placeholder for future discussions with developers. He said that there may be a joint meeting with all City Boards scheduled in November to discuss more details of the Riverbank Property and the role of each board during the project.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Andres discussed transition in the Police Department and said that the Police Law Enforcement Information Network (LIEN) audit would be on November 18th.

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, said that they have been short staffed and working on training new employees.

BOARD BUSINESS

Schneider discussed request by a group called M37 Community Helpers that is interested in holding a New Year's Eve Event behind the businesses on the south side of M37. Their tentative plan is to do a Kayak Drop behind the elementary school at midnight and light off fireworks on private property on the northwest corner of M37 and M82 afterwards. During the couple hours leading up to the Kayak drop/fireworks businesses would like to have food/drinks and entertainment in the Social Zone. Schneider said that he and Chief have asked for more detailed information from the group and if group moves to next step, the proposal will come to a future Council meeting. Chief stated one thing needed from the group is to produce a security plan for the event.

Motion by Black, second by Engemann to approve the following for Timber Sale on Mundy Ave. Property: 1. Award timber sale to Outback Forestry LLC according to RFP and Outback Forestry's submitted proposal. 2. Authorize City Manager to create and sign on behalf of the City an agreement with Outback Forestry LLC regarding the timber sale and corresponding work. 3. Authorize City Manager to sign or approve all other documents needed to bring the project to completion. AIF/MC Schneider discussed bid tabulation sheet included in packets stating that the City would receive a minimum of the amount listed on the bid tabulation in revenue from the sale of the timber.

Motion by Walker, second by DeVries to approve the agreement between the City and Arbor Circle for the Police Social Worker from October 1, 2026, until January 31, 2027 in the amount of $40,000. AIF/MC Schneider said that the City Police Department has had a Police Social Worker for approximately five years and the position has been funded by various grants. He said that the current grant funding expired at the end of September and the Police Department has applied for other grants to fund this position and are waiting to find out if they are awarded a grant. Schneider said the agreement between the City and Arbor Circle would be funded out of the City budget through January 31, 2027. He discussed scenarios if the Police Department was not awarded a grant for the Police Social Worker position.

Fedell discussed the proposed new City Hall sign, stating that it will not include an electronic reader board as this feature is unnecessary for the city and adds significant cost. Schneider said that a rendering was included in packets of the proposed sign and would display the same entities listed on the current sign. (City, Police and Library) He said that Council had chosen this proposed sign design when they chose the new City Welcome Sign. He explained that the next step is to obtain quotes from the original designer and construction vendor used for the City Welcome Sign and bring quotes back to a future Council meeting. Consensus of Council was for Schneider to move forward with securing quotes to bring back to a future Council meeting.

Schneider went over the budget stating that overall revenue and expenses are right where they should be and explained a couple of fluctuations. He discussed revenue and expense for Police Social Worker and stated that he established new expense lines for the Riverbank Property principal and interest payments. Schneider discussed changes at State level regarding gas tax and discussed newly created "Fund 402" to track revenue and expenses for Riverbank Property.

Motion by Black, second by Walerczyk to appoint the two recommended members to the MML Liability & Property Pool Board of Directors Election. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Members commented how nice the fall decorations look in the City.

Council and Chief discussed rules and regulations regarding Electric Scooters and Bikes in the City. Chief said that the State is looking at regulations. She said that the City will be reviewing options over the winter months to determine if a City Ordinance is needed for specific rules and regulations for Electric Scooters and Bikes in the City.

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Engemann to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm. AIF/MC

Ed Fedell

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Goodin