

City of Stanton  
Regular Meeting  
April 26, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Mayor Tissue-Daws.

Commissioners present: Burris, Basom, Corwin, Petersen, Johnson and Yoder.  
Absent: None

A motion was made by Petersen and supported by Burris to approve the agenda with the addition of property acquisition consideration. 6 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

Citizens Comments: Dale Reyborn addressed the Commission regarding his intent to run for State Representative.

A motion was made by Corwin and supported by Petersen to approve the minutes to the April 12, 2016 meeting as submitted. 6 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Petersen and supported by Corwin to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$27,919.16. 6 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

DPW Report is attached.  
City Manager's report is attached.  
Police Report is attached.

Manager Eckholm asked for feedback on naming the new park "Honor Guard Community Park". After discussion it was decided to stick with Veterans Community Park.

A motion was made by Yoder and supported by Petersen to approve payment of \$15,000 to the Community Fire Department for their annual dues after the first of July. 6 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Petersen and supported by Burris to allow the City Manager to enter into the necessary contract to install electricity on the ball diamonds at the D Hale Brake Park. 6 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

Discussed the vision for the City for the 2016-17 Budget.

A motion was made by Petersen and supported by Johnson to table discussion of the TAP Grant resolution. 6 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Yoder and supported by Petersen to allow City Manager purchase property on the SW Corner of Walnut and Lincoln St. for the price of \$1 and closing cost not to exceed \$500. 6 Yes. 0 No. Motion carried.

Citizens Comments: Dale Reyborn credited the Commission for a job well done. Ray Holloway stated that he thought the City could use a community center.

A motion was made by Burris and supported by Corwin to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p. Next meeting will be held on May 10, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Community Room at City Hall. Public Welcome.,

Monica Tissue-Daws, Mayor  
Janet Davis, City Clerk

**City Manager's Report**  
**Stanton City Commission Meeting**  
**4/26/16**

To the Commission and Citizens of Stanton,

We are making considerable progress on numerous projects and I am pleased to offer some updates:

1. The Taste of Montcalm Food and Music Festival planning is going smoothly, and tonight we will go over the electrical upgrades necessary at the D. Hale Brake Park. We have finished all of our marketing materials and forms and are working on distributing them county-wide. It is my anticipation that this will be a great and lasting event for the wider community, and likely generate significant revenue for the Downtown Development Authority to re-invest into the City!
2. We will be holding another meeting of the Stanton Garden Club this week, and formulating a strategy by which we can purchase and plant the remaining amenities. This will take place in May. We will be getting bids from greenhouses to pull together all of the necessary flowers and plants for the design, which the Garden Club graciously spearheaded for the City.
3. We have been in initial contact with Revize and have a sales agreement signed. We will return partial payment and start a planning process this month. It is my hope that the new website will be operational by the end of June.
4. We are on the agenda to present our Veteran's Park master plan to the Montcalm County Board of Commissioners, and I hope to levy their support as we continue to pursue external funding for this important project. I doubt they will contribute financially, but a letter of endorsement from a County agency will go a long way for us. Tonight I will run through the presentation for you to receive feedback.
5. Tonight we will end with a "Vision Meeting" as our main point of order. These are a contemporary way for City Commissions to engage more directly with the budget process. You will see our revenue projections in your packet for consideration, and I will lead the session to see what priorities the Commission would like to highlight as we appropriate resources for the next fiscal year.
6. While this is EXTREMELY preliminary, we have received word that after a 6 year hiatus the State of Michigan will again be offering ICE (Infrastructure Capacity Engagement) grants through the MEDC to "low to mod" communities, which Stanton is. I have done some preliminary math, and if we leverage our resources correctly through this grant and a USDA Grant/Loan, we could potentially complete 2 million dollars in water/sewer upgrades while only spending/financing \$350,000. This is a best case scenario, but

either way it is crucial we access this program to continue improvements to our utility system.

7. The DDA has just met before this meeting. They will be discussing branding and naming themselves to more easily and actively engage with the wider community. Many DDA's are behind the scenes and are even mistaken as the city government; we want to differentiate them clearly as a partner organization so that we may utilize their specialized funding in the most effective way.
8. The door hangers for the meter replacement project seem to have worked exceedingly well, and we are receiving a high call volume to schedule appointments. We will continue to work to get this project completed until the calls taper off again, at which point we will issue a final door hanger which will notify the resident of a potential water shutoff if they do not call to make an appointment.
9. I am pleased to see that a large portion of the homes we wrote too concerning blight and junk on their property have already put their items out at the curb. Our volunteer will be out this Thursday to take care of the items, and has committed to more than one day if necessary.
10. I had the opportunity last Thursday with Leadership Montcalm to tour the Capitol, which I have never done. I learned a lot, and would like to once again thank the City Commission for funding half of my membership in this program.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jake Eckholm', written in a cursive style.

Jake Eckholm, City Manager

## D.P.W. Report

4/22/2016

-The department has kept a steady pace installing new water meters, ( approx.. 268) installed.

- The bulk of the leaves have been vacuumed up and we will continue for another week or so, due to a later start this year.

- Brush chipping has been done at least 3 times recently, although it doesn't look like it's been done in months. Thank you recent ice storm.

-Spring banners line Main Street now and the grass is turning greener and getting longer by the day. Let the mowing season begin.