FERRYSBURG CITY COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2023
7:00 P.M

FERRYSBURG CITY HALL
17520 RIDGE AVENUE, FERRYSBURG, MI 49409

1. Call to Order: Mayor Blease

2. Roll Call: Blease, O'Connell, Carlson, Montgomery, Sias, Murdoch, Cate

3. Invocation by Council Member Cate

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Public Comments:

This time on the agenda is for any citizen to direct brief comments or questions to the City Council. Time for public comments will be given when an agenda item is discussed. If you have a comment or question, please raise your hand to be recognized by the Mayor, and after being recognized by the Mayor, please give your name, and address for the record, and proceed with your comment or question. Please limit your comments to three (3) minutes.
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6. Consideration for Approval of Consent Agenda:
   a. Approve the February 6, 2023, City Council meeting minutes as printed.
   b. Adopt a resolution adopting the 2022 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.
   c. Approve City Bank Accounts Access Resolution for Depository and Investment Services with Flagstar Bank, JP Morgan, and Comerica.

7. New Business:
   a. Discussion, and to take action if appropriate, to approve a recommendation from the Recreation Commission to approve a proposal from PM Blough, Inc., for $2,000 to assist with a grant application for Fire Barn Park.
   b. Discussion, and to take action if appropriate, to approve the expenditure of Mayor Blease to attend the Michigan Municipal League (MML) CapCon Conference.
   c. Discussion, and to take action if appropriate, to approve the expenditure of Mayor Pro Tem O’Donnell to attend the Michigan Municipal League (MML) CapCon Conference.
   d. Introduction of Ordinance No. 326, an Ethics Ordinance.
   e. Discussion, and to take action if appropriate, accept a Visionary Plan as a guide for recommendations the City may take in the future.
   f. Discussion, and to take action if appropriate, to schedule a work session as a regular agenda item on February 6, 2023.
   g. Consideration for adjournment to a closed session to consider the purchase or lease of real property prior to obtaining an option to purchase. (Roll call vote)
   h. Consideration for reconvening in open session.
   i. Discussion, and to take action if appropriate, to authorize/not authorize the City Manager to negotiate a proposal for City Council consideration.

8. Public Comments:

9. Reports: City Manager

City Council Members

Mayor

10. Adjournment
CITY OF FERRYSBURG
CITY COUNCIL MINUTES
February 06, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Blease at 7:00 PM. Council Member Cate gave the invocation. Mayor Blease led those present in the pledge of allegiance.


Absent: None

Also present: City Manager Bessinger, City Clerk/Treasurer Schaner, and 8 citizens.

23-011 Moved by Council Member O’Donnell, seconded by Council Member Montgomery, to approve the January 16, 2023, City Council minutes as printed. The motion passed unanimously.

23-012 Moved by Council Member O’Donnell, seconded by Council Member Montgomery, to adopt a proclamation declaring April 28, 2023, as Arbor Day in the City of Ferrysburg. The motion passed unanimously.

23-013 Moved by Council Member Montgomery, seconded by Council Member Carlson, to approve a quote from Gordon Painting for $4,900 to paint the ceiling of the pavilion at Wm. Ferry Park. 6 Yeas, 1 Nay (O’Donnell), motion passed.

23-014 Moved by Council Member O’Donnell, seconded by Council Member Cate, to approve a recommendation from the Harbor Transit Multi-Modal Transportation System (HTMMTS) Board to approve the 2023/2024 millage rate at .6000 mills. The motion passed unanimously.

23-015 The Council Members entered a work session to discuss the Economic Development Task Force Draft Visionary Plan.

23-016 The Council Members entered a work session to discuss the Ethic Ordinance Draft.

The City Manager, the City Council Members, and the Mayor, reported on several current items

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Blease
Mayor

Amber Schaner
City Clerk
February 14, 2023

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Craig Bessinger, City Manager

RE: 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan

Hazard Mitigation Plans must be in place for a municipality to be eligible for mitigation funding from FEMA. This plan is required to be updated every 5 years, be approved by FEMA, and be adopted by the community.

The attached Hazard Mitigation Plan is a joint plan with Ottawa County, Kent County, and the City of Grand Rapids. The City of Ferrysburg has participated in this plan since 2004 and was last updated in 2017.

c: Mike Olthof, Fire Chief
   Amber Schaner, City Clerk
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The City of Ferrysburg, Michigan, has experienced risks that may damage commercial, residential, and public properties, displace citizens and businesses, close streets and impair infrastructure, and present general public health and safety concerns, and

WHEREAS, Ottawa County has prepared a Hazard Mitigation Plan that outlines the community’s options to reduce damages and impacts from natural and technological hazards, and

WHEREAS, The Hazard Mitigation Plan has been reviewed by community residents, business owners, and federal, state and local agencies, and has been revised where appropriate to reflect their concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2022 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the City of Ferrysburg.

Offered by Council Member__________________.
Seconded by Council Member__________________.

Yeas: __________________
Nays: __________________
Absent: __________________

Resolution __________________

I, Amber Schaner, duly appointed Clerk of the City of Ferrysburg, do hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted by the Ferrysburg City Council at its regular meeting held on____________________, at or after 7:00 p.m.

Amber Schaner, City Clerk
HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, The City of Ferrysburg, Michigan, has experienced risks that may damage commercial, residential, and public properties, displace citizens and businesses, close streets and impair infrastructure, and present general public health and safety concerns, and

WHEREAS, Ottawa County has prepared a Hazard Mitigation Plan that outlines the community’s options to reduce damages and impacts from natural and technological hazards, and

WHEREAS, The Hazard Mitigation Plan has been reviewed by community residents, business owners, and federal, state and local agencies, and has been revised where appropriate to reflect their concerns.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the 2022 Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the City of Ferrysburg.

Offered by Council Member ________________.

Seconded by Council Member ________________.

Yeas: ________

Nays: ________

Absent: ________

Resolution ________

I, Amber Schaner, duly appointed Clerk of the City of Ferrysburg, do hereby certify that the above resolution was adopted by the Ferrysburg City Council at its regular meeting held on ________________, at or after 7:00 p.m.

__________________________
Amber Schaner, City Clerk
Hazard Vulnerability Summary

The largest land use is vacant (39%), and the township is home to 4,572 people. According to the 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 13.5% of the population is 65 years of age or older and 5.7% is under five years. The population below poverty level in the last 12 months is 7.3%.

Risk locations include hazardous materials transportation through I-96, one railway, and two airports, and one gas transmission pipeline. Subsidence/sinkholes, particularly on State Street East of 130th Avenue have had impacts on Crockery Township.

Crockery Township participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. SFHAs are delineated on the community’s FIRMs.

4.3.6 City of Ferrysburg

Hazard Priorities

Public Health Emergencies, Flooding and Erosion, Infrastructure Failures, Severe Weather, Cyber Security, Supply Chain Disruptions, and Criminal Acts are concerns to the representatives of the City of Ferrysburg.

Hazard Vulnerability Summary

The largest land use is residential (34%), and the city is home to 2,952 people. According to the 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 28.0% of the population is 65 years of age or older (highest in Ottawa County) and 4.3% is under five years. The population below poverty level in the last 12 months is 4.4%.

Risk locations include hazardous materials transportation through M-31, one railway, and one airport, and one hazardous liquids pipeline. There are high risk erosion zones and critical dune areas along the lakeshore.

The City of Ferrysburg participates in the National Flood Insurance Program. There are 369 properties in Ferrysburg that have greater than a 26% chance of being severely affected by flooding over the next 30 years. This represents 19% of all properties in the city. SFHAs are delineated on the community’s FIRM.

4.3.7 Georgetown Township

Hazard Priorities

Public Health Emergencies, Flooding and Erosion, Infrastructure Failures, Severe Weather, Cyber Security, Supply Chain Disruptions, and Criminal Acts are concerns to the representatives of Georgetown Township.

Hazard Vulnerability Summary

The largest land use is residential, and the township is home to 54,091 people. According to the 2019 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, 15.6% of the population is 65 years of age or older and 7.1% is under five years. The population below poverty level in the last 12 months is 6.5%.
To: Ottawa County Included Jurisdictions  
From: Lou Hunt, Director of Emergency Management  
Date: Jan. 30, 2023  
Re: 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolutions

Jurisdictional partners,

Over the last two years, many of you have been involved in providing input for our updated 2022 Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). That plan was finished and sent out for FEMA review in early 2022. On January 5th, 2023 the HMP was approved by FEMA, pending board resolutions by all of our jurisdictions to adopt the plan. At the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners meeting on January 24, 2023 that plan was adopted by the County, but it still needs to be adopted at the local level (City, Township, Village).

One of the most important reasons to adopt the plan is to be eligible for pre/post disaster mitigation grants that may become available. Any jurisdiction that does not have an adopted plan is considered by FEMA to be ineligible. An equally important reason to adopt the plan is to place some of those projects identified, that reduce losses from disaster/emergency, into regular view to link with potential funding opportunities (grant funds, general funds, etc).

We are asking that each of you in your jurisdiction enact a resolution at the Board/Council level adopting the “2022 Kent County, Ottawa County and the City of Grand Rapids Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan”, and send a signed copy of that resolution to Lou Hunt at lhunt@miottawa.org. The earlier that can occur is appreciated, because according to FEMA guidance, your jurisdiction is considered to be technically expired at this time even though the final product was at FEMA for approximately 9 months before we received approval.

Attached to this email is an Executive Summary of the plan, a copy of the FEMA approval (pending resolutions), a sample jurisdiction resolution from the 2017 plan adoption, and a copy of the 1/24/23 Ottawa County resolution. The updated plan has been made available on the miottawa website under “Mitigation” in the Emergency Management section. Unfortunately, the file is too large to email to all of you but feel free to review the plan on the website. Please reach out if I can be helpful to you with this initiative, 616-293-3048.

Sincerely,

Lou Hunt  
Ottawa County Director of Emergency Management
Executive Summary

The Kent County, Ottawa County and Grand Rapids Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2022 Regional HMP) is a joint effort between Kent County, Ottawa County, and the City of Grand Rapids. The 2022 Regional HMP is dedicated to improving the health and safety of community members and their communities through mitigation efforts for specific hazards.

The 2022 Regional HMP is designed to comply with requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 and associated guidance documents developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division (EMHSD), and other applicable federal and state laws. The Disaster Mitigation Act requires local governments to have an approved Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) in place to be eligible for pre-disaster mitigation funds and post-disaster mitigation funds. In addition, the Disaster Mitigation Act requires that each HMP be updated every five (5) years. The 2022 Regional HMP is the third update to the original FEMA approved HMP for Kent County, Ottawa County, and the City of Grand Rapids and was most recently updated in 2017.

The 2022 Regional HMP involved a collaborative effort between Kent County, Ottawa County, and the City of Grand Rapids Emergency Managers, representatives and leaders from the fifty-nine (59) communities in the region, the Michigan State Police Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division, and additional stakeholders. Over 165 individuals participated in the preparation, evaluation, and community outreach components of the 2022 Regional HMP. ASTI Environmental was contracted by the three (3) Offices of Emergency Management to facilitate the planning and development process. Additionally, this plan was prepared in coordination with an Advisory Committee who provided evaluation and assessment and assisted with community outreach.

The goal of the 2022 Regional HMP is to reduce the impact of hazards on life, health, and economic well-being of community members based on a continuing hazard risk and vulnerability analysis through the following four general objectives:

- **Education and Awareness**: Promote life and safety through public education, hazard analysis, and early warning.
- **Structure and Infrastructure**: Reduce property damage and loss of life with disaster-resistant structures, equipment, and communication
- **Natural Systems Protection**: Minimize damage and losses by preserving or restoring the functions of natural systems.
- **Local Plans and Regulations**: Incorporate hazard mitigation considerations into land-use planning, resource management, and land development processes.

The Advisory Committee reviewed the mitigation strategies from the 2017 Plan, updated these strategies (where appropriate), and identified new strategies for consideration based on input from surveys and workshop discussions. Specific tasks were then completed for the preparation of the 2022 Regional HMP as follows:

- Identify Hazards and Risks
- Develop a Hazard History
- Develop a Community Profile
- Assess Vulnerabilities
Define Community Goals and Objectives
Identify and Prioritize Hazard Mitigation Strategies
Develop Action Plans for a Select List of Mitigation Strategies
Prepare a Draft Hazard Mitigation Plan for County, Municipal, and Public Review
Solicit County, Municipal, and Public Feedback
Prepare a Final Hazard Mitigation Plan
Provide Community Outreach and Communication
Document the Planning Process
Adopt the Final Hazard Mitigation Plan

As with all communities in Michigan, Kent and Ottawa Counties and the City of Grand Rapids are subject to natural, technological, and human-made hazards that can threaten life and health, and adversely impact the quality of life, property, the environment, and infrastructure. Providing strategies that minimize the impact of the most significant hazards requires a commitment to a multi-step program, including defining the problem, identifying preventive measures, implementing mitigation strategies, and incorporating hazard mitigation into City and County-wide planning efforts.

A total of thirty-nine (39) natural, technological, and human-made hazards were identified and evaluated during the planning process using a combination of historical research, surveys, workshops, and public meetings. Based on this evaluation, the following hazards were identified for further analysis:

- Public Health Emergencies
- Infrastructure Failure (Gas/Oil, Electric)
- Infrastructure Failure (Water)
- Infrastructure Failure (Communications & Internet)
- Flooding & Erosion
- Winter Weather
- Cyber Security Intrusion
- Severe Weather
- Infrastructure Failure
- Supply Chain Disruptions
- Criminal Acts (Active Assailant(s)/Mass Shootings)
- Infrastructure Failure (Sanitary/Storm Sewer)

This initial list of hazards was reduced and prioritized into the following four (4) hazards (in order of priority) which are the focus of the 2022 Regional HMP:

1. Public Health Emergencies
2. Flooding and Erosion
3. Infrastructure Failure
4. Severe Weather

These four hazards represent both county-wide and local community concerns. Prioritization of these hazards does not reduce the significance of additional hazards evaluated but provides a method for the represented communities to focus mitigation activities and resources.

Based on the objectives of the 2022 Regional HMP and the results of the hazard evaluation, the following twelve (12) mitigation strategies were selected for implementation. The Advisory Committee transferred
these strategies into twelve (12) regional Action Plans to be implemented as part of the 2022 Regional HMP.

**Education and Awareness**

- Utilize various mechanisms to communicate actionable information to the public. (All Hazards)
- Educate and train local businesses, community organizations, and the general public in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery actions. (All Hazards)
- Develop education and notification strategies for communicating with non-English speakers and people with disabilities, and access and functional needs. (All Hazards)
- Improve coordination and collaboration for public health crises between cities, counties, health departments, service providers, hospitals/clinics/doctor, pharmacies, and the general public. (Public Health Emergencies)
- Evaluate and improve early warning emergency notifications, emphasizing digital methods of outreach.

**Structure and Infrastructure**

- Ensure communication systems are resilient, interoperable, and employ redundancies. (Infrastructure Failure)
- Identify critical infrastructure vulnerabilities and ensure security is adequate. (Infrastructure Failure)
- Maintain power infrastructure, backup systems, and generators for critical infrastructures. (Infrastructure Failure)
- Develop engineering controls to promote floodwater diversion. (Flooding and Erosion)

**Natural systems Protection**

- Develop ecological controls to promote floodwater diversion. (Flooding and Erosion)
- Prioritize green spaces in areas that are most vulnerable to heat island effects and severe weather impacts. (Severe Weather)

**Local Plans and Regulations**

- Develop policies regarding at-risk properties for flooding and erosion. (Flooding and Erosion)

In conclusion, the 2022 Regional HMP does not replace existing plans or programs but serves as a reference for hazard mitigation in planning and program development. It is important to coordinate plan preparation with existing emergency plans, programs, procedures, and organizations established by the represented communities and jurisdictions. Incorporating the 2022 Regional HMP into other plans and programs will ultimately be at the discretion of the specific departments or organizations which administer these plans or programs.
Mr. Matt Schnepf  
State Hazard Mitigation Officer  
Michigan State Police  
Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division  
P.O. Box 30634  
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Mr. Schnepf:

Thank you for submitting the 2022 Kent County, Ottawa County and the City of Grand Rapids Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan for our review. The plan was reviewed based on the local plan criteria contained in 44 CFR Part 201, as authorized by the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The 2022 Kent County, Ottawa County and the City of Grand Rapids Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan met the required criteria for a multi-jurisdiction hazard mitigation plan. Formal approval of this plan is contingent upon the adoption by the participating jurisdictions. Once FEMA Region 5 receives documentation of adoption from the participating jurisdictions, we will send a letter of official approval to your office.

We look forward to receiving the adoption documentation and completing the approval process for the 2022 Kent County, Ottawa County and the City of Grand Rapids Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

If you or the communities have any questions, please contact Meghan Cuneo at (202) 615-5294 or meghan.cuneo@fema.dhs.gov.

Sincerely,

John Wethington  
Chief (acting), Risk Analysis Branch  
Mitigation Division
COUNTY OF OTTAWA
STATE OF MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Ottawa, Michigan, held at the Fillmore Street Complex in the Township of Olive, Michigan on the 24th day of January, 2023 at 6:30 o’clock p.m. local time.

PRESENT: Commissioners: Gretchen Cosby, Douglas Zylstra, Jacob Bonnema, Kyle Terpstra, Allison Miedema, Rebekah Curran, Lucy Ebel, Roger Belknap, Sylvia Rhodea, Joe Moss

ABSENT: Commissioners: Roger Bergman

It was moved by Commissioner Sylvia Rhodea and supported by Commissioner Lucy Ebel that the following Resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners recognizes the threat that human-related, technological or natural hazards pose to people and property within our community; and,

WHEREAS, undertaking hazard mitigation planning and management within Ottawa and Kent Counties will reduce the potential for harm to people and property from future hazard occurrences; and,

WHEREAS, an adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan is required as a condition of future funding for mitigation projects under multiple FEMA pre- and post-disaster mitigation grant programs; and,
WHEREAS, Ottawa County fully participated in the mitigation planning process to prepare the attached Hazard Mitigation Plan for Kent and Ottawa Counties; and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Police/Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division and Federal Emergency Management Agency Region V officials have reviewed the Hazard Mitigation Plan and approved it contingent upon this official adoption of the participating governments and entities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Kent and Ottawa Counties as an official plan; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in coordination with Kent County, Ottawa County will submit this Adoption Resolution to the Michigan State Police/Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division and Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region V officials to enable the Kent and Ottawa Counties Hazard Mitigation Plan’s final approval; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with this Resolution are hereby repealed.
YEAS: Commissioners:  Gretchen Cosby, Douglas Zylstra, Jacob Bonnema, Kyle Terpstra, Allison Miedema, Rebekah Curran, Lucy Ebel, Roger Belknap, Sylvia Rhodea, Joe Moss

NAYS: Commissioners: None

ABSTENTIONS: Commissioners: None

RESOLUTION ADOPTED:

Joe Moss, Chairperson
Ottawa County Board of Commissioners

Justin Roebuck
Ottawa County Clerk/Register
February 13, 2023

TO:      Craig Bessinger, City Manager
FROM:    Amber Schaner, City Treasurer
RE:      City Investments

Per the City’s Investment Policy, City Council is to authorize financial institutions for City investments.

I have contacted a number of financial institutions for investment opportunities and am requesting City Council approval for investing in CD’s with the companies below. The goal is to spread out the City’s investments for the funds to be Federally insured.

- Flagstar Bank
- JP Morgan Chase
- Comerica
February 6, 2023

Mr. Craig Bessinger
City Manager
City of Ferrysburg
P.O. Box 38
Ferrysburg, MI 49409-0038

RE: 2023 MNRTF Grant Submittal Proposal

Mr. Bessinger:

In follow up to our conversation, this proposal is to assist the City with the resubmittal of the 2022 MNRTF grant application due April 1, 2023, the next round of MNRTF grants. To resubmit, the entire grant application has to be filled out again online, but the information from 2022 can be reused in most required areas, and can be improved if possible. The City will be required to schedule a new public hearing and provide a new certified resolution from City Council to be uploaded to the application. We will also review the project cost information for any significant changes. The work will be based on the new 2023 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines published in January 2023. New grant forms were just released mid-January as well.

Scope of Services

1. Review the 2022 grant submittal and the new 2023 criteria to identify any areas for improved points and what would be required.

2. Discuss with City the required and suggested items for potentially increasing the grant scoring and determined actions to be completed.

3. Review the current design and cost estimates for any needed updates.

4. Prepare and fill out on the State’s online website the new 2023 grant forms with the current and new information as appropriate. Complete before April 1, 2023.

5. Provide overall coordination of the process. Provide copies of all materials at the conclusion of the process.

Proposed Fee

P.M. Blough will provide the above scope of services for a not-to-exceed fee of $2,000.00. These fees will be invoiced monthly based on the actual services provided in the previous month. This fee includes all time, materials, and expenses. Any fee not utilized due to efficiencies will not be invoiced to the Village. Attendance at Recreation Commission meetings will be as requested and invoiced as an addition to the fee on an hourly basis.

Limitation of Liability

To the fullest extent permitted by law, PM Blough, Inc. total liability to the Village for any cause or combination of causes, which arise out of claims based upon professional liability errors or omissions,
whether based upon contract, warranty, negligence, strict liability or otherwise is, in the aggregate, limited to the amount of $5,000.00.

Thank you for requesting this proposal. If there is any way we can better meet the desires of the City, please do not hesitate to allow us to modify this proposal. We look forward to continuing to serve the City of Ferrysburg.

P.M. Blough, Inc.

Authorization to Proceed:

_______________________________
City of Ferrysburg

_______________________________
Date

Pamela Blough, PLA, FASLA,
President
2023 MML Capital Conference
2023 CapCon
April 18-19, 2023
Lansing, MI

Maximizing the Moment!
Attendees at CapCon 2023 will gain tangible tools to advocate, engage, and influence the legislative process, which ultimately shapes the future of our communities in Michigan. CapCon 2023’s general sessions will dive into the League’s legislative priorities and the latest conversation around economic development, housing, infrastructure investment, the key aspects of Governor Whitmer’s budget, allocation of the remaining American Rescue Plan resources, and much more. In breakout sessions, you’ll hear solutions to funding public safety, housing growth and insecurity, innovations in the hiring process at city hall, and more.

Get the inspiration and answers you need to maximize the moment at CapCon 2023.

Registration Fees
Early Bird Registration Rates on or before March 13, 2023:

MML Full & Associate Members/BAP Participants – $325/person
Caution! This email is from an external address and may contain links. Use caution when following links as they could open malicious web sites.

Craig,

I made revisions to the Ethics Policy regarding the number of the district court and what the Michigan Court Rules are called. The Ethics policy has teeth to it. I would include the social media policy. Overall the Policy is very broad. My concern is that you get a lot of these complaints and it gets expensive. If Council is ok with that, then they can go ahead with it.

Brook J. Bisonet

128 Columbus Avenue
Grand Haven, Michigan 49417
Direct: 616.350.6232
Main: 616.847.1234
Fax 616.847.1223

On Wed, Feb 15, 2023 at 1:52 PM Craig Bessinger <cbessinger@ferrysburg.org> wrote:

Brook,

I am putting the agenda together for the meeting on the 20th, I am out of the office tomorrow after 11AM.

Will you have anything on this for the meeting Monday, February 20? If not, I will place this on the March 6 agenda.

Craig Bessinger
An Ordinance to amend Chapter 32 of the City Code as amended, adding Section 32.80 Ethics

THE CITY OF FERRYBURG ORDAINS:

Section 1. Section 32.80 of Chapter 32 of the City Code, is added to read as follows:

§32.80 ESTABLISHED.

There is hereby added an Ethics Chapter of the city.

32.81 INTENT AND PURPOSE.

(A) It is the policy of the city to uphold, promote and demand the highest standards of ethics from all its employees and officials, whether elected, appointed or hired. City officers and employees (public servants) shall maintain the highest standards of personal integrity, truthfulness, honesty and fairness in carrying out their public duties; avoid any improprieties in their roles as public servants including the appearance of impropriety; and never use their city position or powers for improper personal gain.

(B) It is further the intent of this chapter that a public servant, regardless of whether specifically prohibited by this chapter, shall avoid any action, which might result in or create the appearance of:

1. Using public office or employment for private gain personal or monetary;

2. Giving improper preferential treatment to any person or organization;

3. Impeding government efficiency or economy;

4. A lack of independence or impartiality of action;

5. Making a government decision outside of official channels; or

6. Affecting adversely the confidence of the public in the integrity of the city.

(C) It is not the intent of this chapter to in any way limit the right or ability of any public servant to exercise his or her discretion in making legitimate policy decisions which are within their discretion so long as the action does not provide a special benefit to that person, relieve the public servant of a particular duty, or treat that person differently than other similarly situated city residents.

§32.82 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.
BUSINESS. A business entity includes any corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, firm, enterprise, franchise, association, organization, self-employed individual, holding company, joint stock company, receivership, trust or any legal entity organized for profit.

CITY. The City of Ferrysburg, a Michigan municipal corporation.

COMPENSATION. Payment in any form for real or personal property or services of any kind.

ELECTED OFFICER. Any person who is elected at a general or special election to any public office of the city and any person appointed to fill a vacancy in any office.

INTEREST. Any right, title or share in something, either personal, financial, legal or equitable, which is owned, held or controlled, in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, by a public servant.

PUBLIC SERVANT. Every individual appointed, hired or otherwise selected to an office, position, committee, board, task force or similar multi-member body with the city, or any subdivision thereof, whether the individual is paid or unpaid and any person elected or appointed to any public body of the city. PUBLIC SERVANT includes elected officer.

PUBLIC BODY. The City Council, and any board, authority, commission, committee, department, office or other agency of the city, and including the city.

QUESTION THE EMPLOYMENT STATUS. Imply, infer, suggest or otherwise state that an employee should be dismissed from employment with the city.

§ 32.83 FAIR AND EQUAL TREATMENT.

No public servant shall request, use or permit the use of any consideration, treatment, advantage or favor beyond that which is the general practice to grant or make available to the public at large. All public servants shall treat all citizens of the city with courtesy, impartiality, fairness and equality under the law. In addition, no elected official may question the employment status of any employee under the control of the City Manager unless that employee's contract or appointment is before the City Council and a resolution approving the action has been moved and seconded.

§32.84 PROHIBITED CONDUCT.

The following shall constitute violations of this chapter.

(A) General prohibition against conflict of interest. In order to avoid impropriety, or an appearance of conflict of interest, no current public servant should be involved in any activity that might be seen as conflicting with the conduct of official city business or as adverse to the interests of the city. Even the appearance of the following prohibited conduct alone may be sufficient to constitute a violation of this ethics chapter.

(B) Disclosure of confidential information and/or benefiting from confidential information. No public servant shall disclose or use any confidential, privileged or proprietary information gained by reason of his or her position for a purpose which is for other than a city purpose; provided, that nothing shall prohibit the disclosure or use of information which is a matter of public knowledge, or which is available to the public on request. For purposes of this division, the term CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION shall mean any information, oral or written, which comes to the attention of, or is available to, the public servants only because of his or her position with the city and is not a matter of public record.

(C) Improper use of city personnel and property. No public servant shall employ or use any person under his or her official control or direction for the personal benefit, gain or profit of the public servant or other. No public servant shall use city-owned vehicles, equipment, materials, money or property for personal or private convenience or personal gain, unless provided for in the City’s personnel manual. Nothing herein shall prohibit the use of city equipment or motor vehicles by public servants in accordance with written policies established by the City Council, City Manager or city department head concerned, nor shall this chapter be deemed to prohibit private use of surplus city property legally disposed of by the city or its departments in compliance with established procedures.

(D) Beneficial interest in business transaction or participation in a contract. No public servant shall participate or benefit from (monetarily or personally) in his or her capacity as a public servant in the making of a contract in which he or she has a financial interest, direct or indirect, or perform in regard to a contract some function which requires the exercise of discretion on behalf of the city. No public servant shall participate in contracts, loans, grants, rate-fixing or issuing permits involving a business in which he or she has a substantial interest; however, this provision shall not apply in the following circumstances:

(1) Contracting with the city where:

(a) The contract is awarded pursuant to sealed bids;

(b) The public servant is not involved directly or indirectly or otherwise refrains from participation in the decision on the award of the contract; and

(c) The City Council, after reviewing the circumstances, determines the award of the contract would be in the best interest of the city.

(2) Where the interest of the public servant in the business involves the holding of less than 1% of the securities in a publicly traded business or less than 5% of privately or closely held business and where the public servant will not have any involvement in the transaction on behalf of the contracting business.

(E) Engaging in certain private employment. No city employee or public servant shall engage in or accept private employment or render services for, any private interest when the employment or service is incompatible with the proper discharge of official duties or would tend to impair independence or judgment or action in the performance of official duties.

(F) Acceptance or solicitation of compensation, gifts, favors, rewards or gratuity. No public servant may, directly or indirectly, give or receive, or agree to give or receive, any compensation, gift, favor, reward, or gratuity for a matter connected with or related to the public servant’s services with the city which would tend to influence the manner in which the public servant performs his or her official duties, except this prohibition shall not apply to:
(1) Attendance of a public servant at a hosted meal when provided in conjunction with a meeting directly related to the conduct of city business or where official attendance by the city official as a city representative is required or in the best interest of the city;

(2) An award publicly presented in recognition of public service presented to the public servant; and

(3) Any gift valued at $100 or less, which cannot reasonably be presumed to influence the judgment of the public servant.

(G) Improper use of position. No public servant shall knowingly use his or her office or position to secure personal benefit, gain or profit, or use his or her position to secure special privileges or exceptions for himself, herself, or for the benefit, gain or profits of any other persons. No public servant shall represent his or her individual opinions as those of the city.

§32.85 MATTER REGARDING DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, ACTUAL AND POTENTIAL.

The following disclosure requirements are established to avoid both actual and potential conflict between the private self-interests and the public interest of public servants.

(A) Self-interest. No public servant, either on his or her behalf or on behalf of any other person, shall have an interest in any business transaction with any public body of the city, unless the person shall first make full public disclosure of the nature of the interest.

(B) Disclosure and disqualification. Whenever the performance of official duties shall require a public servant to deliberate and vote on any matter involving his or her financial or personal interest, that person shall publicly disclose the nature and extent of the interest and is disqualified from participating in the deliberations and voting on the matter.

(C) Dual employment. No public servant shall engage in employment with, or render services for, any person or entity, which has business transactions with any public body of the city, without first making full public disclosure of the nature and extent of the employment or services.

(D) Dual representation. A public servant shall make full public disclosure of business involving the city when attempting to use his or her official position to secure special privileges or exemptions for self or others.

§ 32.86 SOCIAL MEDIA

I. Purpose

To prohibit the inappropriate use of electronic communication systems, media imaging systems, networks, devices, and equipment and dissemination of inappropriate information, images, recordings, photographs or other materials by City personnel. This includes the use of social media. Social media is broadly defined as internet-based communications technology that provides immediacy, interactivity and the sharing of information across multiple platforms. The City allows the use of social media, where appropriate, to further the goals and missions of the
City. However, the City has an overriding interest and expectation in deciding what is "spoken" on behalf of the City through social media. This policy establishes guidelines for the use of social media by City Employees.

II. Applicability

This policy applies to all City Employees and approved volunteers, consultants, service providers and contractors performing business on behalf of the City ("Employees").

III. Policy

It is the policy of the City that all individuals identified in paragraph II abide by the policy set forth herein when using City information systems, which are defined as: computers and the services of both internal and external databases and information exchange networks, the internet, email, voice mail, mobile data terminals, facsimile machines, mobile telephones, lap top computers and social media ("Information Systems"). Communications sent by email may be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act or in litigation. No Employee shall have any expectation of privacy with regard to any information transmitted or stored on the City’s Information Systems.

IV. Procedure

A. Transmission of electronic messages and information on communications media provided for Employees of the City shall be treated with the same degree of propriety, professionalism and confidentiality as official written correspondence or public records.

B. The City allows City Employees with access to City Information Systems to utilize these devices whenever necessary. However, all Information Systems are the property of the City and use of any of these Information Systems is a privilege that is subject to revocation. Information Systems are intended for use in conducting official City business with limited exceptions noted in this policy.

C. Employees are advised that they do not maintain any right to privacy or ownership in Information Systems equipment of its contents or to include or install personally owned software.

D. The City’s administration reserves the right to access any of the records within the Information Systems at any time and to retain or dispose of those records in accordance with current law, and may require employees to provide passwords to files that have been encrypted or password protected.

E. The City reserves the right to access, for quality control purposes and/or for violations of this policy, date, electronic and voice transmissions of Employees conducting business in the City.

F. Personal and/or private use of City Information Systems to access social media sites is prohibited. However, City Information Systems may be used by Employees to check personal emails so long as it does not interfere with the Employee’s duties.
G. Accessing or transmitting materials from City Information Systems that involve the use of obscene language, images, jokes, sexually explicit materials, or messages that disparage or threaten the City, any person, group, or classification of individuals is prohibited regardless of whether the recipient has consented to or requested such materials.

H. Confidential, proprietary or sensitive information may be disseminated or made available through shared directories or networked systems only to individuals with a need and a right to know and when there is sufficient assurance that appropriate security of such information will be maintained. The dissemination of confidential, proprietary or sensitive information, including photographs, on social media sites or personal web pages is prohibited.

I. No Employee shall access or allow others to access any file or database of the City unless that person has a need and a right to such information. Personal identification and access codes shall not be revealed to any unauthorized source.

J. Employees are not to open email messages unless they are certain of the trustworthiness of the source.

K. Employees may not utilize email messages as a secure and confidential means of communication since subsequent direction of the message cannot be controlled.

L. Employees may not knowingly accept messages with inappropriate content as described in the policy and will immediately report it to their supervisor and then completely delete any such message inadvertently received when directed to do so.

M. Creating a web site or social media page that has any appearance of officially representing the City is prohibited without the express written approval of the City Council or designee. Any information added to the official City web page(s) or site(s) must have the written approval of the City Manager or designee prior to being accessible by the general public. Any Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or other similar social media page/account created on behalf of the City shall be for governmental information dissemination only and not in any way create a traditional public forum.

N. Employees shall not utilize Information Systems to spoof, masquerade or assume any identity or credentials of another individual.

O. The use of social media shall conform to all City policies prohibiting discrimination, retaliation and harassment of co-workers.

P. Employees shall not disclose the content of discussions and deliberations of a public body that took place during a session that was closed pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

Q. Employees shall not disclose information that is exempt from disclosure by the Michigan Freedom of Information Act.

R. Employees shall not disclose matters pertaining to strategy, positions, offers, and the like regarding pending litigation or negotiations regarding claims to which the City is a party.
S. Employees shall not disclose disciplinary proceedings regarding other employees.

T. Employees shall not disclose information that is subject to the privacy standards of HIPAA and of HIPAA policies adopted by the City.

§ 32.87 PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, CONTENTS.

Whenever a public disclosure is required by this chapter, it may be made orally on the record at a meeting of the public body involved, or in a writing filed with the Clerk, in both of which cases it shall be made a part of the record of a regular City Council meeting, and in either event shall include:

(A) The identity of all persons involved in the interest; and

(B) The source and amount of income derived from the interest that may be considered as resulting from employment, investment or gift. The person required to file a disclosure statement in accordance with the provisions of this chapter must verify, in writing, under penalty of perjury, the information in the statement is true and complete as far as he or she knows.

§ 32.88 DUTIES OF CLERK.

The Clerk shall accept all complaint alleging violations of this chapter.

§ 32.89 REQUEST FOR OPINION FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY.

(A) Any elected official may request, with the approval of the City Manager, the City Attorney provide an advisory opinion interpreting the effect or application of this chapter generally, or on questions directly relating to the propriety of their conduct in a particular situation.

(B) Any other public servant may request, with the approval of the City Manager, the City Attorney provide an advisory opinion interpreting the effect or application of this chapter generally, or on questions directly relating to the propriety of their conduct in a particular situation.

§ 32.90 DELIVERY OF COPIES OF ETHICS CODE TO PUBLIC SERVANTS.

The Clerk shall deliver a copy of this chapter to each public servant as soon as practicable after the enactment of this chapter, and to each new public servant at the time of employment or taking office. The Clerk shall also request that each person sign and return an acknowledgment of receipt of a copy of this chapter.

§ 32.91 COMPLAINT PROCEDURE.

(A) Any citizen of the city may submit a compliant in writing using the Ethics Complaint Form, alleging that one or more public servants have violated or may have violated any provision of this chapter within one month of the alleged violation.
(B) The complaint must be signed by the complainant and notarized, and must contain the following:

(1) The complainant's legal name and current mailing address;

(2) The name or names of any public servants who committed or may have committed the alleged violation;

(3) A summary of the facts giving rise to the complaint;

(4) Some explanation of why those facts constitute or may constitute a violation of the ethics chapter; and

(5) Any one filing a false complaint will be subject to the penalty(s) for perjury.

(C) The complaints must be filed with the City Clerk. Upon receipt, the Clerk shall promptly provide a copy of the complaint to the public servant named therein and to the City Attorney.

(D) The City Attorney will evaluate the complaint, applying the law of the standards of conduct to the facts alleged in the complaint.

(E) Within 21 days from receipt of the complaint, the City Attorney shall:

(1) Issue a report including a copy of the complaint, concluding whether facts alleged in the complaint, if true, would rise to a violation of this chapter, and require the public servant named in the complaint issue a formal statement, in writing and addressed to the City Attorney, outlining his or her position.

(2) The City Attorney shall determine whether the public servant named in the complaint did commit a violation of the ethics chapter and file a formal complaint with the 58th District Court; or

(3) Dismiss the complaint.

(F) The City Attorney shall promptly provide a formal complaint or a dismissal of the complaint to the appropriate city department.

(G) If a complaint is filed against the City Attorney and any of his or her designees, the City Council shall designate a neutral body to investigate the complaint and if necessary prosecute the violation.

§32.92 WHERE TO SEEK REVIEW.

(A) Civil penalty. If ordered to pay a civil penalty, an appeal may be taken in the form of a trial de novo in the District Court, which shall hear the case in accordance with the Michigan Court Rules and applicable local rules of the District Court. This appeal may be taken by filing in the District Court, a notice of appeal within 21 days of the date of the final written order. The person filing the appeal shall also, within 21 days, serve a copy of the notice of appeal on the person who issued the final written order and/or the City Attorney, or his or her designee, and file acknowledgment or affidavit of service in the District Court.
(B) Discipline or removal. If a public servant is disciplined or removed from office, then the person disciplined or removed from office may seek whatever remedies exist at law or equity.

(C) Termination of contracts. If termination of contract(s) is ordered, the person whose contract(s) was/were terminated may seek whatever remedies exist at law or in equity.

§32.93 PENALTY.

(A) Upon a finding of a violation of any provision of this chapter, the City Attorney is empowered to take any one or more of the following actions:

(I) Discipline up to and including termination or removal from any position whether paid or unpaid, excluding elected positions, only after notice and hearing as provided by law; and/or

(2) Termination or invalidation of contract(s) entered into in violation of this chapter.

(B) Upon a finding of a violation of the applicable provisions of this chapter, the District Court is empowered to assess the following penalties:

(I) Any public servant who violated a provision of this chapter may be subject to fine of up to $500 for each violation;

(2) Any public servant who is found to have violated a provision(s) of this chapter shall be deemed guilty of misconduct.

(C) The various penalties provided under this division are cumulative to other remedies provided under state law or under the Charter and ordinances of the City.

Section 5. This Ordinance was approved and adopted by the City Council on the___day of __________, 2023 and shall take effect upon publication in the Grand Haven Tribune, a newspaper of general circulation in the City of Ferrysburg.
ETHICS COMPLAINT FORM

(This Complaint form should be filed with the Clerk of the local unit.)

Any person may file a Complaint if he or she has information that a public officer or employee has violated the Ethics Ordinance. It is not enough to merely allege that a public officer or employee has acted improperly. A Complaint must contain credible information supporting the allegation(s) that one or more of the Standards of Conduct contained in the Ethics Ordinance have been violated.

This Form is not required, but its use is encouraged as a Complaint must be in writing and verified by oath or affirmation. A Complaint must be filed with the Clerk within one (1) month of the date the offense is alleged to have occurred. A Complaint is deemed filed upon receipt by the Clerk.

Complainant: ________________________________

Address: ________________________________

Telephone: ___________ Email: ___________

Public officer/employee subject to complaint (i.e. Respondent):

Public position held by Respondent: ________________________________

Approximate date of alleged violation(s): ________________________________

Description of conduct by Respondent and section of Ethics Ordinance alleged to have been violated:

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

Please attach additional sheets if needed.)
, ________________, the Complainant herein, being duly sworn, state (or affirm) that the allegation(s) contained herein is/are true, except so far as they are stated to be based upon information, and to the extent they are based upon information, I believe them to be true.

This Ethics Complaint was executed on this ___ day of ______________, 20__, by:

Signature of Complainant: ____________________________

Print name of Complainant: ____________________________

STATE OF MICHIGAN) )
COUNTY OF ______ )

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me in __________County, Michigan this day of ______________, 20__. 

Notary Public

__________________________ County, Michigan
Acting in ____________ County, Michigan
My Commission Expires: __________________

Any person who files a Complaint alleging a violation of the Ethics Ordinance knowing that Material information provided therein is not true or that information provided therein was Made in reckless disregard for the truth may be subject to a fine of up to $500 as well as the reasonable costs incurred by the City of Ferrysburg in investigating the Complaint and the reasonable costs incurred by the Respondent in responding to the Complaint as provided in the Ethics Ordinance.
2021-22 Economic Development Task Force Report

December 7, 2022

Mission Statement: The EDTF will analyze Ferrysburg’s current economic development. Through an exploration of alternative ways to promote further development congruent with the City’s Master Plan, the EDTF will make recommendations to City Council where appropriate.

Members: John Reifel, Chairperson
          Roger Jonas, Vice Chairperson
          Travis Andrews
          Scott Blease
          Elizabeth Butler
          Alec Magaluk
          Jerry Sias

          Planning Commission
          Planning Commission
          Representative at Large
          Ferrysburg Mayor
          The Chamber of Commerce
          Representative at Large
          Ferrysburg Councilperson

Note: After all appointments were made by City Council the first meeting was held on July 14, 2021 and for the remainder of that year Mayor Rebecca Hopp and Councilperson Bill Cate served on the EDTF. City Manager Craig Bessinger served as Recorder for EDTF meetings.

Activities

At its regular monthly and additional special meetings, the EDTF did the following:

- Developed a Mission Statement
- Reviewed recommendations from the 2005 EDTF and what has been accomplished
- Reviewed status of plans for new fixed span bridge to replace US-31 drawbridge and of new Smith Bayou bridge
- Ferrysburg authorized a Brownfield Redevelopment Finance Authority in 2008. Volunteer Roman Wilson of Fishbeck tutored the Task Force on how brownfield programs work
- Sent information to all business owners in Ferrysburg about state sanctioned programs to help businesses ((Downtown Development Authority (DDA), Industrial Property Tax Abatement (PA of 1974, as amended), Commercial Rehabilitation Act (PA 210 of 2005), and Brownfield Redevelopment opportunities)) and invited them to a Public Forum / Information Session about the programs on October 20, 2021. Also, included a questionnaire (with return postage) asking what Ferrysburg could do better to assist their businesses
- Held a Public Forum / Information Session about the various programs designed to help businesses on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 7 p.m. Roman Wilson from Fishbeck explained Brownfield Redevelopment Authorities while Elizabeth Butler, Task Force
member and Director of Economic Development Strategic Directions of The Chamber of Commerce, explained the remaining programs

- Held detailed discussions about the Pine Street, Van Wagoner, and 174th Avenue corridors
- Held detailed discussions about how Ferrysburg can make a favorable impression to the growing number of visitors to the new Ottawa Sands County Park
- Held detailed discussions about designating and developing a clearly identifiable downtown
- On Friday, June 17 held a walking tour with Pine Street corridor business owners mobilized by Elizabeth Butler
- On Friday, August 19 held a walking tour with Service District business owners mobilized by Elizabeth Butler
- Held joint meeting on October 19, 2022 with the Ferrysburg Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Roman Wilson of Fishbeck provided guidance on how economic synergy could be generated by replacing the current BRA with a new body that has both BRA and economic development responsibilities. EDTF and BRA members agreed that this should be one of the EDTF’s recommendations.

Economic Overview

Population growth is the best measure of a city’s economic health. Ferrysburg’s population grew 6.57% between 2010 and 2020 and this is comparable to Grand Haven’s 5.75% and Spring Lake’s 6.84% growth rates. The good news is that increasing numbers of households want to live here. Business community feedback from our multiple outreach efforts did not reveal major, pressing issues. So, before listing recommendations to City Council we would like to share thoughts on five specific areas of general interest: drawbridge replacement, downtown Ferrysburg, Johnston Boiler, Ottawa Sands County Park, and Zip code.

1. Replacement of drawbridge with fixed span bridge

Michigan is currently investing a large amount of money to upgrade and improve the Bascule Bridge over the Grand River and five other structures nearby on US-31 / M-104. The state informs us that though there are plans to eventually replace the drawbridge with a fixed span bridge that will not happen for decades to come. It is important to know this as construction of a higher, fixed span bridge would greatly affect Ferrysburg and business investment decisions in the city.

2. Where is downtown Ferrysburg?

Ferrysburg does not have a clearly defined downtown. Most would probably say that if we have a downtown, it is the Pine Street corridor. But, topography and state road restrictions combine to make that a challenging call. As Task Force member Andrews observed, urban planners would call Pine Street a “stroad” meaning it is a critical road for moving traffic quickly, while simultaneously trying to be a street with slow traffic, businesses and pedestrians, and ultimately failing at both. Our Pine Street walk with business owners also revealed a deafening
amount of noise on the section south of Third Street. Perhaps Pine Street north of Third Street and the Service District could collectively evolve into a “downtown,” but City Hall is not there and parking is limited. Alternatively, undeveloped property on 174th Avenue north of Dogwood would allow for a clean start to creating a downtown. This would require a zoning change for this stretch of 174th Avenue.

3. Johnston Boiler property

Johnston Boiler dates back to 1864 and has been an integral part of Ferrysburg’s economic development. Though it was built on the water for transportation needs, trucks now serve that purpose. The Johnston Boiler property constitutes Ferrysburg’s LI-3 zoning district. It has that special designation because the Planning Commission recognizes that its waterfront location is not the highest and best use for that parcel of land. Should Johnston Boiler ever decide to move the property would probably be converted to a waterfront amenity type use. The EDTF recognizes Johnston Boiler’s great citizenship over the years and is opposed to any effort to encourage Johnston Boiler to move.

4. Ottawa Sands County Park

As the park develops and the word spreads about this gem, growing numbers of visitors will come. Non-residents will reach the park from the north using Van Wagoner Road and 174th Avenue or from the south using Third Street and 174th Avenue. These trips to the park will give Ferrysburg an opportunity to positively impress non-residents with how great a place Ferrysburg is to live.

5. Zip Code

Interactions with the business community revealed a continuing desire by many for a single zip code for the entire city. This was one of the recommendations from the 2005 Economic Development Task Force. But, follow up at that time revealed that the U.S. Post Office did not support it. Those hoping for a single zip code do so even though it would mean that they would need to update their stationery, directory listings, etc.

**Recommendations to City Council for Economic Development**

1. Pursue the addition of wider sidewalks, a fishing platform, and a bike lane to the critical new Smith Bayou bridge that has been approved for MDOT funding thanks to former Mayor Rebecca Hopp’s campaign of outreach to the Michigan Municipal League, MDOT, Grand Region Bridge Commission, USDOT, and state politicians. This should have immediate attention as MDOT may already have begun bridge design engineering.
2. Work with Grand Haven and Spring Lake Village to jointly select a preferred plan when MDOT begins planning for a replacement for the drawbridge over the Grand River.
3. Recommend to MDOT that Ferrysburg exit signs be placed on southbound US-31 before the two Ferrysburg exits.
4. To avoid projecting a depressed look on the south end of Pine Street, do all the city can to promote/encourage repurposing or replacing the vacant Pizza Hut and developing the undeveloped lots to the north.

5. Citywide periodically clean and remove vegetation from curbs and streets to make them visually attractive.

6. Work with MDOT to replace and maintain their fence along the US-31 right of way.

7. Recommend that Johnston Boiler, the oldest continuously operating business in Ferrysburg, and other historically significant places be brought into Ferrysburg’s identity with historical markers.

8. Encourage the Planning Commission to continue its efforts to promote economic development in the Core Commercial (CC) and Service (S) zoning districts by reduced setbacks, increased lot coverage, and mixed commercial/residential construction (allow residential on second floor of retail businesses).

9. To increase parking in the Core Commercial (CC) and Service (S) districts consider reconfiguring the traffic lanes on Pine Street north of 4th Street to Ridge Avenue so as to make the curb lane on the east side of Pine Street available for parking.

10. Revise the Zoning Ordinance to make signage options more business friendly.

11. Promote economic development on the currently undeveloped stretches of LI-2 and GC zoned property on Van Wagoner Street.

12. Promote economic development on undeveloped parcels on both sides of 174th Avenue. See the last two sentences in item #2 (Where is downtown Ferrysburg?) above.

13. The railroad crossing on Third Street should be frequently inspected and, if in need of repair, the city should promptly make the needed repairs.

14. Install helpful signage for visitors to travel to Ottawa Sands County Park and make certain that the approaches from the north (Van Wagoner and 174th Avenue) and from the south (Third Street and 174th Avenue) are well maintained so as to provide a favorable impression of Ferrysburg.

15. Now that the Zoning Ordinance has been updated to allow/encourage Electric Vehicle Charging Stations pursue policies that encourage their installation.

16. Replace the current Brownfield Redevelopment Authority with a newly constituted body that has both BRA and economic development responsibilities. This new body should be encouraged to work with the Chamber of Commerce to identify economic development possibilities. The new body would be small and would meet four times per year or as circumstances warrant.
February 14, 2023

TO: Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Craig Bessinger, City Manager

RE: Work Session

By policy, City Council is to consider at its first monthly meeting whether or not to schedule a work session for a special City Council meeting, or to include a work session as an agenda item at the next regular meeting.

At the June 6, 2022, meeting, the consensus of City Council was to schedule a work session on the first monthly meeting.

Suggested topics for a work session:

- Community Energy Plan
- Term Limits

cc: Amber Schaner, City Clerk