

**VILLAGE OF CASSOPOLIS
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
September 13, 2021**

President Johnson called the Regular Council Meeting of the Cassopolis Village Council to order at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call:

Council Members Present: Luckey, Kelly, Conner (arrived at 6:33pm), Johnson, Williams, Danzy-Yeager and Pedersen

Council Members Absent:

The Pledge of Allegiance was given in unison.

Consent Agenda: Danzy motioned, seconded by Pedersen, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- A. Regular Meeting Minutes – August 9, 2021
- B. Workshop Meeting Minutes – August 23, 2021
- C. Tree Removal Project
- D. Resolution 2021-12 PA 152
- E. Resolution 2021-13 Hilton Street STBG Funds
- F. Resolution 2021-14 W State Street STBG Funds
- G. Ordinance Update Council Pay
- H. Approval of Invoices - \$360,713.41

Roll Call Vote:

Ayes: Kelly, Johnson, Williams, Danzy-Yeager and Pedersen, Luckey

Nays:

Absent: Conner

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

Public Comment:

Council member Kelly read a letter from Steve Schroeder who wanted to recognize and compliment Officer Obermesik for his character and the way he addresses things in the Village.

Kelli Fiala expressed her appreciation for the improvements to the Village; they are beautiful and she has enjoyed seeing the evolution. She expressed her opposition to the proposed water park on Stone Lake. She believes there will be an environmental impact, there isn't enough parking, and would disturb the tranquility of the lake.

Bob Fiala also is in opposition for the proposed water park, he believes it will disrupt the bluegills and swans.

Fran McCann spoke on a situation on a pier in Chicago and was happy there are life rings on our pier. Additionally, he expressed his opposition with the proposed water park and his opinion regarding Ted Gogol.

Dan Strefling asked if anyone looked into the environmental impact of the proposed water park. Conner responded that EGLE would be the state agency to determine any impact. Johnson expressed the proposed water park is not our decision; the state makes the decision.

Nick Dillingham said he is opposed to the proposed water park and it would impact the type of people coming to this lake. The more people on the lake, the less the wildlife will flourish. He is also concerned about traffic and parking.

Justin Neuerberg said he has a lot of the same concerns that others addressed and wanted to know if the proposed water park would be private or Village owned. He wanted to know more about cost, parking, security. He feels that the owner of the business is getting more of a benefit than the other businesses in the Village. Conner responded that other downtown businesses get benefits, like not having to pay for parking.

Jan Strefling asked about liability of the proposed water park. Conner responded the private entity that owns it would be responsible.

Managers' Report:

Village Manager Sarratore highlighted:

- Parkshore Drive project is wrapping up and should be completed soon.
- The passing of resolutions 2021-13 and 2021-14 will be used to apply for the grant funding.
- Village Manager Sarratore, President Johnson and Building Inspector Adam Dahlgren are planning to go to Texas and tour the Hydro Aluminum facility.
- The Rock the Block event this past Saturday was well attended, it was faster to close out at the end of the night and we had great volunteers. The next event will be 10/9.
- A leadership summit will be hosted on Wednesday with the intention of bringing people of the county together to communicate and collaborate. The hope is it will spur into more meetings and create a community wide calendar.
- There are some conferences coming up and she will be in and out of the office over the next few weeks.

Miscellaneous: Council Concerns/Items:

Pedersen asked if were covered by 211. He asked about the connector project and what changes MDOT is asking for. Village Manager Sarratore said yes and they are asking for bump outs, signage and pedestrian crosswalks. Should we need more safety measures, MDOT will do a study and pay for any adjustments.

Williams asked about a letter for Brian to show appreciation from Council. He expressed to the residents that questions or concerns about the proposed water park should be discussed with Mr. Gogol and he believes this will be an asset for the Village. He introduced Bob Durm as the new director of Cass County Transit. Bob also introduced himself and explained that they are trying to provide affordable transport in the village.

Kelly said we're going to have more conversation about the proposed water park; she is not in favor of it and encouraged residents to come out and make sure Council is making the right decision.

Conner explained if Mr. Gogol gets approval from EGLE there is nothing we can do about it. He encouraged residents to voice their opinions.

Johnson said thank you to everyone for being here and he is glad they are here and giving input.

DPW Superintendent Anderson informed Council of a lunch & learn tomorrow at 11am to discuss generator maintenance. Lunch is being provided by Rawley Lichnerowicz. A second one will take place on the 20th to discuss beach maintenance.

Adjournment:

President Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m. by unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Tonia Betty, Village Clerk

Reviewed by: _____
David L. Johnson, Village President