

CITY OF REED CITY
REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
February 10, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.
227 East Lincoln Avenue, Reed City, Michigan

Mayor Meinert called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 227 E. Lincoln Avenue, Reed City, Michigan.

Present: Mayor, Roger Meinert, Mayor Pro Tem, Dan Burchett, Council Members: Trevor Guiles, Brad Nixon, Charles Lupo and Nate Bailey. Nicole Woodside was absent. The City Attorney, David Porteous, was also in attendance. Department Heads attending were Kadee Kidd, Rich Rehkopf, Chris Lockhart, Rich Saladin, Jeffrey Stein and Amanda Grant. The meeting was opened with the pledge to the flag. There were citizens in the audience.

Agenda: Motion by Guiles, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to accept the agenda as amended. Affirmed by voice vote.

Minutes: Motion by Burchett, seconded by Guiles, **CARRIED**, to accept the minutes of the January 13, 2025, Council meeting as presented.

Bills: Motion by Burchett, seconded by Nixon, **CARRIED**, to approve paying total amount of \$1,521,016.41 as presented. Roll call vote. Voting yes were Nixon, Burchett, Meinert, Guiles, Bailey and Lupo.

Reports: Fire Chief Jeffrey Stein, Police Chief Christopher Lockhart, Rich Rehkopf, DPW, and Curt Brackenrich, WWTP, filed written reports. Kadee Kidd provided Financial Reports by email including a Revenue/Expenditure Report as of January 31, 2025. Motion by Bailey, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to approve the Department Head reports as submitted. Affirmed by voice vote.

Audience Presentations:

Chamber of Commerce:

City Manager Rich Saladin presented on behalf of the Chamber to continue to offer a discount for the VIP levels of \$100 Daily Depot Rental rate. Motion by Meinert, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to approve the discount until the end of the current Chamber lease date, December 31, 2026. Roll call vote. Voting yes were Nixon, Burchett, Bailey, Guiles, Meinert and Lupo.

Jeff Anderson, MI Class:

Jeff Anderson presented MI Class as an additional option for the City to use for investing. No action was taken.

Russ Nehmer, Osceola County Commissioner:

Nehmer updated the Council on the Osceola County Board of Commissioner's meeting held on February 4, 2025.

Unfinished Business: Discussion on Rental Inspection Ordinance was tabled for further discussion while City Manager gathered more information.

New Business:

1. Motion by Guiles, seconded by Lupo, **CARRIED**, to approve resolution 2025-03 Establishing poverty guidelines from property tax contributions for 2025. Roll call vote. Voting yes were Nixon, Burchett, Meinert, Guiles, Bailey and Lupo.
2. Motion by Guiles, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to approve street closure request by Yoplait. Roll call vote. Voting yes were Nixon, Burchett, Meinert, Guiles, Bailey and Lupo.
3. Motion by Guiles, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to approve Change Order 855455-1 CO 03 – Gerber Construction Meter Installations for \$6,990.00. Roll call vote. Voting yes were Nixon, Burchett, Meinert, Guiles, Bailey and Lupo.
4. Motion by Meinert seconded by Bailey, **CARRIED**, to approve 855455-3 CO 02 – Gerber Construction LSLR for a contract decrease of (\$64,521.20). Roll call vote. Voting yes were Nixon, Burchett, Meinert, Guiles, Bailey and Lupo.
5. Motion by Guiles, seconded by Burchett, **CARRIED**, to approve Change Order 855450-2 CO 3 (DWSRF23/DWSRF24) Gerber Construction for additional support of New Well Driveway for \$51,651.00. Roll call vote. Voting yes were Nixon, Burchett, Meinert, Guiles, Bailey and Lupo.
6. Motion by Guiles, seconded by Bailey, **CARRIED**, to approve Change Order 8, project #181682, phase 2 for the asbestos abatement work in the amount of \$40,000.00, with \$10,000.00 already applied. Roll call vote. Voting yes were Nixon, Burchett, Meinert, Guiles, Bailey and Lupo.
7. Motion by Guiles, seconded by Bailey, **CARRIED**, to approve 2024 bid for a new truck through MiDeal for \$46,865.00. Roll call vote. Voting yes were Nixon, Burchett, Meinert, Guiles, Bailey and Lupo.
8. Motion by Meinert, seconded by Bailey, **CARRIED**, to approve seeking competitive bids for (2) floating aerators in the WAS Basin for the WWTP.
9. Motion by Meinert, seconded by Bailey, **CARRIED**, to approve seeking competitive bids for (3) variable frequency drives for the existing Aeration Blowers for WWTP.
10. Motion by Guiles, seconded by Bailey, **CARRIED**, to approve joint resource agreement between the village of Marion and the City of Reed City.
11. Motion by Meinert seconded by Lupo to reject both agreements presented for the usage of the new Reed City Logo, **FAILED**, roll call vote. Voting yes were Nixon, Meinert and Lupo, voting no were Burchett, Bailey and Guiles.

Motion by Guiles, seconded by Bailey, **CARRIED**, to accept the agreement with amendments, roll call vote. Voting yes were, Bailey, Lupo, Guiles. Voting no were Meinert and Nixon. Burchett abstained. A written letter by Lupo was submitted to the Council.

Honorable members of the City Council,

As a recently elected member of this council, a former member of the Planning Committee, and Chair of the Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee, I address you today February 10th, 2025 - regarding the newly designed logo for our city's 150th anniversary.

In 2023, our committee embarked on the exciting task of creating a new logo to commemorate this milestone. We believed this symbol should reflect our community, and mirroring the process used for our previous logo in 1975, we invited public submissions. From these, we selected Sarah Spruit, Lyndsey Eccles, and Carrie Allen, three talented individuals who volunteered their time and expertise to lead this important project. Unfortunately, Ms. Allen's other commitments prevented her full participation, though she generously shared her initial ideas. Ms. Spruit and Ms. Eccles, with input from the Sesquicentennial Committee, city planning, and Council, and utilizing my Adobe Creative Cloud account access, collaborated to create the logo that was subsequently presented and approved by this council. I was immensely proud of this new symbol. It represented the next chapter of our city's story, a symbol created by our community for our community, just as the 1975 logo had been. My excitement, however, was short-lived.

Despite the logo's approval, obtaining a copy for merchandise production proved challenging. Delays ensued, even after the design work was complete. Concerns about designer credit were raised, which I addressed by assuring the designers their contributions would be recognized. Then, the situation took a troubling turn. Following a community member's use of the logo for a fundraiser, the issue of rights and copyrights arose, transforming this volunteer community effort into a potential legal dispute. As a former journalist, photographer, and graphic designer, I understand and respect intellectual property rights. I have experienced the frustration of having my own work used without permission. Designers absolutely have the right to protect their work. However, when individuals generously offer their skills and time to benefit the community, the expectation is that their contribution is a gift to that community, not a service to be leveraged for personal gain.

The current demands from Ms. Spruit and Ms. Eccles are, in my opinion, unacceptable in this context. This situation has diminished the very symbol that was intended to unite us as we celebrate our sesquicentennial. It has tarnished the spirit of community collaboration that was so central to this project.

Therefore, I move that we rescind our approval of the current logo and instead reinstate the logo designed and gifted to our city by its students in 1975. This logo, which we still use today, represents a true gift to the community and embodies the spirit of volunteerism and civic pride that should define our sesquicentennial celebration. Let us honor that legacy and reaffirm our commitment to community collaboration over individual gain.

Charles L. Lupo
City of Reed City Council Member

Councilperson Nate Bailey invited Sarah Spruit to address the Council in response to the discussion. Sarah spoke to council expressing her desire to come to an agreement with the City of Reed City to obtain the Logo in discussion.

Consent Agenda:

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Lupo, **CARRIED**, to approve consent agenda. Affirmed by voice vote.

Meeting Extension:

Motion by Meinert, seconded by Guiles, **CARRIED**, to approve council meeting to continue past 9 o'clock. Affirmed by voice vote.

City Managers Report:

City Manager Rich Saladin provided a written report along with updating council on the incredible work on all the projects going on in the City. Saladin proposed having a tour of the Wastewater Plant with the engineer in the future. Saladin commented that the City's department heads are exceptional and was very thankful for the outstanding upkeep of snow by the DPW.

Mayors Report:

Lupo has bills in March.

Attorney Report:

Attorney David Porteous submitted a written report from Mike Figliomeni about Earned Sick Time Act. This is not in effect as of now, and his office will communicate any further developments. City Manager mentioned that he and the City Treasurer are prepared and have a plan in place if ESTA does pass.

Council member comments:


Guiles thanked the council for working diligently to come to agreements on issues that arise. He also thanked the DPW crew for their exceptional work.

Audience Comments:

Engineer Josh Redner from Fishbeck presented positive feedback for the WWTP project and thanked everyone for their help getting to this point.

Adjourned:

Mayor Meinert adjourned the meeting at 8:58.


Amanda Grant,
Clerk