

MEMBERS PRESENT: CRAWFORD, WELLS, BUECHLER, BRADLEY, KISH, BRUCKNER AND ARMBRUSTER

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

ALSO PRESENT: FIRE CHIEF FRONIMOS  
 CONNIE NEESE, PARKS COMMISSION  
 ROB MONTGOMERY, PARKS COMMISSION  
 PATTI BUNDY, UTILITY BILLING CLERK

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Wells, to approve the Minutes of the REGULAR MEETING of February 21, 2024.  
 Vote, Unanimous. MOTION PASSED.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:** \*

Karen Ahearn requesting the Board place a moratorium on solar energy development.

Sandra Richardson regarding a placing a moratorium on solar energy development.

Vance Richardson regarding importance of Board standing behind community in relation to solar energy development.

Rob Montgomery regarding Item #3, New Business: Resolution increasing quarterly water/sewer charges and the recent meter upgrade.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Armbruster, seconded by Bruckner, to approve the Agenda, as printed and posted. Vote, Unanimous.  
 MOTION PASSED.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

|                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| GENERAL FUND                  | \$ 2,213,022.71 |
| FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND          | \$ 1,008,363.42 |
| FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND | \$ 188,658.64   |
| POLICE PROTECTION FUND        | \$ 184,448.67   |
| TRASH / RECYCLING FUND        | \$ 71,622.68    |
| BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND      | \$ 129,713.06   |
| UTILITY RECEIVING FUND        | \$ 2,400,087.43 |
| TOTAL                         | \$ 6,195,916.61 |
| MISCELLANEOUS PROJECTS        | \$ 813,432.28   |
| GRAND TOTAL                   | \$ 7,009,348.89 |

Motion by Buechler, seconded by Armbruster, to receive the Treasurer's Report, as given. Roll Call Vote, 7/0.  
 MOTION PASSED. TOTAL TREASURER'S REPORT APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 7,009,348.89.

**BILLS PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL:**

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| GENERAL FUND                  | \$ 19,384.18 |
| FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND          | \$ 1,432.16  |
| FIRE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND | \$ 0.00      |
| POLICE PROTECTION FUND        | \$ 0.00      |
| TRASH / RECYCLING FUND        | \$ 61,753.31 |
| BUILDING DEPARTMENT FUND      | \$ 0.00      |
| UTILITY RECEIVING FUND        | \$ 15,671.87 |
| GRAND TOTAL                   | \$ 98,241.52 |

Motion by Bradley, seconded by Wells, to pay bills, as presented. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. MOTION PASSED.  
 BILLS APPROVED IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ 98,241.52.

\* According to Section 6 of the Charter Township of Fort Gratiot By-Laws adopted 02/20/2003.

CORRESPONDENCE: NONE

PUBLIC HEARING(S): NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Motion by Crawford, seconded by Bradley, to move to a **Closed Session**, in order to consult with Township Attorney regarding trial or settlement strategy in connection with specific pending litigation in the matter of Portside Solar, LLC v Fort Gratiot Township, ET. AL., St Clair County Court Case No. 24-000048-AA. Time, 7:07 o'clock p.m. Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED. CLOSED SESSION APPROVED.**

**7:55 O'CLOCK P.M. - REGULAR MEETING RECONVENED.**

Motion by Crawford, seconded by Armbruster, to reject the Portside Solar, LLC settlement offer.  
Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. Motion by Buechler, seconded by Wells, to approve the request to post and fill any vacant Seasonal Ground Maintenance position(s), at a starting wage of \$18.60/hour, with employment beginning April 1, 2024 and ending October 31, 2024.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* Grounds Maintenance staff: One (1) Foreman, Four (4) Seasonal Crew Members (04/01-10/31); and One (1) Crew Member from mid-May to the first part of August (typically a college student).

Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

3. Motion by Bradley, seconded by Bruckner, to adopt Resolution 2024-002, Amending Appendix "A", Chapter 36, Utilities, increasing quarterly water consumption and quarterly sewer treatment charges, effective January 1, 2024 and billed on April 1, 2024.

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* Quarterly Water Consumption Charges increase from \$41.00/1000 cf to \$42.75/1000 cf; and Quarterly Sewer Treatment Charges increase from \$37.00/1000 cf of water used to \$38.50/1000 cf of water used.  
\* Increase is on commodity rate and does not affect "Ready to Serve" fee.  
\* City of Port Huron is increasing our rates by approx. 5% due to improvement & maintenance projects. This increase represents approximately 4%

Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

4. Motion by Bruckner, seconded by Buechler, to adopt Resolution 2024-003, In Support of submitting *Request for FY25 Appropriations* to Senator Peters for "Parker West".

POINTS OF DISCUSSION: \* Will be requesting \$300,000 for assistance with Parker Road Sanitary Sewer project.  
\* Letters of Support received from Representative Beeler, County Parks Director Dennis Delor, EDA President Dan Casey, Fort Gratiot Rotary President Eric Hansen and Port Huron Chamber of Commerce Thelma Castillo.  
\* Possible funding if application is rejected could be through ARPA funds.

Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

**NEW BUSINESS, CONTINUED:**

5. Motion by Kish, seconded by Bruckner, to place and advertise, both, the Krafft Road Forced Sewer Main; and Parker Road Sanitary Sewer Pump Station and Forced Sewer Main, out for bid.

- POINTS OF DISCUSSION:
- \* The Krafft project is to replace the crooked section of forced main sewer pipe from Sewer Station 12 to the City of Port Huron. This line handles 90% of the sewage sent to Port Huron for treatment. The past couple years we have had 3 breaks in this section of pipe. The Krafft forced main is budgeted to be done this year using Sewer Maintenance and Improvement funds.
  - \* The Parker Road Sanitary Sewer Pump Station and Force Sewer Main is needed to serve the RV Campground and for future development of the Parker Road Recreation properties. The Parker Sewer could receive funding assistance. Bid numbers will determine the amount of funding needed and funding opportunities. Last year I applied for assistance for FY24 Appropriations from Senator Peters. We made the list, not the award. We did receive a grant to cover the design engineering costs through our County Commissioner.
  - \* Any bids will still be brought back to the Board for acceptance.

Roll Call Vote, 7/0. **MOTION PASSED.**

**BOARD DISCUSSION:**

- Application to Congresswoman McClain's office for appropriations to replace box culvert over Brace Road Drain on State Road due on Friday. (Estimated Cost - \$225,000.00). Letters of Support from Sheriff King, Homeland Security, Fort Gratiot Fire Department and Tri-Hospital EMS.
- Water and Sewer Ordinance Amendments.
- Meeting with Priority Health, sponsors wishing to put in a fitness center in the park.
- Presidential Primary Election update. 97 Early Voters for first time.
- 2023 Property Taxes have been turned over to the County.
- Blue Water Area Transit brochure.
- Christopher Bolt, Assessing Department, resigning effective March 8<sup>th</sup>. Looking at restructuring Assessing Dept.

**CITIZENS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD:** NONE

Motion by Kish, seconded by Armbruster, to adjourn. Time, 8:10 o'clock p.m. Vote, Unanimous. **MOTION PASSED. MEETING ADJOURNED.**



ROBERT D. BUECHLER, CLERK  
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

RDB/RCC/vo

ROBERT C. CRAWFORD, SUPERVISOR  
FORT GRATIOT CHARTER TOWNSHIP

The Charter Township of Fort Gratiot complies with the "Americans with Disabilities Act" and if auxiliary aids or services are required at the meeting for individuals with disabilities, please contact the Township Clerk, 3720 Keewahdin Road, Fort Gratiot MI 48059, (810)385.4489, three days prior to said meeting.