

**CITY OF YALE  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
February 14, 2022**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro Tem Sherri Knecht.

Present: Council members Anthony Hackett, Patti Kendzierski, Sherri Knecht, Brenda Krzak, Tammy Hazel, and Sharon Krosnicki. City Manager Ian Kempf and City Clerk Ashley Aldea

Absent:

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all**

**22-017** P Motion by Krzak, seconded by Hazel to approve the agenda as presented. .  
**PASSED**

**22-018** P Motion by Krzak, seconded by Hazel to approve the minutes of January 10, 2022 as presented. **PASSED**

**22-019** P Motion by Krzak, seconded by Kendzierski to approve bills and draw checks for the same. *Roll call vote, Ayes: Hackett, Hazel, Kendzierski, Krosnicki, Knecht and Krzak. Nays: none.* **PASSED**

**Public Comments on agenda items -**

**Richard Busch, 124 Clark St-** Encouraged council to reconsider the vacation payout of former City Manager, in light of the \$14,000.00 IRS fine that the city incurred during his tenure.

**Paul Hortop, 114 McColl St-** Expects the city to provide written reasoning why an opt-out isn't being offered for new water meters.

**Kim Hortop, 114 McColl St-** Believes the City needs to put in writing the reasoning for not allowing an opt-out for new water meters.

*County Commissioner Greg McConnell was present to inform the Council that the county is donating an additional \$40,000.00 in ARP funds to the City of Yale.*

**22-020** P Motion by Kendzierski, seconded by Krzak to absorb the cost of a service line freeze for homes with inoperative shut-off valves. *Roll call vote, Ayes: Hazel, Kendzierski, Krosnicki, Knecht, Krzak, and Hackett. Nays: none.* **PASSED**

**22-021** P Motion by Krzak, seconded by Kendzierski to adopt **Resolution Y22-01**, authorizing obsolete water meter fee. *Roll call vote, Ayes: Kendzierski, Krosnicki, Knecht, Krzak, Hackett, and Hazel. Nays: none.* **PASSED**

**22-022** P Motion by Krzak, seconded by Knecht to approve **Resolution Y22-02**, authorizing pay out of personal time to former City Manager John Osborn upon his retirement.. *Roll call vote, Ayes: Krosnicki, Knecht, Krzak, Hackett, Hazel, and Kendzierski. Nays: none.* **PASSED**

**22-023** P Motion by Hackett, seconded by Krosnicki to accept the employment agreement for Police Chief Warren Head. *Roll call vote, Ayes: Knecht, Krzak, Hackett,*

Hazel, Kendzierski, and Krosnicki. Nays: none. **PASSED**

**City Manager's Report-** Insurance proposal from The Decker Agency has been distributed for council's review. Independent Custom Carts turned in an application for site plan review, but it has expired. Council will need to decide whether or not to extend the application. The Chamber of Commerce is holding a volunteer meeting on February 27 at 2:00 PM, and is looking for many volunteers.

**22-024**

**P Motion** by Krzak, seconded by Kendzierski to allow Independent Custom Carts a 90 day extension on the site plan application that was submitted, to be reviewed by the Planning Commission. *Roll call vote, Ayes: Krzak, Hazel, Kendzierski, and Krosnicki. Nays: Hackett and Knecht. PASSED*

**Public Comments in general -**

**Jeff Meharg, 203 Fourth St-** Brockway Masonic Lodge would like to donate a Gaga Pit to the Yale City Park, at no expense to the City of Yale.

Noted that he did some research on old water meters and many of them are no longer able to be maintained as parts are not available. Urged City Council to move forward with decisions on cannabis.

**Aron Anglebrandt-** Encouraged council to vote yes on cannabis. Noted that it was 1.8 billion dollar business last year, and Yale could reap the benefits of that moving forward with a "yes" vote. Offered to bring a top cannabis lawyer to the next meeting to answer remaining questions.

**Kim Hortop, 114 McColl St-** Would like to see proof that it would cost the City extra to maintain two separate water meter systems. Wants proof that other municipalities are charging a similar obsolete water meter fee.

**Mary Platt, 229 McColl St-** Inquired on when City water would be tested again. *Ms. Platt was informed that the city water is tested every two weeks, on top of numerous other tests done annually, as required by EGLE.*

**Richard Busch, 124 Clark St-** Now that the former City Manager has retired, has the council considered a forensic audit? Changing the locks? Voiced his opinion on one of the council members not being a City of Yale property owner.

**Final Comments -**

**Police-** Chief Head reported that hasn't received any update about the School Drive/ Park Ave project, but when he does, he will report back to Council. Went to a three day training in Imlay City, it went well.

**DPW-** None

**Fire-** Last month, there were 6 runs. Upon doing some research, he found that there are some open positions available on the fire department which he will be looking to fill soon.

**Final Council Comments-**

**Kendzierski-** What would it take to have a forensic audit completed? If it has to be concentrated upon a certain department, she would like Payroll to be audited. Doesn't want any other surprises. Do council rules need to be reviewed/updated?

**Krzak-** Retirement account reflected zero contribution from the city for both the second and third quarters of 2021. Requests an audit of the investment portion of payroll for since at least January of 2019.

**Krosnicki-** Has the city determined what they want done with the Oatman Road property? Why have no decisions been made? Council seems to go round and round and never decide on anything.

**Hazel-** Would like City Manager to look into which City employees received COVID Hazard Pay bonuses, and would like to discuss payments for other employees at the next Committee meeting.

**City Clerk Aldea-** As was noted on the water bills, online payments are now accepted on the website. Over 100 credit card payments have been accepted within the first month, and it is going very well.

**22-025**            **P** Motion by Kendzierski, seconded by Krzak to adjourn @ 8:41 PM. **PASSED**

*I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of minutes of a meeting of the City Council of the City of Yale, County of St. Clair, State of Michigan, held on the 14th day of February 2022, and that said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan , 1976.*

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Ashley E. Aldea, *City Clerk*