

**VILLAGE OF KENT CITY
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING
VILLAGE PURCHASE OF 200 S MAIN STREET
May 4, 2022
83 Spring Street, Kent City MI**

2022-77

CALLED TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Rose.

Council present:

Merry Barron, Eric Blandford, Linda Poling, Sue Smalley, Bert Rose.

Council absent:

None.

Officers present:

Ashley Scudder, Clerk.

Others present:

Debra Forth, Treasurer; Rood Vaughan, DPW; Kari Blackburn, Steve Buckner, Matt Barber.

2022-78

PUBLIC TIME OTHER THAN AGENDA ITEMS –

Steve Buckner, 223 N Main Street, addressed the Village Council to express his willingness to serve the community and his interest in being appointed to a vacant Village Trustee position. Rose verified he had a current application for boards on file.

2022-79

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Barron, support by Smalley, to approve agenda as presented.

Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Motion CARRIED

2022-80

PUBLIC TIME ON AGENDA ITEMS –

Kerri Blackburn, 102 N East Street, addressed the Village Council with questions and concerns regarding the purchase of 200 S Main Street.

Blackburn: Residents should have been notified of intent to purchase by mail and a public vote should have been taken.

Council: The Village worked directly with our attorney throughout the entire process. It was time sensitive, and we were told a public vote was not required. All decisions were made at public meetings and the minutes were posted.

Blackburn: What was the purchase price of the building and when was it purchased?

Council: One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand dollars (\$175,000.00) and 00/100. We closed on the building March 1, 2022.

Blackburn: How are we paying for this purchase? Are my taxes going up?

Council: No. Millage rate remains the same.

Blackburn: Is the increase in my sewer bill funding the purchase?

Council: No. Sewer accounting is separate, and sewer income is only disbursed to sewer expenses.

Blackburn: I read that as Village residents we were paying in 4 times for the School Resource Officer. What is the breakdown?

Council: As a Village resident, you were contributing to the School Resource Officer through Village taxes, Township taxes twice per year, and School taxes. Before we brought the Village portion of funding to Council vote, we verified with

the school that the program was still able to be funded without our contribution.
We agree that the School Resource Officer is an asset to our schools.

2022-81 COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS – None.

2022-82 ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Smalley, support by Poling, at 7:09 p.m.

Vote: Ayes; 5 Nays: 0 Motion CARRIED

A. Motion by Barron, support by Blandford, to move forward with Resolution 2022-10: To Designate use of American Rescue Act Funds for Kent City Playground Project, as presented, and passed April 14, 2022.

Vote: Ayes: 5 Nays: 1 Motion CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

Ashley Scudder, Village Clerk