

City Council was held via Zoom (again). With the newer governors orders we will continue to hold meetings via Zoom and will determine the best way to hold our meetings to allow for citizen participation and for social distancing in the future.

The 8/4 meeting started with Tim Lubitz, our Fire Chief, providing us an update on equipment age, and needs for capital investment. We do have fire trucks that are at or going to soon be at the end of their first run life. Council asked questions around funding for a new fire truck and what that potentially would look like. A truck can run in the \$600k range and will take additional planning, council approval and grant/loan monies to make this work for our community.

After this we postponed the vote on the Veterans War Memorial street closure pending participation from the War Memorial staff to give more explanation to what is needed for the event and what efforts are being made to social distance. This will be on the agenda for our next meeting.

City Council did approve the liquidation of two (2) Dial-A-Ride busses. These will go to auction and have exceeded their usefulness to us and require more repair than financially practical.

We also voted our City Manager John, as our city's representative to be our voting delegate for the upcoming Michigan Municipal League Business meeting (held via ZOOM).

John updated us on the completion of the Kayak project as well and the final punch list for the River Walk in the Gather Place. There are still a few things to be completed on these projects. John continues to seek funding support for our community from the state that will support the citizens and city staff during the pandemic.

A special call out to our City Clerk, Janae Cooper. Last week's primary will go down in the history books. Janae worked diligently to make sure that every eligible vote got properly counted. As you may have all seen, the amount of absentee ballots escalated to a level we have never seen before. This required nimble thinking to forecast this then account for it. I imagine that the General Election in November will be even more trying with more absentee ballots.

At times it feels that the world is against us, with the cancellation of events like Labor Day, the questioning of large events, wear a mask, don't socialize, we all have to remember that it is how we handle these situations as a community that will make us all successful. Be brave, do what is right for your community, give that little bit of extra to your neighbor and above all be safe, we will make it through this together, Belding Strong!

Thank you.