

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF TAWAS CITY COUNCIL  
April 7, 2025

Mayor Masich called the regular meeting of the Tawas City Council to order at 6:00 pm in the Council Chamber of Tawas City Hall.

Council Members Present: Dave Lesinski, Jerry Malone, Ed Nagy, Mike Russo, Mike Timreck, and Jackie Masich  
Council Members Absent: Chuck Klenow (excused)  
Others Present: Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Westcott, City Manager Annge Horning, and DPW Director Gus Oliver

Members offered the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and observed a moment of meditation.

Nagy moved, Lesinski seconded, CARRIED, to excuse Councilman Klenow from April 7, 2025 Council meeting.

Mayor Masich requested to add Closed Session – Attorney Correspondence as item 8g. under the New Business. Russo moved, Timreck seconded, CARRIED, to approve the April 7, 2025 agenda as amended.

Nagy moved, Russo seconded, CARRIED, to approve the following consent agenda items as presented:

- a. Minutes from March 17, 2025 regular City Council meeting.
- b. Accounts payable checks, reviewed by Councilman Malone and Councilman Timreck, from March 13, 2025 to April 2, 2025 in the amount of \$139,942.10.

Yes: Lesinski, Malone, Nagy, Russo, Timreck and Masich.

No public comments were received on agenda items.

No public comments were received on non-agenda items.

DPW Director Oliver reported there is a vacancy in the DPW and he is accepting applications for full-time employment. The City received the new grinder for the Second Avenue lift station and it will be installed in a couple of weeks. The DPW went through the City and reported 72 abandoned utility cables hanging from utility poles that are not in use which will be removed by the utility companies.

City Manager Horning reported the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer position was filled and Sandra Roeske began working with us last week.

With Sandra Roeske filling the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer position, the Council will need to take action to authorize her to be added to the City's bank and investment accounts. Russo moved, Nagy seconded, CARRIED, to authorize City Manager Annge Horning, City Clerk/Treasurer Michelle Westcott, and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Sandra Roeske to be added to the City's bank accounts and investment accounts and to remove Asia Finnell. Yes: Malone, Nagy, Russo, Timreck, Lesinski and Masich.

The Planning Commission approved a special event application for Katie Smith to conduct cardio drumming in Shoreline Park at 6:00 pm every Tuesday from June 3, 2025 to August 26, 2025. Katie was present and requested the City waive the rental fees. Based on the approved rate schedule, the applicable fees would be \$110 for the first day and \$25 for each additional day, plus a \$250 refundable deposit for a total of \$660 for the year. Lesinski moved, Timreck seconded, CARRIED to waive the special event application fees for the Katie Smith to use Shoreline Park on Tuesdays for cardio drumming from June 3, 2025 to August 26, 2025. Yes: Nagy, Russo, Timreck, Lesinski, Malone, and Masich.

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Members reviewed a resolution to remove a portion of Spring Street from the street inventory on the Act 51 Annual Mileage Certification Report to the Michigan Department of Transportation. Nagy moved, Russo seconded, CARRIED, to adopt the resolution to decertify a portion of Spring Street located between Court Street and Murphy Street for a total of 245 feet within the City street system under the Act 51, P.A. 1951 (SBM 1824). Yes: Russo, Timreck, Lesinski, Malone, Nagy and Masich.

The City Council reviewed a resolution to request MDOT to begin removing the exterior southbound lane on US-23 closer to the intersection of M-55 instead of ending abruptly at the driveway to Neiman's Family Market. Discussion was held on the conversion of the exterior southbound lane into a turn lane. Nagy moved, Malone seconded, CARRIED, to adopt the resolution for the planned roadway reconstruction requesting the removal of the exterior southbound land on US-23 from the parking lot of Neiman's Family Market located at 220 West Lake Street (US-23) closer to the intersection of Highway M-55 as presented (SBM 1825). Yes: Timreck, Lesinski, Malone, Nagy, Russo and Masich.

The Council reviewed the 2025 Capital Improvement Plans. Nagy moved, Russo seconded, CARRIED, to accept and approve 2025 Capital Improvement Plans to include the Major and Local Street Ratings and Resurfacing Plans, Water Distribution System Improvements and Maintenance Plan, and Wastewater Collection System Improvements and Maintenance Plan as presented (SBM 1826).

Tawas City applied for funding through Senator Peters' Congressionally Directed Spending program to help fund a primary transmission main for water that will extend approximately 7,000 feet along US-23 from the intersection of Tawas Beach Road in East Tawas to the Tawas City limit near Taco Bell. Tawas City is a member of the Huron Shore Regional Utility Authority (HSRUA) which provides potable water to its seven member communities. Tawas City is the only member of HSRUA that receives its potable water without a dedicated primary transmission main and instead relies on secondary mains that traverse through another community. The secondary main that primarily serves Tawas City is an asbestos cement line that was installed in 1976; any repairs to this line are challenging and require extra caution due to the material of the line. In addition, the average life expectancy of an asbestos cement line is 50-70 years; the line is 49 years old this year. Tawas City has previously experienced disruptions of potable water and had to make a choice for water quantity for fire suppression over water quality, which required all of the City's water customers to boil their water for several days. Tawas City has several critical services connected to the water distribution system including the only hospital in Iosco County, three assisted living facilities, the Iosco County jail, several manufacturers, and all the public schools in the Tawas Area School District. Imagine how much disruption the boil water order caused to their operations. The City's desire is to prevent any future disruptions with a dedicated primary water transmission main to ensure continuous flow of clean water that will be maintained in accordance with all Federal and State standards and regulations. The Council reviewed the copies of the two articles from the Iosco County News-Herald when the boil water order was issued. DPW Director Oliver explained the incident and explained why this project is so important for the community. The City would like to complete this project in coordination with MDOT's reconstruction of US-23 that is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2027. This will be the first time that US-23 has been torn up since HSRUA was established and Tawas City would like to take advantage of the construction and install a dedicated primary water transmission line. Discussion was held on the 2024 Cross Connection Reports; the cross-connection programs; and the cost of the project.

Russo moved, Lesinski seconded, CARRIED, to go into closed session at 6:56 pm to discuss attorney correspondence under Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act. Yes: Lesinski, Malone, Nagy, Russo, Timreck and Masich.

Returned from closed session at 7:30 pm.

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No Council comments were received.

The next regular meeting of the Tawas City Council is scheduled for Monday, April 21, 2025 at 6:00 pm and the budget workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Michelle Westcott  
Tawas City Clerk/Treasurer