

City of Olivet
Public Hearing & Regular Council Minutes
September 9, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.

Council Call to Order

Present: Mayor Laura Barlund-Maas, Commissioners: Don Walker, Joseph Davis, Larry Marsh, Joe Hoffdahl, and Gary Peterson.

Absent: James Frohm

Public Hearing – Election Year Change

Mayor Laura Barlund-Maas stated that City elections are held in odd years. She said Eaton County suggested that the City change its elections to the even years to coincide with State and Federal elections. Mayor Barlund-Maas said the change would save the City time and money and increase the Council's term by one year. Discussion took place regarding the cost of city elections and early voting.

Public Hearing – ORV Ordinance

Mayor Barlund-Maas asked if there was any public comment regarding the Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Ordinance. Jennifer Dingman stated that she has read through the proposed ORV ordinance and feels it follows the State law and she thanked the City for its efforts to follow through. Commissioner Gary Peterson stated that the definition of "streets" means an Eaton County primary road and he believes the definition should read City of Olivet roads. Commissioner Don Walker noted that under the Operating Conditions of the ordinance letter g) says "A person under 12 years of age shall not operate an ORV within the City of Olivet" and he asked if it's common to have a 12-year-old operating an ORV. Dingman stated that the Eaton County Sheriff's Department offers a course similar to driver training that her 12-year-old son had to pass to drive an ORV with an adult. Peterson said he could not find any information regarding child safety seats being required in an ORV. Dingman stated that responsible people have child safety seats properly fastened in their ORVs. Walker asked if an ORV is registered under a motor vehicle. Dennis Dingman stated that you may choose to have it registered as an ORV or a motor vehicle. He explained that if you choose to register an ORV as a motor vehicle the ORV must be street-legal to ride on M roads (highways), have DOT tires, windshield wipers, and parking brakes installed, a license plate, inspections completed, and must be registered and have insurance just like a vehicle. He said if you choose to register as an ORV the ORV can only be used on roads with approved coordinates per each County. Kevin Whipple states that as an ORV rider, it is sad that he must go around Olivet and can't support its local businesses while riding to other destinations due to Olivet not having an ORV Ordinance.

Visitors' Section:

Michael Montague, Olivet Chamber of Commerce member asked if there will be more discussion regarding the temporary sign ordinance. Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker stated there will be but not at tonight's Council meeting. Montague stated that there was an accident on 27 and Butterfield Highway several weeks ago and asked if a stop light could be installed at that intersection instead of a blinking light. Mayor Barlund-Maas said that would be up to the County. She stated that multiple studies have been done on that corner and the corner of Main and Kalamo Streets. She said it was determined by the County that there was not enough traffic to warrant a traffic light. Olivet Chamber of Commerce President Jamie Kita asked who I should contact regarding another study. Police Chief

Shawn Garcia said to start with the Eaton County Road Commission. Commissioner Joe Hoffdahl stated that he has asked the County about reducing the speed limit in that area. Peterson stated that the County controls that end of Butterfield Hwy. as an emergency route for I-69.

Roderic Yelding, a student from Phi Beta Lambda asked the Council's permission to host a car wash fundraiser in the City Hall parking lot. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that Yelding's request would be added to the agenda as the new Item C. with the remainder of the agenda items moving down in alphabetical order.

Mitchell Nelson, Mid-Michigan Regional Director for Senator Gary Peters addressed the Council stating that he was at the June 10, 2024, Council meeting regarding the Olivet Fire Department's submission for a \$5M appropriations request. He stated that ultimately that request was not put into the final bill by the sub-committee that it was submitted to. Nelson stated that his office did all it could to advocate for the request, but ultimately Federal funding is not going to come without explicit City and community support. He stated those funds are still out there whether through Senator Peters's office or whoever fills Representative Slotkins' seat or Senator Sabenows' seat. Nelson encourages the City to apply again to all three offices with letters of support from the City and community.

Jamie Kita, Owner of Seasonal Inspirations thanked the City for allowing the arts & crafts show during the Firefighters Festival. She stated that she had seventeen vendors in the grass lot during the festival and \$425.00 was donated to the Olivet Firefighters Association from a portion of the vendors' booth space.

Heidi Kirchen, an Eaton County employee who works in the Controller's Office stated she is speaking this evening as an Eaton County resident. She said there has been a lot of discussion regarding the tax limitation proposal with a major focus on the Eaton County Sheriff's Department. She believes other smaller departments such as the Clerk's Office, Animal Control, and the Prosecutors Office whose services are also at risk. Kirchen asked everyone to realize that this tax limitation will affect more than just the Sheriff's Department and she hopes everyone will vote yes for this proposal.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Peterson, supported by Marsh, to approve the agenda with the addition of a new Item C. Phi Beta Lambda Car Wash request and moving the remaining agenda items down in alphabetical order. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION by Walker, supported by Davis, to approve the August 12, 2024, minutes with the following changes: Page 3 under Item E. Change the word "exuberant" cost to "excessive" cost and Page 5 under Item J. Change the word "Length" sign placement to "Length of time" sign placement. Motion carried 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. University of Olivet Homecoming Road Closures – Action Item

Lori Otto, Director of Alumni Engagement furnished packets to the Council for possible road closures for The University of Olivet 2024 Homecoming activities. Otto is requesting the following:

Saturday, October 5 from 11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. the Football Team, Marching Band, Cheer Team, Alumni, and Student Organizations walk from the Mott Building to Cutler Field. Close Main Street from Cottage Street to Butterfield Hwy. Closures would take place at 11:10 a.m. – when the last walker arrives. Mayor Barlund-Maas reminded Otto that if the fire trucks are not on-site, it is understood that the football team and other participants will have to walk on the sidewalk. This closure had been approved previously for the regular football team walk to the field.

Saturday, October 5 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Homecoming Tailgating Activities across US27 from the entrance to Cutler Field. No road closures.

Saturday, October 5 from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Alumni/Campus Gathering at the Student Center and The Square. Close Cottage Street between Main and Church Streets to accommodate increased foot traffic. Closures would take place at 4:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 5 from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., Alumni After Party at Block House. No road closures.

If approved, the Department of Public Works (DPW) will furnish barricades for The University of Olivet to put in place for road closures. Campus Safety must remove barricades immediately when each activity is finished.

MOTION by Hoffdahl, supported by Peterson, to approve The University of Olivet road closure requests as listed above. Motion carried 6-0.

B. ORV Ordinance Adoption – Action Item

Walker asked if the Police Department was satisfied and if there was any further discussion regarding the current ORV ordinance. Chief Garcia stated that he had read over the ordinance, given his advice, and was satisfied. Clerk/Treasurer Huepenbecker reminded the Council that Peterson suggested changing the wording under Section 1. Definitions (I) from “Eaton County primary roads” to read “City of Olivet roads”. Commissioner Joe Davis agreed this would make sense.

MOTION by Peterson, supported by Davis, to adopt the ORV ordinance with the correction of changing the wording from “Eaton County primary roads” to “City of Olivet roads”. Motion carried 6-0.

C. Phi Beta Lambda Car Wash – Action Item

Mayor Barlund-Maas reiterated that Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) is requesting the use of the City Hall parking lot, City water, and the City’s cones to hold a car wash fundraiser. Yelding stated that Phi Beta Lambda held a car wash fundraiser at Memorial Park last year and there were issues with traffic backups. Yelding is asking the Council’s permission to host the car wash in the City Hall parking lot on Wednesday, September 18 from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. He said a car wash is \$5.00 or \$10.00 including tire/rim cleaning. Walker asked PBL what the funds would be used for. Yelding stated that PBL is a student-led business club raising funds to attend the national conference to be recognized nationally. Resident Jennifer Miller asked who was paying for the water. DPW Director Jerry Staggs stated that PBL used approximately 2,000 gallons of water last year totaling \$11.00. Harton Farms owner Jeremy Harton and D&J Excavating owner Dan LaPoint offered to split the water bill for the car wash water. Davis said that he had heard last year's fundraiser went well. Yelding stated that PBL

made a \$500.00 profit after expenses. Davis asked how far in advance PBL plans its events. Yelding stated that PBL has plans to organize its events at the beginning of each school year. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated she discussed with Yelding the need to ask the Council's permission a month before the scheduled event. She asked DPW Director Staggs if the road work on East Street would start next week during the car wash. Staggs said it may be starting he will get the answer at the construction meeting on Thursday. Mayor Barlund-Maas said if the road work starts next week the PBL would have to change the date of the car wash. Walker asked how long it would take to complete the road work. Staggs stated it does not take that long to complete the road work and the car wash could be scheduled for the following week. Walker suggested stating in the motion that the Council has approved the date requested, but if needed the alternate date of Wednesday, September 25 would be approved.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Hoffdahl, to allow Phi Beta Lambda to use the City cones, City water, and City parking lot to hold a car wash fundraiser for either Wednesday, September 18, 2024, or Wednesday, September 25, 2024, from 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. depending on road construction. Motion carried 6-0.

D. Resolution 24-08 Election Year Change – Action Item

Walker asked if the City would have nine days of early voting if it voted to change its elections to the even years to coincide with the State and Federal elections. Clerk/Treasurer Huepenbecker stated the State and Federal elections include the nine days of early voting. She said the County picks who works during that election, and everyone shares the cost.

MOTION by Marsh, supported by Peterson, to approve resolution 24-08 to adopt the City election year to coincide with State and Federal elections which would increase the Council's term by one year. Motion carried 6-0.

E. Lexipol - City Policies – Action Item

Clerk/Treasurer Huepenbecker stated that Chief Garcia has been working with Lexipol regarding police policy and procedures. She said Lexipol also offers City policies, and she provided the Council with a packet from Lexipol outlining what policies would be included. Huepenbecker explained how using Lexipol would benefit the City and the employees. She said the cost of using Lexipol would be split between all the departments. Walker asked Chief Garcia how long the Police Department has been working with Lexipol and what his opinion is of the services they have provided. Garcia stated approximately six months, and he feels working with Lexipol has been beneficial. Davis stated that Lexipol has been great to work with. He said Lexipol has gone to great lengths to hire the right people to work in the training role. Davis emphasized how great the product is and worth the cost. He said now the Police Department will have a set of policies that they own even if they were not to renew their subscription and enact those policies and they won't be lost. Davis said the City would have a product they own that can be used however they see fit, and he recommends Lexipol for the City's policies. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that using Lexipol would be a great opportunity as it addresses a lot of things that are not covered in the City's current handbook. Davis stated that the Police Department had asked Lexipol if their rates increase every year and was told there is a moderate two to three percent annual standard increase and he assumes this would be the case for the City's policies also.

MOTION by Walker, supported by Davis, to approve using Lexipol for City policies for all employees including the Fire Department at a cost not to exceed \$2,600.10. Motion carried 6-0.

F. Leaf Pick-Up – Action Item

DPW Director Staggs said bids for leaf pick-up will not be taken this year as a three-year bid was approved last September. He said that he spoke with Dan LaPoint, owner of D & J Excavating regarding the annual leaf pick-up to start mid-October through the end of November with a cost of \$14,500.00. Mayor Barlund-Maas asked LaPoint if he had a separate agreement with The University of Olivet for leaf pick-up. LaPoint said he had in the past. Mayor Barlund-Maas suggested that LaPoint contact the University as the approving staff has changed. LaPoint stated he would contact the University. He also asked if the University leaves could go to the City dump. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated the University leaves need to go to the area the University has on Shipherd Street for leaves.

MOTION by Hoffdahl, supported by Davis, to hire D & J Excavating to provide leaf pick-up services from mid-October through the end of November at a cost not to exceed \$14,500.00 with the understanding that the City and the University of Olivet's leaf pick-ups are separate agreements and the University will pay for its leaf pick-up. Motion carried 6-0.

G. Plow Truck Repair – Action Item

DPW Director Staggs stated that the plow truck needs brakes. He said he spoke with B & B Service in Marshall regarding the repair, but it was expensive. Staggs provided a quote from a local company, Abfalter Repair, LLC. He said Abfalter is a licensed business that would come on-site to repair the brakes and perform a Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) inspection. Staggs said he would like to give Abfalter this opportunity. Kita asked if the repair could be made from an Olivet business. Staggs stated that the local repair shops do not do MDOT inspections. Mayor Barlund-Maas said it is the City's practice to use local Olivet businesses when they can. Davis asked how long do brakes last. Staggs stated this is the first replacement of brakes on the plow truck since 1994.

MOTION by Hoffdahl, supported by Walker, to approve hiring Abfalter to repair the brakes on the plow truck at a cost not to exceed \$1,200.00. Motion carried 6-0.

H. Halloween Hours – Action Item

Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that traditional trick-or-treating is on October 31st from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

MOTION by Hoffdahl, supported by Davis, to keep traditional Halloween trick-or-treat hours from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on October 31st. Motion carried 6-0.

I. Firefighter Association Report – Informational Item

Justin Southern, President of the Olivet Firefighters Association stated that Fire Chief John Collins and Shelly Collins raised \$11,748.00 from local businesses for the Firefighters Festival. He said \$8,000.00 was spent for festival fireworks and approximately \$9,000.00 for extrication tools. Southern thanked Chief Garcia, Staggs, Huepenbecker, the Council, and the County Sheriff's Department for all their support and help with the Firefighters Festival. Davis asked how many people attended the Firefighters Festival. Southern said it's hard to know but the Fire Department served 650 meals.

J. Eaton County Controller's Office – Tax Limitation Proposal – Informational Item

Logan Bailey, Communications Director for Eaton County stated he was not here to advocate for the tax limitation proposal but to present only the facts. He stated that the tax limitation proposal is on the November ballot that will raise the amount that the Board of Commissioners at the County can levy each budget cycle by three mills. He declared that Eaton County has put this on the November ballot due to a financial crisis. He stated that the County is looking at laying off 150 employees across all departments, lowering hours of operation, cutting services, and potentially selling off assets. Bailey said the County had been talking about this crisis for years then COVID hit and took the County to its knees as it did for many others. He confirmed that the County received American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds which the board decided to use to balance their budget instead of coming to the public for help but now that money is gone. Bailey stated that the Eaton County website has a taxable calculator that you can access to see the amount your taxes will increase if the proposal is passed. Walker asked how much the County deficit is and what it would take to balance the budget. Bailey said the deficit is \$1M and that will continue to compound if revenue is not secured. He declared that the County would roughly need \$12M to maintain what it currently has. Bailey stated that 65% of the budget is in public safety which includes the Sheriff's Department, Prosecutor's Office, and the Courts, and most likely this is where most cuts would occur. He said the title "Tax limitation proposal" does not mean what it sounds like. The tax limitation proposal is about raising the tax limit. He confirmed that the State Constitution dictates what the ballot language looks like, and the ballot will say "Separate tax limitation". Bailey said if passed, this proposal would raise the average taxpayer bill by approximately \$216.00. Peterson asked if the County has raised the taxes by the acceptable 0.5% yearly. Eaton County Commissioner Jim Mott stated that the county has raised taxes and that money has helped the County from sinking deeper into debt. Peterson stated that the City of Olivet pays for its police force and the City is also paying for the County Sheriff's services at the same rate yet the City does not get the Sheriff coverage it needs. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that the City of Olivet does have its police force, but they are not on duty 24/7 and that is when the Sheriff's Department does help. She reminded people that this tax limitation is not just about the Sheriff's Department, but all County offices are short-staffed. She shared her concern that if this proposal does not pass more money would have to go toward the Sheriff's Department and that will hurt all the other offices. Peterson asked if the proposal passes would the money all go into the General Fund. Bailey said it all goes into the General Fund with 65% going to public safety. He said road patrol and the Eaton County Sheriff's Office is not a constitutionally mandated service, the jail is. Davis stated that he thinks it's great that the County is being as transparent as possible and asked Bailey why he was present. Bailey stated that he is here because he cares about it and wants the word to get out as it's his job to get that information out to the local government and the public, but it was also his job to find resources. Bailey disclosed that the cuts would affect him and his department along with others. Doug Lloyd, Eaton County Prosecutor stated that he has been with Eaton County for 25 years. He said that he has asked the board on many occasions over the years for more money for the department to retain good employees and also hire new employees and the response has always been "There is no money". This situation has led to the loss of great employees to other Counties and this is true for all departments in the County. Lloyd expressed his concern if the proposal is not supported. He stated that the Sheriff's Department, Prosecutors Office, and Courts comprise 65% of Public Safety. Lloyd said there are thirteen city police agencies within Eaton County and 2/3 of the cases from these city agencies come into the Eaton County Sheriff's Department with an average of 7,000 cases yearly. He asked if the proposal was not supported what would happen with those cases if there were no full-time 24/7 Sheriff Department. Lloyd said someone recently said if the budget has been balanced over the last 45 years why can't it be balanced now? He said technology has advanced so far in the past twenty years and with new technology comes high expenses. Tom Reich, Eaton County Sheriff stated he has been in law enforcement for 37 years. He expressed his concern that there are currently fifteen vacancies on road patrol and it's hard to fill these positions resulting in the midnight to 6:00 a.m. public safety services being cut. He said when people have to contact the non-emergency number only the emergencies receive a response while non-emergencies are held.

The Michigan State Police (MSP) works very hard to accommodate by taking the calls, but they are getting tired also. Reich confirmed that he is advocating for this millage so that Eaton County residents have the very best public safety services they deserve. He said his deputies work hard and care about Eaton County, but more people are needed. Reich stated that he has twelve recruits in police academies across the state who will not graduate until December and will then be on a Field Training Officer (FTO) program until May when the recruits can fill the vacant positions. He advocated for this millage, and he encouraged everyone to think about public safety and what this millage would mean for Eaton County. Davis asked for clarification regarding twelve of the fifteen vacancies that would be filled in December. Reich stated the recruits would graduate in December, but you can't count them on the road as they must complete the seventeen weeks of FTO that ends in May. Davis again asked for clarification regarding the twelve recruits agreeing to what Eaton County is offering for the position. Lloyd stated to be clear that Eaton County Sheriff deputies have a new contract in the hopes of retaining the revenue. Reich explained that the fifteen vacancies come from retirements, and deputies taking other positions in other counties for better pay. He stated that he would like to enhance the Sheriff's Department by starting a new Deputy Paramedic Program in Eaton County if the millage is approved. Davis stated that the proposal looks good on paper and is easy to sell because of the situation the County is in and it is needed, but at the same time, some people are not opposed but would like to know what the plans are if the tax limitation is approved. Davis said he hears the County plan is to give raises to retain employees, hire more employees, and bring back road patrol. Reich said more pay would be great for recruitment, but he is only allowed so many positions and he wants the positions to be equally paid for the job regionally. Lloyd described his department's low staff and high workload. Lloyd stated he would like to add paralegals and having more office space for his department would benefit the County and the community. Walker asked how many years the taxpayer would be locked into for the tax limitation proposal. Bailey stated there is no lock-in and that this proposal gives the Eaton County Board the ability to levy the additional three mills from when it was set in 1978, and all the decisions are up to the board. If you want to learn more come to the Controller's Office and talk to Commissioner Jim Mott and listen to department heads and attend budget meetings online. Lloyd invited everyone to attend a budget meeting on September 10 at 7:00 p.m. where they will be discussing next year's budget. Jim Mott, Eaton County Commissioner stated that Bailey is a tremendous asset to Eaton County and it would be a shame if the tax limitation is not passed and Bailey's position is terminated. Mott confirmed that if this proposal is not passed it will keep coming back over and over until it is passed but the "Scary" reality is the County will be in a bigger hole and more money and time will be needed to build the County back up. Davis thanked the representative from Eaton County who came this evening and allowed the City and residents to ask questions. Davis stated that he once was an Eaton County employee who now is a State employee and he knows firsthand the issues the County is facing. He asked how much feedback from the County employees has the board taken into consideration for the forward plans. Mott stated that the employees came to a town hall meeting to voice their major concern which was they feel they are working more with less pay than people in other Counties and they are considering leaving if this is not passed. He stated Controller Sobe has monthly meetings with open communications keeping everyone informed and keeping the issues transparent. Mott stated the state mandates a lot on the County and it needs to be made right. Mott said that if groups wanted more information on the tax limitation, they would be happy to visit and answer questions whether for the proposal or against the proposal they want people to understand and be informed. A resident in the crowd stated that Reich said there were certain cities and townships within Eaton County that the Sheriff's Department does not currently respond to due to cuts so how does a citizen know if they vote yes that their City or Township would then receive these services? Reich stated that is the goal to bring back those services when fully staffed. Garcia clarified that he is only speaking his opinion as a tax-paying resident of Walton Township within Eaton County. He said he understands he is the "Chief" of Police, but he still has the right when communicating publicly to voice his concerns as a Walton Township, Eaton County resident and has never voiced his concerns as a representative of the City of Olivet. Lloyd disagreed with Garcia stating that Garcia is known as "Olivet Chief of Police" and because of

that you don't get to post your opinion against the Sheriff and comment as just a "homeowner". Garcia clarified that he is not against law enforcement.

Approval of the Bills

MOTION by Peterson, supported by Hoffdahl, to pay the bills with the one additional late bill. Motion carried 6-0.

Department Head Reports

Police Chief Shawn Garcia – Garcia informed the Council that the proposed civilian Police Department candidate will not work out. He stated that he would aggressively start looking for another candidate.

Fire Chief John Collins – Collins provided the Council with a monthly fire report with the breakdown of the calls. He said personnel is doing well, but he could always use daytime people. Collins informed the Council that personnel will not attend fire school, but some will attend the Medical First Responder (MFR) course. He said the department has been testing the fire hoses on drill night and six have been taken out of service. Collins stated that he attended the Western Fire Chief conference this past spring. He said he had the opportunity while at this conference to attend a floor show where a dollhouse prop was used to educate the public on door openings, thermal cameras, and thermal technology. Collins stated that he would like the fire personnel to attend the three-hour class utilizing the dollhouse prop and he said state funding is available. He informed the Council that the State will have training regarding the 911 radio tower on September 24th at 9:00 a.m. Collins said it was nice to have other fire trucks here for our festival and he will be reciprocating for Eaton Rapids 150th year parade celebration on September 28. Collins informed the Council that the department has the opportunity to participate in a special drill on Wednesday and invited the Council to come and watch.

DPW Director Jerry Staggs – Staggs reported that Kanoe the Kazoo was held on Saturday, September 7. He said the City of Olivet, Charlotte, and Marshall worked cooperatively to host this event together. This event promotes recreation in the Kalamazoo River watershed and raises awareness about pollution that threatens water quality. Staggs stated the event went well. He reminded the Council that the pre-construction meeting regarding repairing East Street is on Thursday this week and the DPW continues working on the lead/copper testing.

Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker – Huepenbecker informed the Council that Randy Jewell, the City Assessor wants to retire. She stated that running an ad in the paper only produced one applicant in prior years and Jewell suggested placing an ad in the Michigan Assessor magazine. Huepenbecker stated that ads run from \$75.00 for 1/8 of a page up to \$300.00 for a full-page ad or you can place an ad on their website for \$450.00. She said the last time she placed an ad in The County Journal several years ago it was \$52.00. Huepenbecker said that Jewell recommended a person who is interested in the position, but an ad must still be placed for other applicants to apply. She asked the Council for its opinion on how to proceed with advertising for the position. Peterson stated other cities will also be looking for an assessor as Jewell is the assessor for multiple cities. Huepenbecker stated that Jewell is not fully retiring but wants to cut back. Mayor Barlund-Maas stated that it would make sense to place an ad in both publications and Peterson agreed. Huepenbecker said she hoped Jewell would stay on through the winter taxes. Peterson suggested contacting the Walton Township Assessor to see if she would be interested. Garcia stated that she is also retiring. Walker asked how much is a ¼ page ad. Huepenbecker stated \$150.00. The general opinion of the Council is to run a ¼ page ad in the Michigan Assessors magazine only.

Commissioner Comments

Joe Hoffdahl – Hoffdahl thanked all employees.

Joseph Davis – Davis stated he had started the email migration at 5:00 p.m. this evening and the Council can pick up their laptops tomorrow. He said operating the laptops will be a little different than it used to be as Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) is being used. MFA is an authentication method that requires the user to provide two or more verification factors to gain access. Davis said that you should be able to access your email online, but should you need access to your email before you see me in the morning you should have access through your mobile app.

Don Walker – Walker stated he had nothing to add.

Larry Marsh – Marsh stated he had nothing to add.

Gary Peterson – Peterson stated that Centre Area Transportation Authority (CATA) wants to take over the Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN) and he believes this is a poor idea. Peterson stated that the EATRAN board would be eliminated, dispatchers and schedulers would flow into CATA, and drivers would continue to drive under the CATA regime. He states that if this passes the City of Grand Ledge, Delta Township, and the County will be in charge. The Union would stay with its employees and Delta Township would be voting on a \$1M proposal to run the busses. Peterson stated that as the representative for the City of Olivet does the Council have any concerns that they would like him to address at the meeting on Wednesday? Mott stated the problem with CATA is that they would have too much say over EATRAN if they got into a financial situation and places like Olivet would be the first to be removed from the routes. Mott asked if CATA takes over would EATRAN employees lose their seniority? Peterson stated that they would not lose their seniority, but the employees were also promised that CATA would not take over EATRAN and CATA is attempting to do that now.

James Frohm – Frohm was absent.

Laura Barlund-Maas – Barlund-Maas thanked everyone for staying at the meeting.

Council meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Laura Barlund-Maas, Mayor

Amy Huepenbecker, Clerk/Treasurer