

January 25, 2021

Mayor Wishart opened the regular meeting of the Gaylord City Council with a prayer by Council Member Awrey at 7:00pm on Monday, January 25, 2021. The meeting was held virtually, via Zoom due to the Emergency Order from the MDHHS on November 18, 2020 that prohibits indoor gatherings of any size at non-residential venues. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the invocation.

Members Present: Mayor Wishart (Council Chambers, city of Gaylord), Sharrard (via Zoom, city of Gaylord) Hartz (via Zoom, city of Gaylord), Ouellette (via Zoom, city of Gaylord), Awrey (via Zoom, city of Gaylord), Witt (Council Chambers, city of Gaylord), and Sides (via Zoom, city of Gaylord).

Members Absent: None.

Motion by Sides, supported by Ouellette to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the January 11, 2021 meeting and accept them as presented.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Chris Aiello gave an update regarding the two open marijuana trial court opinions for Traverse City and Berkley, Michigan.

Motion by Sides, supported by Witt to not approve the estimate/reduced cost of the 552 S. Center Sewer Backup/Project from May, 2019. A roll call vote was taken:

Sharrard, Aye
Witt, Aye
Awrey, Aye
Hartz, Aye
Ouellette, Aye
Sides, Aye

Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 Absent: 0 Motion carried.

Motion by Sharrard, supported by Ouellette to approve the Resolution for the Deficit Elimination Plan.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Sides to approve the following Resolution for Poverty Exemption:

WHEREAS, the adoption of guidelines for poverty exemptions is required of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, the principal residence of persons, who the Assessor and Board of Review determines by reason of poverty to be unable to contribute to the public charge, is eligible for exemption in whole or in part from taxation under Public Act 390 of 1994 (MCL 211.7u); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, the City of Gaylord, Otsego County adopts the following guidelines for the Board of Review to implement. The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels of the claimant and all persons residing in the household, including any property tax credit returns,

filed in the current or immediately preceding year;

To be eligible, a person shall do all the following on an annual basis:

- 1) Be an owner of and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 2) File a claim with the assessor or Board of Review, accompanied by federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence, including any property tax credit returns filed in the immediately preceding year or in the current year or a signed State Tax Commission Form 4988, *Poverty Exemption Affidavit*.
- 3) File a claim reporting that the combined assets of all persons do not exceed the current guidelines. Assets include but are not limited to, real estate other than the principal residence, personal property, motor vehicles, recreational vehicles and equipment, certificates of deposit, savings accounts, checking accounts, stocks, bonds, life insurance, retirement funds, etc.
- 4) Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested.
- 5) Produce, if requested, a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested.
- 6) Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services or alternative guidelines adopted by the governing body providing the alternative guidelines do not provide eligibility requirements less than the federal guidelines.
- 7) The application for an exemption shall be filed after January 1, but one day prior to the last day of the December Board of Review. The filing of this claim constitutes an appearance before the Board of Review for the purpose of preserving the right of appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal.

The following are the 2021 federal poverty income guidelines which are updated annually by the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The annual allowable income includes income for all persons residing in the principal residence.

Federal Poverty Guidelines Used in the Determination of Poverty Exemptions Size of Family Unit	2021 Poverty Guidelines
1	\$ 12,880
2	\$ 17,420
3	\$ 21,960
4	\$ 26,500
5	\$ 31,040
6	\$ 35,580
7	\$ 40,120
8	\$ 44,660
For each additional person	\$ 4,540

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Witt, supported by Awrey to approve the Fire Board Budget for 2021-2022.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion by Sides, supported by Witt to approve Winter Outdoor Café permits. The permit, similar to the summer outdoor café permit would allow downtown restaurants to make seating available in front of their restaurant. Restaurants would be required to handle all snow removal. To expedite the approval process, café permits would be approved or denied by the zoning administrator rather than the standard approval process from council. There will be no application fee charged. Permits will be available at city office.

Ayes: Unanimous. Motion carried.

No other business was presented and the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Jennifer Molski, City Clerk

William Wishart, Mayor