

September 28, 2026

Mayor Sharrard opened the regular meeting of the Gaylord City Council with a prayer by Council Member Ouellette at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 28, 2026. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America followed the invocation. The meeting was held in the City Council Chambers, located at City Hall, 305 East Main Street, Gaylord, Michigan.

Members Present: Sharrard, Ouellette, Jaques, Lewitzky and Awrey

Members Absent: Kennedy and Witt

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Jaques to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the September 14, 2026 meeting and accept them as presented.

Ayes: Unanimous Motion Carried

Communications: One communication was received and copies were provided to council and the public.

Motion by Welitzkin, supported by Ouellette to excuse Councilman Kennedy and Councilman Witt from tonight's meeting.

Public Comment: L. Tobin, T. Troxel, B. Curtis, C. Ryder and A. Platte all spoke during public comment.

Unfinished Business: None

New Business:

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Awrey to approve the following Resolution in Support of a Comprehensive Bicycle Improvement Study Along M-32 in the City of Gaylord:

WHEREAS, The Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) is a federally funded program administered by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT); and

WHEREAS, the City of Gaylord is part of a TAP pilot project, the Walkability Action Institute (WAI) a project through the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) that provides rural communities with technical assistance and facilitates a process to collaboratively work towards improving pedestrian and bicycle safety with communities in Michigan. Gaylord is one of seven communities participating in this pilot project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gaylord has brought together a local team to support the WAI who have committed to support the overall goals of improving pedestrian and bicycle safety; and

WHEREAS, the Gaylord WAI Team through this process has identified M-32 in downtown Gaylord as a priority area that the team is interested in improving for pedestrian and bicycle safety; and

WHEREAS, the Gaylord WAI Team has completed a walking audit in 2025 of M-32 in downtown Gaylord with MDHHS, WAI support from Toole Design, MDOT, and local community members evaluating pedestrian and bicycle safety; and

WHEREAS, the Gaylord WAI Team; Toole Design, MDOT TAP and North Region, and Gaylord Transportation Service Center (TSC) staff have identified the need for a comprehensive study of the corridor for pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements; and

WHEREAS, MDOT TAP has agreed to fund 100% of the corridor study at no cost to the City of Gaylord; and

WHEREAS, the study will include evaluation of many factors impacting pedestrian and bicycle safety on the corridor including but not limited to: 5-year traffic crash data, traffic volumes, turning movements, pedestrian and bicycle traffic counts, evaluation of existing signal functionality for improvements, lane reconfigurations or reductions, evaluation of existing parking, pedestrian crossing locations and pedestrian and bicycle system network connectivity, other potential corridor improvements for pedestrian and bicycle safety within the downtown Gaylord area; and

WHEREAS, this study does not commit the City of Gaylord or MDOT to specific outcomes, implementation plans, or construction projects on the corridor. All parties will work collaboratively to identify potential solutions the plan will include opportunities for community engagement and feedback; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gaylord Downtown Development Authority (DDA) has passed a resolution of support recommending the City of Gaylord City Council approve of the undertaking of this study; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gaylord has approved a Complete Streets Policy that supports improving public infrastructure to support the needs of all modes of transportation including bicycling and walking; and

WHEREAS, the City of Gaylord is committed to improving pedestrian and bicycle safety and working to connect and improve shared use pathway and sidewalk infrastructure for residents and visitors to improve health, safety and quality of life; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The City of Gaylord supports the Comprehensive Pedestrian and Bicycle Improvement Study along M-32 in the City of Gaylord and requests MDOT TAP and Toole Design undertake the study in partnership with the Gaylord WAI Team and City of Gaylord.

Ayes: Unanimous Motion Carried

Andy from Bendzinski & Co. presented an initial review and preliminary findings of the city's water and sewer rate study.

Lisa Marie Tobin, DDA Director, gave an informational presentation on the past years accomplishments and future planning.

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Welitzkin to postpone to the next meeting the approval of Gaylord Soccer League's request for assistance with cost of irrigation.

Ayes: Unanimous Motion Carried

Motion by Welitzkin, supported by Jaques to approve Attorney Slough's revisions to the Ethics Ordinance – First Reading.

Ayes: Unanimous Motion Carried

Motion by Jaques, supported by Awrey to approve the Dispersion Building insulation bid from Premier Builders in the amount of \$5,256.55.

Ayes: Unanimous Motion Carried

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Jaques to approve the VFD repair/replace bid from Integrated Controls, Inc. to exchange current VFD with a remanufactured VFD with a 2 year warranty in the amount of \$16,112.

Ayes: Unanimous Motion Carried

Motion by Ouellette, supported by Jaques to approve the settlement of Roger Markham's sewer backup claim at 338 E. 4th Street in the amount of \$13,783.45.

Ayes: Unanimous Motion Carried

Motion by Welitzkin, supported by Ouellette to approve the bid for the remill and resurface of city streets to be used for detours during MDOT's DDI project from M&M Excavating in the amount of \$228,583.50.

Ayes: Unanimous Motion Carried

Public Comment: Nobody spoke during the second public comment.

No other business was presented, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:53pm.

Andrea L. Boguth, City Clerk

Todd Sharrard, Mayor
