A Regular Meeting of the Otsego City Commission was held on Monday, December 2, 2024.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Withee at 7:09 p.m. with the following Commissioners present: Lauri Krueger, Chuck Moore, Jason Smith, and Wayne Rayburn. Absent: None. Also present: City Manager, Aaron Mitchell.

The audience joined the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Commissioner Krueger, seconded by Commissioner Rayburn, the November 18, 2024, Regular Minutes were approved as submitted. CARRIED

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS
None.

I. PRESENTATIONS:

A. UPDATE FROM COUNTY COMMISSIONER DUGAN

County Commissioner Dugan gave an update on County activities. He congratulated the City of Otsego Election Workers, and thanked them for their willingness to work the extended voting hours this year and for their positivity.

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. PUBLIC HEARING FOR DISTRICT #26 – IFE REQUEST FROM PELOTON INC.

Mayor Withee opened the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

There being no public comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:07 p.m.

III. PLANNING AND ZONING:

IV. ORDINANCES:

V. REQUESTS:

VI. AGREEMENTS:

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

A. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-19 - A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION – 2024 ELECTION WORKERS

At this time, Clerk Cronen read the resolution and handed out certificates of appreciation to the Election Workers who were in attendance. She thanked the election workers for the many additional hours they worked for Early Voting during the Presidential Primary, Primary, and Presidential Election.

Commissioner Smith offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Moore.

CITY OF OTSEGO
ALLEGAN COUNTY MICHIGAN
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-19

A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION – 2024 ELECTION WORKERS

MARYLN LANGEANCE – February, August & November
PAM LAHUIS – February, August & November
HEATHER MITCHELL – August & November
STEPHANIE BUSH – February, August, November
LURA HOLDEN – February, August & November
MELANIE PORTER – February, August, November
DENISE MERLAU – February, August, November
CINDY HUNT – February, August, November
LYNETA NOWAK – August, November
LAURIE ANDRUS – February, November
SALLY HUTCHINSON – February, August, November
DIANNA BORK – February & November
EMMA BORK – February & November
KIM RAYBURN – February & August
STACEY WITHEE – February & August
JULIE LEVETT – November
KIM ALLEN – November

WHEREAS, the multiple elections held each year in the City of Otsego would not be possible without the help of our dedicated Election Inspectors who go above and beyond their civic duties by offering their time and hard work to ensure Election Day & Early Voting is fair and unbiased; and

WHEREAS, each election requires a different number of Election Inspectors, with only three inspectors working the smallest election/early voting day and nearly eleven Election Inspectors working the largest; and

WHEREAS, for every election to ensure that elections are fair, unbiased, and comply with the ever changing election laws, many hours are dedicated to training, so that all our Election Inspectors are certified, knowledgeable, efficient, and as helpful as allowed by law; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 alone, Otsego's diligent and energetic Election Inspectors worked many, many hours, in February, August, and November, some in excess of 17 hours a day, for a total of 943 hours. In the 2024, elections held in February, August, and November, our Election Inspectors faithfully assisted the citizens of Otsego in casting 3,479 ballots; and

WHEREAS, our Election Inspectors selflessly offer their time, effort, spirit; and come from diverse generations, and experiences; and

WHEREAS, our Election Inspectors rose to the occasion, with the uncertainties and threats to the election process, providing the voters with a safe environment; and

WHEREAS, all of the hard work and hours our Election Inspectors dedicate to make Election Day run as smoothly as possible are greatly appreciated by the City of Otsego, the City Clerk, and its voters;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Otsego City Commission extends our gratitude to our Election Inspectors for their passion and their many hours of dedicated service to the voters of the City of Otsego.

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Lauri Krueger, Chuck Moore, Jason Smith, and Wayne Rayburn.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

B. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-20 - A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OTSEGO RELATING TO PUBLIC ACT 152 OF 2011 – THE PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION ACT

Commissioner Krueger offered the following Resolution and moved for its adoption, supported by Commissioner Rayburn.

CITY OF OTSEGO
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-20

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF OTSEGO RELATING TO PUBLIC ACT 152 OF 2011 – THE PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRIBUTION ACT

WHEREAS, the Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act or Public Act 152 of 2011, (PA 152) mandated certain cost-sharing obligations for public employee health insurance premiums and costs for medical benefit plan coverage years beginning after January 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, if the City of Otsego (City) fails to comply with the mandates of PA 152, then the state treasurer is required to reduce by 10% each City, Village, and Township Revenue Sharing (CVTRS) payment received under 2011 PA 63; and

WHEREAS, the City has modified its Health Insurance Plans in an effort to meet the hard cap requirements of PA 152; and

WHEREAS, effective January 1, 2012, the City and its employees moved to a "high deductible health insurance plan," and all City employees contribute twenty percent of their health care premiums, effective July 1, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Act permits the "governing body" of "a local unit of government (which includes a city) to exempt itself from the requirements of this act for the next succeeding year."

WHEREAS, even though the City strives to meet the requirements of PA 152, to avoid any possibility of a 10% reduction of City, Village, and Township Revenue Sharing (CVTRS) payments, the City of Otsego does, by a vote of 2/3 of its members, exempt itself from the provisions of PA 152 for one year beginning January 1, 2025, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City exempt itself from the requirements of PA 152 for one year beginning January 1, 2025, and pursuant to the Act no exemption beyond December 31, 2025, is intended or implied by this resolution, and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, pursuant to the Economic Vitality Incentive Program (EVIP) provisions of Public Act 63 of 2011, the City of Otsego, did produce a plan for implementing new compensation standards for, among other things, health insurance premium cost sharing by May 1, 2012, as required by Public Act 63.

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Lauri Krueger, Chuck Moore, Jason Smith, and Wayne Rayburn.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

C. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-21 - A RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHEDULING THE 2025 MEETINGS OF CITY OF OTSEGO CITY COMMISSION

A brief conversation took place regarding the possibility of moving up the start time of the meetings. It was the consensus of the Commission to leave the start time at 7:00 p.m., and revisit the possible time change next year.

Commissioner Smith offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Moore.

CITY OF OTSEGO
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-21

A RESOLUTION REGARDING SCHEDULING THE
2025 MEETINGS OF CITY OF OTSEGO CITY COMMISSION

Whereas, pursuant to Section 5(2) of Act 266 of 1976, the Open Meetings Act, the Otsego City Commission must establish and post notice of its regularly scheduled meetings; and

Whereas, Regular City Commission meetings are held at 7:00 PM local time, on the first and third Monday nights in the City of Otsego Chambers located at 117 E. Orleans Street, Otsego, MI 49078, unless otherwise stated; and

Whereas, a regular meeting may be re-scheduled or a special meeting scheduled upon eighteen (18) hours posted notice; and

Whereas, questions regarding meetings should be directed to the City Clerk at 117 E. Orleans Street, Otsego, MI 49078, 269-692-3391;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

That the City of Otsego Commission Regular Meetings for 2025, are scheduled for the following dates:

January	6 & 20
February	3 & 17
March	3 & 17
April	7 & 21
May	5 & 19
June	2 & 16
July	7 & 21
August	4 & 18
September	2 & 15
October	6 & 20
November	3 & 17
December	1 & 15

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Lauri Krueger, Chuck Moore, Jason Smith, and Wayne Rayburn.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

D. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-22 - A RESOLUTION TO GRANT THE IFE TO PELOTON INC.

Commissioner Smith offered the following Resolution and moved for its adoption, supported by Commissioner Moore.

CITY OF OTSEGO
MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-22

A RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL OF INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES TAX EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE FOR PELOTON INC.

WHEREAS, pursuant to 474 PA 48 MCLA Sec. 207.551, MSA 7.800 (1) after a duly noticed public hearing held on APRIL 15, 2024, the Otsego City Commission by resolution established Otsego City Industrial Facility Taxing District Number 26, as requested by the City of Otsego;

WHEREAS, by resolution, adopted October 21, 2024, this Commission accepted the application of Peloton Inc. for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for the facility constructed in District Number 26, and directed the City Clerk to notify the City Assessor and the legislative body of each taxing unit which levies ad valorem taxes on the property located within Otsego City Industrial Facilities District Number 26, that the application for the Exemption Certificate would be considered at a meeting of the City Commission on December 2, 2024, and that an opportunity to be heard would be provided to the assessor and to a representative of each of the bodies so notified;

WHEREAS, during a Regular Meeting of the City Commission held December 2, 2024, the applicant, the Assessor and a representative of the affected taxing units were afforded an opportunity to be heard:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

(1) That this City Commission finds:

(a) That the construction of the facility has not begun earlier than 6 months before October 10, 2024, the date of acceptance of the application for the Exemption Certificate;

(b) That the application related to a construction program which when completed will constitute a facility within the meaning of 1974 PA 198 and will be situated in Otsego City Industrial Facility Taxing District Number 26, established in the City of Otsego on April 15, 2024, by resolution of this City;

(c) That completion of the facility is calculated to and will at the time of issuance of the certificate have the reasonable likelihood to create employment and retain employment in the City of Otsego;

(d) That completion of the facility will not have the primary effect of merely transferring employment from elsewhere in Michigan to the City of Otsego;

(e) That the application applies to an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption;

(f) That the granting of the said Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate, considered together with the aggregate amount in Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificates previously granted and currently in force, will not have the effect of substantially impeding the operation of the City of Otsego or impair the financial soundness of any taxing unit which levies ad valorem property taxes on the property described in the Industrial Facility Tax Exemption Certificate;

(g) That the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to execute a Property Tax Abatement Agreement with Peloton Inc. for the life of the certificate.

(2) That the application of Peloton Inc., for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate with regard to the facility constructed in Otsego City Industrial Facility Taxing District #26 be and is hereby approved for 12 years.

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Lauri Krueger, Chuck Moore, Jason Smith, and Wayne Rayburn.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

E. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2024-23 – A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2024-2025 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Commissioner Moore offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Krueger.

CITY OF OTSEGO
ALLEGAN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-23

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2024-2025 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

WHEREAS, the Otsego City Commission approved the 2024-2025 Annual Appropriations Bill which limited amounts for expenditures and anticipated revenues for the 2024-2025 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, certain activities and/or revenue sources will exceed previous projections; and

WHEREAS, the Otsego City Commission wishes to formally amend the annual appropriations

bill in acknowledgement of the need for revisions,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Otsego City Commission hereby approves the following increases and decreases to the 2024-2025 Annual Appropriations Bill:

General Fund Expenditures		
101-443-801.000	General Svc's - Prof & Contractual Svc	$32,300
Net Increase/(Decrease)		$32,300
Major Street Fund Expenditures		
202-469-801.000	Drainage - Professional Services	$53,050
Net Increase/(Decrease)		$53,050
Local Street Fund Expenditures		
203-469-801.000	Drainage - Professional Services	$81,075
Net Increase/(Decrease)		$81,075
Public Safety Fund		
205-301-760.000	Police Dept - Minor Equipment Purchase	$3,100
Net Increase/(Decrease)		$3,100
Sewer Fund Expenditures		
590-538-931.000	WWTP Equipment Repairs	$80,000
Net Increase/(Decrease)		$80,000
Water Fund Expenditures		
591-551-934.000	Water Pumping - Well Maintenance	$25,255
Net Increase/(Decrease)		$25,255

YEAS: Commissioners: Stacey Withee, Lauri Krueger, Chuck Moore, Jason Smith, and Wayne Rayburn.

NAYS: Commissioners: None.

ABSTAIN: Commissioners: None.

ABSENT: Commissioners: None.

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS:

IX. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

MANAGER'S REPORT
The City Manager commented and gave updates on the following:

1. He congratulated Detective LaLone for being recognized by the City of Plainwell for assisting in apprehending a suspect. He stated that this is the perfect example of the communities working together.

2. He reminded everyone that Hometown Christmas festivities will be held on Saturday, December 7th.

3. He thanked Nate Hunt for the investment he has made in our community.

COMMUNICATIONS
None.

REMARKS FROM THE AUDIENCE
Robert Alway, 1012 Barton – he commented that the Election workers are very much appreciated and that he appreciated the opportunity to vote early.

COMMISSIONER'S' COMMENTS
Commissioner Krueger – she thanked the election workers and offered her appreciation of their work, and commented that there are no better election workers in the County.

Mayor Withee – she thanked all of the election workers for their willingness to serve their community, especially with the new nine days of early voting. She also thanked Clerk Cronen. She commented that Hometown Christmas will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 7th. She encouraged everyone to look for informational posts regarding Hometown Christmas. She reminded everyone that Otsego Christmas Ministry will be collecting various items, family games, and taking donations at the Pavilion, for over eighty families that they will be providing for. She thanked the audience for attending.

ADJOURN
Commissioner Krueger moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Smith. CARRIED. 7:33 p.m.

Angela M. Cronen, MMC
City Clerk