

CITY OF COLOMA
Regular Commission Meeting
November 27, 2023

The meeting was called to order at Coloma City Hall at 7:30 pm by Mayor Hammond.
Present: Balkin, Clements, Freitag, Hicks, Churchill, Smith, Mayor Hammond, Clerk
Clements

Visitors: Todd Bohle, Sig Freitag, Bill Smith, Samantha Smith (Tri-City Record), Mary
Harrison, Matt Quinn, Scott Franko (Surf Internet), Jim Morris (Surf Internet), Harold Bragg

Pledge: Commissioner Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance to the USA Pledge.
Flag.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Commissioner Clements, seconded by **Agenda**
Commissioner Freitag to approve the agenda with the addition of city **Approval.**
employee Christmas bonus under New Business. **Yes: Balkin, Clements,**
Freitag, Hicks, Churchill, Smith, Mayor Hammond. No: NONE.
MOTION CARRIED.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Freitag motioned, seconded by **Minutes**
Commissioner Clements to approve the Regular Commission Meeting **Approval.**
minutes from November 13, 2023. **Yes: Balkin, Clements, Freitag, Hicks,**
Churchill, Smith, Mayor Hammond. No: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.

Comments from Citizens and Visitors: Mary Harrison Romance **New Book**
Readers Book Club starts every second Tuesday of the month and 5:30 **Club at the**
pm at the Coloma Public Library. **Library. Marry**
Harrison,
Coloma Public
Library.

Matt Quinn shared the November and October recent events within **Great Lakes**
Coloma from Great Lakes Rescue. November seems to be a busier month **Rescue**
than usual. Commission Freitag motioned to approve the Great Lakes **Update. Matt**
Rescue report as presented, seconded by Commissioner Hicks. **Quinn.**
Yes: Balkin, Clements, Freitag, Hicks, Churchill, Smith, Mayor **MOTION**
Hammond. No: NONE. MOTION CARRIED. **APPROVAL.**

Special Recognition: None.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: Commissioner Smith motioned to purchase city of Coloma employees a gift card for the amount of \$125 to a local Coloma businesses, seconded by Commissioner Clements. **Yes: Balkin, Clements, Freitag, Hicks, Churchill, Smith, Mayor Hammond. No: NONE. MOTION CARRIED.**

Christmas Bonus \$125 per employee. MOTION APPROVAL.

Jim Morris and Scott Franko from Surf Internet introduced themselves to the commissioners. Franko gave a brief overview of their initial build to bring fiber to our local area. They are funded by grants and other sources. Franko gave an overview of fiber as all users do not share it vs what speeds you get with cable/dsl providers. They are looking to work with other communities in southern Michigan counties where there are more rural communities. Next steps would be to have a metro act drafted and meet with all respective parties to discuss. Commissioner Balkin asked about how Surf Internet works with the Berrien County grant and MEC. Franko shared they are friendly competitors and communicate with MEC. Mary Harrison asked about their coverage to areas in Coloma where there can work with the library to know about other areas in need. Commissioner Clements asked about pricing for the city. Franko shared the Surf resident pricing with no contracts, price lock for life, no connection fee. Matt Quinn asked regarding the statistical downtime rate. Franko shared it depends on the issue and shared response rates are fairly fast. Franko shared once the infrastructure is in place, they will understand where hotspots are so key places like police, city are covered. Commissioner Freitag asked about contracts and Franko shared Surf Internet brings another option to residents for an ISP.

Surf Internet, Scott Franko.

Commissioner Balkin would like to understand how this infrastructure fits with the Berrien County and MEC plan.

Commissioner Clements suggested we table the conversation until next meeting. Mayor Hammond asked to use the next few weeks to talk to the county about their plan for the city and then make a motion at our next December 11 meeting.

Surf Internet motion tabled to December 11 meeting.

Finance/Insurance: None.

Public Works: Commissioner Freitag True Value is opening up their water service line between True Value and Fire Station and the city of Coloma's portion is for \$1,250 and will be covered by the Fire Department and the additional cost will be covered by True Value. Todd Bohle shared they may be able to get to a few more areas for leaves weather permitting. Bagged leaves are welcome to be dropped off near public works.

Leaf Pickup and Waterline near true value.

Police: None.

Clerk: None.

Ordinance: None.

Fire Board: None.

Communications: None.

Correspondence: None.

Adjournment: Motion by Commissioner Hicks, seconded by Commissioner Smith to adjourn at 8:04 PM. Voice vote. MOTION CARRIED.

Adjournment.

Kelly Clements, Clerk

Marsha Hammond, Mayor