

# City of Marine City PUBLIC NOTICE

## City Commission Special Meeting May 4, 2020

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Pursuant to the provisions of Executive Order No. 2020-59 issued by Governor Gretchen Whitmer on April 24, 2020, notice is hereby given that the City Commission of the City of Marine City will hold an electronic special meeting on May 4, 2020 beginning at 7:00 p.m. The reasons for holding an electronic public meeting are to limit the spread of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) and to remain in compliance with Governor Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order 2020-59, which prohibits any public gathering until May 15, 2020.

The electronic public meeting will be held as a telephonic conference. The public may participate in the electronic public meeting by calling one of the provided numbers and entering the Meeting ID when prompted. You may call in or connect from a computer and use either audio source. If possible, please refrain from utilizing the toll-free numbers. The public will be able to listen to all discussion by Commissioners and will be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes during the public comment section of the agenda.

To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84278894309>

Meeting ID: 842 7889 4309

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcRPfyn2Kj>

**Kristen Baxter**  
City Clerk  
May 1, 2020



**CITY OF MARINE CITY**  
**City Commission Meeting Agenda**  
Virtual Meeting via Phone Conference  
**Special Meeting: Monday, May 4, 2020 at 7:00 pm**

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **MOMENT OF SILENCE / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ROLL CALL:** Mayor Dave Vandenbossche; Commissioners Jacob Bryson, Elizabeth Hendrick, Wendy Kellehan, William Klaassen, Paul Merchant, Cheryl Vercammen; City Manager Elaine Leven
4. **APPROVE AGENDA**
5. **PUBLIC COMMENT** *Anyone in attendance is welcome to address the City Commission. Please state name and limit comments to five (5) minutes. This is a time for you to raise issues. The Commission will not respond, but issues will be followed up on as necessary.*
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. Banners for the Class of 2020
7. **ADJOURNMENT**



# M A R I N E C I T Y

TO: Elaine Leven, City Manger  
FROM: Michael Itrich  
DPW Superintendent  
Date: May 1, 2020  
SUBJECT: Banners

Elaine,

After speaking with Steve, a DTE planner, they will help us with the installation of the banners. I will be meeting Monday morning with him to go over the poles that will be used. Also he is going to send a letter of commitment to me sometime Monday. When I receive it I will forward it to you.

With the help from DTE for installation we can utilize the poles from Fifth Third Bank on S. River Rd to Chartier. These are the poles I cannot reach unless we drive on the grass easement. They have longer booms on their bucket trucks. Using these poles we can start just south of Fifth Third Bank and go north on M-29 to Fairbanks, than east on Broadway to S. Water south to Bridge Street over the Bridge to S. Belle River Road to Chartier, than west on Chartier to M-29. We would be able to hang all the banners in this route. With the Help of DTE installing the mounts and banners we should have them up in 2.5 days. The estimated cost to the city would be \$1000 to install them and \$1000 to take them down. If DTE was not to help us the estimate would be 5 days to install them at an estimated cost of \$2000 to install them and \$2000 to take them down. This estimate is for 2 employees with the boom truck for 8 hours a day. This estimate does not reflect any repairs that may be needed due to wind.

Any questions please contact me.

Respectfully

Michael Itrich

April 30, 2020

Hello Mayor, Commissioners and City Manager:

My name is Mary Beth Patsalis and I am writing to you on behalf of the Marine City High School Senior All Night Party (SANP) Committee. As you can imagine, this pandemic has devastated the graduating class of 2020. They have missed out on so many opportunities as school closed early.

The SANP Committee has been working on a project that will not only show Mariner Pride, but also show the graduates that their town Marine City is proud of them.

We got this idea from Caseville. They displayed banners of each Senior on poles throughout their town. It looked awesome. We thought this would look awesome throughout Marine City also. We have met some obstacles, but after investigating and checking with DTE, we feel we are ready to bring this to the Commission for your approval. Caseville is not the only one doing this to honor their Senior Graduates, as of last week, Algonac received approval by their City Commission to team up with Clay and their DDA to pay for the banners and hang them all (see Voice article below).

The SANP Committee has the funds to purchase the banners (and we will also be asking for donations to help offset the cost.) We are asking that the Commission approve the hanging of the banners. We have checked with DTE and received their approval to use the poles and they have also agreed to help hang the banners.

We already have the banners ready to be printed (see sample below), just waiting for your approval and we will organize the hanging of the banners. Please jump on board to help us celebrate the Graduates of 2020. This is a great community project!! If approved, we would ask the Times Herald to write an article mentioning how the SANP Committee, The City and DTE worked together on this project for the Class of 2020.

We are on the agenda for the May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, but we were wondering if this could be approved before the May 7<sup>th</sup> date being that DTE is willing to help.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 810-488-9943. We look forward to a favorable response.

Sincerely,

SANP Committee

Enclosed: Voice Article (see below)  
Sample Banner (see below)

# Algonac City Council approves banners featuring high school graduates

Item brought up during council comment was not on agenda

- By Emily Pauling [epauling@medianewsgroup.com](mailto:epauling@medianewsgroup.com)
- Apr 23, 2020
- Comments
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Email



The Algonac City Council recently approved a motion to cover a third of the cost for banners featuring Algonac Community School seniors. Pictured is the council at a previous meeting. MediaNews Group file photo

- Facebook
- Email
- Print
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The Algonac City Council approved a motion to cover a third of the cost for banners featuring Algonac Community Schools seniors in an unusual way during its April 21 meeting.

The council had moved past several new business items and had reached the council comment portion of the meeting. Council member Jake Skarbek started out his time by thanking essential workers, as well as the fire and police departments for doing drive by birthday surprises for kids.

Next, Skarbek said he had been working with Algonac Community Schools and Clay Township to get banners for every single high school graduate of 2020.

“I’m proposing that we buy 112 banners with the Muskrat logo at the top, the senior’s picture and their name in the middle and 2020 on the bottom,” he said. “The banners will be blue, gold and white.”

He said the total cost would be \$5,432, but it would be split three ways between the Clay Township Downtown Development Authority, Algonac and ACS, so the cost to the city would be \$1,810.67.

“The seniors have bagged sand for our seniors, they have helped us with the Care Bag Movement, they are working on the frontlines for Kroger,” he said. “They are doing so many amazing things for our community and they’re not getting the recognition they need.”

Skarbek then made a motion to pay for a third of the banners from Scoreboard N More on the contingency that the Clay Township DDA agrees, as he said there was already an agreement with Superintendent Alan Latosz with ACS and there was almost an agreement finished with Clay Township Supervisor Artie Bryson.

Council member Corey Blair supported the motion.

“You have to put it on the next agenda, right?” council member Michael Bembas asked.

“Is that what your motion is?”

“No,” said Skarbek. “I am asking for the motion now.”

Bembas asked him if he had submitted any invoices or anything to the city yet. Skarbek said City Manager Denice Gerstenberg had everything.

“We need more detail,” Bembas said. “It should be in like a pack.”

He said Skarbek could only really put the item on the next agenda, because the council needs to see paperwork.

“The reason I’m asking for it now is so we can get it into production, because I already have an agreement from Al Latosz for it and I almost have an agreement with Artie Bryson right now,” Skarbek said. “He has to do the logistics, but it’s in the works and it’s a 90%.”

Mayor Terry Stoneburner clarified that if the Clay DDA does not agree, then it would be a moot point if approved that night.

“I do believe we need to honor our kids,” Stoneburner said. “I think that’s a good thing, and I know we’re running out of time before it’s so-called graduation time.”

She asked how long it would take Scoreboard N More to make the banners. Skarbek said he did not know an exact time but the business would rush the order and get the banners as soon as possible.

Bembas asked Gerstenberg what documentation she had.



“I have an estimate from Scoreboard N More for the cost of the banners, I have an estimate from them for a cost of the banner arm, I have a whole banner agreement,” she said. “Jake, I’m not sure who drafted this, to be signed by all three parties. It is not signed by anyone.”

Skarbek told her it was just a rough draft he sent all parties because she asked for an agreement from everyone.

Blair asked if there would be any liability issues for putting the students’ faces on banners and hanging them in the city. Stoneburner replied that there are students that cannot have their picture anywhere for any kind of publication, but she would assume that Latosz would let the city know which they are.

Blair asked if there was a chance the cost would be less in that case. Skarbek said the cost is split three ways, so it would probably only save the city maybe \$100.

“But as of right now, I don’t want to do that,” he said. “I would like to print all of them off and the kids that can’t have their banners hung up, I would like them to still receive their banner for their graduation party. I think it’s something great for our community, I think it’s promoting Algonac in a good way and I hope I can get your guys’ support on this.”

“I support you 110%, you know that, but really, it should be on the next agenda,” Bembas said. “We should have a written message, agenda item from the city manager stating all these things so we have time to look it over. We should at least have some kind of info from your other sources on what they plan on contributing. We need to know from Denice, is this something that has to go out for bid? Is this this something that it’s OK for us to spend the community’s money on, rather than going through a private, charitable source? Things like that.”

He suggested possibly talking about the item at the council’s budget study session special meeting April 28.

"I know time's a constraint, and I know it's important to you and I agree on the concept, but there's a proper way we have to do it there, buddy," he said.

Gerstenberg said the budget study session's agenda is already out, but they could maybe add something to it. She said she would have to make sure there was not anything in the city's charter stating the study session could only be for the study session.

Skarbek said they could postpone the vote, but it would put a delay on the banners for two to three weeks.

"Well, we wouldn't be postponing it, we would just be putting it on the next agenda," council member Helen Meldrum said.

Bembas said that was the proper way to do it.

"Alright then, I guess that's how we got to do it," Skarbek said.

Stoneburner reminded them they had a motion on the table and they had to vote on it. Council members voted 5-2 to approve the money for the banners, with Bembas and Meldrum dissenting.

Stoneburner moved onto Meldrum for the next council comment.

"Did we put that on the next agenda now?" she asked

"No," Bembas said.

"Well, we need to," she said.

"Well, they just approved it to be bought and paid, without any documentation," Bembas said. "I'm kind of concerned about that. ... Denice, I'm not really sure this is the way that this is supposed to be done. We have no agenda item and it's the last minute, without

time to even look into it, investigate or anything. Aren't things supposed to be put on the agenda unless it's an emergency type of thing?"

Gerstenberg said that would be the preferable method, but motions could be made during council comments.

"Well, I want to make a motion that you guys each give me \$100,000, but that's not proper," Bembas said. "It should be on the agenda. I'm really concerned about how we did this."

He said council should have waited two weeks and done things the way it has always done business.

"We could have put this on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting if we would have known," Meldrum said.

"Well, we have done it this way," Stoneburner said.

"We did it wrong," Meldrum said.

"As Denice said, there are other ways to put a motion forward, and we had a motion," Stoneburner said.

Bembas asked what poles the banners will go on and who will put them up.

Skarbek said 56 of them will go in Clay Township and 56 in Algonac on light poles and telephone poles and that the department of public works will put them up.

"And if they can't, I will personally put them up myself," he said.

Bembas said he would strongly suggest that Skarbek do something like this at the beginning of the meeting next time, or at least give the council enough notice so they could have paperwork in front of them.

“Sorry,” Skarbek said. “I apologize.”

“I know it ... seems a little willy-nilly, Mike, I understand your concerns, but I think time is of the essence on this one,” Blair said during his comment. “Sometimes we got to put our faith in our council members and I think Jacob’s on the right path.”

“I’m glad that we’re going to recognize our seniors,” Stoneburner said.

Bembas noted that there is a lot of division in Washington, D.C., and Lansing lately.

“I saw this on TV today in a commercial, actually, but it really hit me, and it’s something that we need to keep in mind,” he said. “It was, ‘Stay together until we can be together.’ So, even though we’re going through these trials and tribulations and we have our disagreements and we have our different outlooks, we got to stay together as one team until we can be together as one team. And that’s the way I’m going to look at it for the next two weeks until this actually stops.”

*Emily Pauling is a staff writer for The Voice. She can be contacted at 586-273-6200*

**MARINE CITY**  
**MC**  
**HIGH SCHOOL**



*Jacob*  
*Kornago*  
**CLASS OF 2020**