

OFFICIAL COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
MARCH 4, 2024

A regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Harbor Beach was held on Monday, March 4, 2024 at City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Guitar.

Present Capling, Wood, Woodward, and Mayor Guitar
Absent: Woodke (with notice)

It was moved by Capling, seconded by Woodward to approve the agenda with the addition of proposal opening for Assessor, goals & achievements, and amendment of Public Notice to Public Hearings. Motion carried. 4 yeas.

It was moved by Capling, seconded by Woodward to approve the February 20, 2024 Council and Committee meeting minutes. Motion carried. 4 yeas.

APPROVAL OF BILLS: It was moved by Wood, seconded by Capling to approve payment of the February 2024 bills in the amount of \$103,427.58. Motion carried. 4 yeas.

It was moved by Capling, seconded by Woodward to approve the payment of the Wood Contracting bill in the amount of \$1,270.00. Motion carried. 3 yeas. 1 abstain (Wood).

Unfinished Business: Resolution # 2024-10 "2024 Poverty Exemption Guidelines" was presented to Council. It was moved by Capling, seconded by Woodward to adopt Resolution # 2024-10 as presented. The Resolution reads as follows: WHEREAS, the General Property Tax Act, MCL 211.7u, states that the homestead of persons who, in the judgment of the Board of Review, by reason of poverty, are unable to contribute to the public charges is eligible for exemption in whole or part from taxation under the General Property Tax Act; and

WHEREAS, a City Council is required by MCL 211.7u to adopt guidelines for the poverty exemption; and

WHEREAS, PA 253 of 2020 made several changes to the poverty exemption statute starting with the 2021 tax year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, pursuant to MCL 211.7u, as amended by PA 253 of 2020, the City of Harbor Beach, Huron County, adopts the following updated guidelines for the Board of Review to implement.

The guidelines shall include but not be limited to the specific income and asset levels (Exhibit A) of the claimant and all persons residing in the household. To be eligible for exemption under this section, a person must do all of the following on an annual basis:

1. Own and occupy as a principal residence the property for which an exemption is requested. The person shall affirm this ownership and occupancy status in writing by filing a form prescribed by the State Tax Commission with the Local Assessing Unit.
2. File a claim with the Board of Review on a form prescribed by the State Tax Commission and provided by the Local Assessing Unit, 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. Federal and state income tax returns are not required for a person residing in the principal residence if that person was not required to file a federal or state income tax return in the tax year in which the exemption under this section is claimed or in the immediately preceding tax year, and an affidavit in a form prescribed by the State Tax Commission may be accepted in place of the federal or state income tax return.
3. Produce a valid driver's license or other form of identification if requested by the Board of Review.
4. Produce a deed, land contract, or other evidence of ownership of the property for which an exemption is requested if required by the Board of Review.
5. Meet the federal poverty income guidelines as defined and determined annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget,

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 390 of 1994, as amended by PA 253 of 2020, the City of Harbor Beach adopts the following guidelines and policy as provided in Exhibits A and B attached hereto 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Board of Review may request from the applicant any supporting documents that may be utilized in determining a property poverty exemption request; and
2. The completed property poverty exemption application must be filed after January 1, but one (1) day prior to the last day of the Board of Review in the year for which the exemption is sought; and
3. The Board of Review shall follow this Resolution and the City's 2023 guidelines and policy for property tax poverty exemption in granting or denying an exemption, and
4. If a person meets all eligibility requirements in statute, the Board of Review must grant a full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value OR a partial exemption equal to a 25% or 50% reduction in taxable value OR any other percentage reduction in taxable value approved by the State Tax Commission; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the City Council of Harbor Beach rescinds all prior resolutions that are inconsistent with or in conflict with this Resolution; and

That to conform to the provisions of PA 390 of 1994 and PA 253 of 2020, The Poverty Exemption Guidelines (Exhibits A and B) are hereby effective March 4, 2024. Motion carried. 4 yeas.

New Business: It was moved by Capling, seconded by Woodward to approve purchase of new printer from Boss Business Solutions at a cost of \$ 6,805.00. Motion carried. 4 yeas.

It was moved by Woodward, seconded by Capling to approve Public Hearings for Parks, Recreation, and the 2024-2025 Budget on March 18, 2024.

A proposal for an assessor was opened.

City Manager Wruble gave an update on 2024 goals and achievements.

There being no further business. It was moved by Wood, seconded by Woodward to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Kevin Guitar, Mayor

Jennifer Lackowski, Clerk