

**CITY OF LIVONIA – CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF STUDY MEETING HELD MARCH 14, 2022**

Meeting was called to order at 8:20 p.m. by President Jim Jolly. Present: Vice President Laura Toy, Scott Bahr, Rob Donovic, Scott Morgan, Brandon McCullough, and Kathleen McIntyre. Absent: None

Elected and appointed officials present: City Clerk, Susan Nash, Mark Taormina, Director of Planning and Economic Development, Todd Zilincik, City Engineer, Paul Bernier; City Attorney, Thomas Goralski, Police Chief, Dave Heavener, Fire Chief, Jacob Rushlow, Assistant Director of Public Works, Mike Slater, Finance Director, LaShawn Thomas, Director of Government Affairs, Brandie Isaacson, Housing Director, Ted Davis; Superintendent of Parks and Recreation.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

NEW BUSINESS

1. REQUEST TO WAIVE THE CITY'S NOISE ORDINANCE: Rev. Dr. Rodrigue Constantin, Saint Rafka Maronite Catholic Church, re: in order to hold a cultural festival with music played by a DJ and live bands at Saint Rafka Maronite Catholic Church located at 32765 Lyndon Street on Saturday, August 20, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. and Sunday, August 21, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Rev. Dr. Rodrigue Constantin, Saint Rafka Maronite Catholic Church was not present to discuss this request.

Brandon McCullough offered an approving resolution for the Regular Agenda.

Rob Donovic asked City Attorney, Paul Bernier if there had been a process coming out of the committee meetings for outdoor events. Paul replied that once Council approves the event, the requestor is to work with Jerome Hanna, Inspection Director, to coordinate the details of the event. He indicated that Council can always add terms and conditions to the noise ordinance.

DIRECTION:

APPROVING

REGULAR

2. WAIVER PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2022-01-02-01 submitted by LAG Development, requesting waiver use approval to demolish the existing commercial building and use the property for the storage and display of vehicles in connection with an automobile dealership (Lafontaine Hyundai of Livonia) at 34801 Plymouth Road, located on the south side of Plymouth Road between Stark and Wayne Roads in the Northwest ¼ of Section 33.

Taylor Lin, 9990 East Highland Road, Howell, employee of LAG Development, presented the request to Council. She stated that they are planning to demo the existing Dough Boy donut shop, as presented at the Planning Commission meeting on February 22, 2022. This will remove an eyesore and optimize the development of the site. This allows better flow into the Hyundai site. If removing a drive is contingent on approval, they would like to remove the westward most drive and would fill the drive with a 10-foot greenspace. They will also be asking for a waiver for the 20-foot setback to allow for more parking spots.

Vice President Laura Toy asked to hear from the Planning and Economic Development Director, Mark Taormina. Mark added that one of the benefits to their landscape design, which are new requirements with the new zoning regulations, along with PRDA treescape improvements with brick piers and fencing to the three areas on either side of the driveways and center. He noted that although their illumination levels are higher than what is required, there were no residential areas directly affected by the lighting.

Vice President, Laura Toy, offered an approving resolution for the Regular Agenda.

Brandon McCullough asked to verify where new asphalt would be located. Taylor Lin indicated that there would be patching here and there. Brandon asked about the pavement condition. Taylor replied that it wasn't too bad. Brandon stated that adding a seal coat to the surrounding areas might be beneficial. Taylor agreed that it would be necessary once everything is done.

DIRECTION:	APPROVING	REGULAR
------------	-----------	---------

3. REQUEST APPROVAL OF BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2021: Department of Finance, re: to transfer excess budget from Cares Act, State Shared Revenue, District Court and Senior Services to Medical Self-Insurance and Recreation Athletics and to transfer excess budget from various police divisions to various fire divisions.

Mike Slater, Director of Finance, presented the request to Council. Scott Bahr asked about the large number moved to firefighting salaries and wages and why this wasn't seen before. Mike replied that it was caused by retention bonuses that were being created when the budget was put together, but not part of the budget.

Scott Bahr offered an approving resolution for the Consent Agenda.

DIRECTION:	APPROVING	CONSENT
------------	-----------	---------

4. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO WAIVE THE SEALED BID PROCESS AND TO REPLACE DELL NETWORK SERVERS AND DATA BACK UP EQUIPMENT:

Division of Police, re: to replace network servers and back up equipment that are out of warranty or at end of life, from budgeted funds.

Thomas Goralski, Police Chief, presented the request to Council. Scott Morgan asked what the life expectancy is for the new servers and how long did the previous servers last. Chief Goralski replied that the three servers they currently have are well over ten years old, while the warranties are typically between three, five and seven years. The new servers have a warranty of seven years.

President Jolly noted that around 2008, he would start everyday walking from the courthouse to the police station with a tape drive to put in a safe at the police department and count the bond money. That was the back up at the time.

Scott Morgan offered an approving resolution for the Consent Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

5. REQUEST TO APPROVE SPECIALIZED SERVICES TRANSPORTATION OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THIRD PARTY CONTRACT FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2021 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2022 BETWEEN THE CITY OF LIVONIA AND SMART: Livonia Housing Commission, re: with grant funds to be used for the Livonia Community Transit Program to provide lift-equipped transportation to the senior and disabled residents of the City.

Brandie Isaacson, Director of Housing, presented the request to Council.

Vice President, Laura Toy indicated that this is more of a housekeeping item and commended Brandie Isaacson on doing a good job. She offered an approving resolution for the Consent Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

6. REQUEST FOR INFORMAL APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED PROGRAM AND TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR THE 2022-2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM: Livonia Housing Commission, re: so that a second public hearing can be held on this matter, after which time a final program and budget will be forwarded to Council for formal adoption.

Brandie Isaacson, Director of Housing, presented the request to Council.

Rob Donovic indicated that he recognized this funding is critical to continue the work in the department. He stated his concern that HUD funding will have an increasingly delayed time period, so bridge funding is critical and offered an approving resolution for the Consent Agenda.

DIRECTION:

APPROVING

CONSENT

7. REQUEST TO APPROVE ADDENDUM TO THE SUBLEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LIVONIA AND LIVONIA CIVIC ARENAS: Department of Parks and Recreation, re: to suspend lease payments for Eddie Edgar Ice Arena for twelve months, beginning August 1, 2022.

Ted Davis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, presented the request to Council. He noted that Livonia Civic Arena is still struggling from the pandemic, and this is one way the city can help them.

Scott Bahr asked about the reason for the struggle out of the pandemic if it was due to low enrollment in leagues and programs. Ted Davis replied that when they were shut down, they were close enough to shut down within one week. Scott asked what the trajectory looked like for them. Ted responded that it is recovering, but this is one way to assist them along.

Scott Bahr offered an approving resolution for the Consent Agenda. He asked if this is an ongoing thing. Ted Davis stated that he hoped they would be okay next year, but there are too many variables in play with the various needs of the arenas.

Rob Donovic asked if he planned to recoup the lease payments. Ted Davis responded that they would not backfill the lease payments, it is just a wash at this point.

Brandon McCullough asked to clarify the rumor that Devonaire would be sold and turned into a subdivision. Ted Davis responded that it was not factual. Brandon responded that the association numbers are up and hopefully it sticks.

President Jolly stated that he values LCA as a strategic partner and asked if they are involved in their capital planning. He also asked how far in depth they look at the books to grasp the situation. Ted Davis indicated that he speaks with the arena manager frequently. They get their yearly budget, their actuals, their capital yearly expenditures and proposed capital for the upcoming year.

President Jolly asked who does the maintenance at the arenas. Ted Davis responded that interior improvements or capital projects are handled by LCA for the most part and the exterior are handled by the city for the most part.

DIRECTION:

APPROVING

CONSENT

8. REQUEST TO APPROVE PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN: Department of Parks and Recreation, re: for the 2022-2026 Master Parks and Recreation Plan (PR 3819-22), a prerequisite in applying for State and Federal Funding.

Vice President, Laura Toy, complimented Ted Davis and his team on their excellent job with Parks and Recreation. She offered an approving resolution for the Consent Agenda.

