

**CITY OF LIVONIA – CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF STUDY MEETING HELD MAY 16, 2022**

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President Jim Jolly. Present: Vice President Laura Toy, Scott Bahr, Rob Donovic, Scott Morgan, and Brandon McCullough, 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, Mike Fisher; Assistant City Attorney, Jerome Hanna, Director of Inspection and Ordinance, and Jacob Rushlow, Assistant Director of Public Works.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: None

NEW BUSINESS

1. REAPPOINTMENT OF DAVID BONGERO TO THE LIVONIA PLANNING COMMISSION: Office of the Mayor, re: for a three-year term, which will expire on June 9, 2025.

Mark Taormina, Director of Planning and Economic Development, presented the request to Council. David Bongero stated that he has worked with very talented people and has learned so much from Mark.

Councilmember Kathleen McIntyre noted they are lucky to have Mr. Bongero and offered an approving resolution for the Consent agenda.

Councilmember Rob Donovic noted that Mr. Bongero has done great work and the city is fortunate to have him.

Councilmember Brandon McCullough stated that he agreed with his colleagues and that Mr. Bongero is one of the smartest people in the construction field and happy to have him on the Commission.

Council President Jim Jolly stated that Mr. Bongero is a unicorn that brings the theory and the practice to the table.

DIRECTION:	APPROVAL	CONSENT
------------	----------	---------

2. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE 450 PRIVACY SCREEN VOTING BOOTHS: Office of the City Clerk, re: to replace old and broken voting booths used for voting privacy at all polling locations throughout the City, from budgeted funds.

Susan M. Nash, City Clerk, presented the request to Council.

Council Vice President Laura Toy offered and approving resolution on the Consent agenda, stating that the Clerk has done a superior job keeping things straight with their voting.

Councilmember Scott Bahr asked what the life expectancy is for the new booths. Clerk Susan Nash stated that she did not know, but they come in two parts. What they have now comes in a suitcase and held together with duct tape. The new booths are tables with a removable and replaceable cardboard screen. Councilmember Bahr asked if the old booths were twenty-plus years old. Clerk Nash confirmed they were at least that old.

Council President Jim Jolly asked if chairs would be needed if they are a tabletop structure. Clerk Susan Nash stated they do not. They are a platform with legs and the same height as the current booths. They only have chairs at the Voter-Assisted Terminal for handicapped voters or available for someone that prefers to sit.

DIRECTION: APPROVAL CONSENT

3. REQUEST TO APPROVE DESIGNATION OF AUTHORIZED DEPOSITORIES: Department of Finance, re: to allow the City to collect property tax payments and water bills, as well as purchase Certificates of Deposit and pooled accounts, at these financial institutions.

Mike Slater, Finance Director, presented the request to Council.

Council Vice President Laura Toy offered an approving resolution for the Consent agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVAL CONSENT

4. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE ONE (1) 2022 DODGE CHARGER UTILIZING THE STATE OF MICHIGAN BID PRICING: Division of Police, re: to replace an unrepairable vehicle, from budgeted funds.

Thomas Goralski, Livonia Chief of Police, presented the request to Council.

Councilmember Rob Donovic asked if the officer was ok, taking note the request was from a damaged vehicle. Chief Goralski stated that the officer was not injured from the crash.

Councilmember Rob Donovic offered an approving resolution for the Consent agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVAL CONSENT

5. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE FIVE (5) 2022 FORD RANGERS UTILIZING THE STATE OF MICHIGAN BID PRICING: Inspection Department, re: to be used by the Inspection/Ordinance Department, from budgeted funds.

Jerome Hanna, Director of Inspection, presented the request to Council.

Councilmember Brandon McCullough offered an approving resolution for the Consent agenda.

Councilmember Rob Donovic asked what happens to the vehicles that Ordinance used. Jerome Hanna stated that the vehicles to trade in are high-mileage vehicles, so he will shift them around throughout the department.

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

CONSENT

6. REQUEST TO ADJUST WATER AND SEWER CONSUMPTION RATES, INDUSTRIAL SURCHARGE RATE AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE CONTROL CHARGE: Department of Public Works, re: to become effective on July 1, 2022.

Jacob Rushlow, Assistant Superintendent of Public Works, and Connie Kumpula, Chief Accountant, presented the request to Council.

Council President Jim Jolly stated that there has been a lot of information regarding the Highland Park water debt and asked to what extent that was factored into the rate adjustments. A resolution was passed refusing to pay their debt and asked to verify that it was not considered as part of the rate increase. Connie Kumpula stated that GLWA sets their revenue requirement, and it is built into that revenue requirement. To make up for that, the city divided the \$40,000.00 by twelve, from their debt that was built in, and reduced the payment to GLWA each month. Councilmember Scott Bahr clarified that the residents are still paying that rate, but since that money is being held in escrow until everything is resolved. Once that happens, the residents would get that portion back

Councilmember Bahr asked to clarify what was meant by the expected reduction in water sales charges, if that meant they are expected to sell less water to residents. Connie Kumpula agreed, stating that has been the trend over the last couple of years. Councilmember Bahr asked what impact that had on the rates. Connie replied that when you sell less water, you have less spread to cover the fixed costs. Councilmember Bahr asked what the decreased usage was attributed to. Jacob Rushlow stated that it was being more conscious of how water is used and changes to water fixtures are reducing water use, along with industrial side, they are recycling the water used which makes the water use more efficient.

Councilmember Bahr asked about the rate impact of the sanitary water running through the sewer system. Jacob Rushlow stated that it impacts rates because it is another Capital Improvement Project, which reduces the flow into the sanitary system that needs to be treated.

Councilmember Bahr asked if there can be a separation of sewer and clean water. Jacob Rushlow stated that there isn't a good and efficient way to monitor and meter the gravity flow of water coming out of the drain and sewer pipe.

Councilmember Bahr asked how we compare to surrounding communities. Jacob Rushlow stated that Canton has built a water storage facility that helps control their peak flows. Councilmember Bahr asked about an update on Livonia doing the same. Jacob said they are polishing up a preliminary engineering study right now for a water storage reservoir in Livonia which should be done in the next few months. Once they meet with Finance after that, they can move forward.

Councilmember Scott Bahr offered and approving resolution for the Regular agenda.

Council Vice President Laura Toy asked to put the subject matter of water rates into the Environmental Committee to discuss when it is appropriate. Council President Jim Jolly stated that this might already be in committee.

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

REGULAR

7. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE LIVONIA CODE OF ORDINANCES, AS AMENDED: Department of Law, re: to Amend Chapter 37 (Delivery and Placement of Written Materials) to Title 8.

Paul Bernier, City Attorney, presented the request to Council.

Council President Jim Jolly asked if this amendment changes the presumption. Paul Bernier replied that it does, whether it is solicited or unsolicited, if you throw it in the driveway, you are violating the ordinance. Currently, if an item is solicited, it was not a violation of the ordinance, but there is no way to determine if an item is solicited or not. It took charging the big paper downtown after five years of writing letters before it got their attention. After a meeting with them, they assured that after July, they will no longer be printing the ads that are thrown on the sidewalks. This has been the majority of the complaints they have received.

Council President Jim Jolly asked that with the new ordinance if there would be an affirmative defense if someone had subscribed. Paul Bernier stated that it would be a violation unless the item was placed in an allowable area, such as the front door.

Council President Jim Jolly asked that once change is final, that the local media companies are notified. Paul Bernier stated they have tried and have not had cooperation from any of the papers, which is why they took the step of charging them, which is what finally got their attention.

Council President Jim Jolly asked if they could explore an affirmative defense for those that do subscribe. Paul Bernier stated that there is no distinction between citizen and non-citizen material and asked that they see what happens with the change in July. At that time, the problem should be eliminated.

Councilmember Rob Donovic stated thanked the Law Department for taking this up and felt that the circulator should be held to a standard of delivering to a porch or box rather than the driveway.

Councilmember Scott Bahr noted that they are talking about subscribed newspapers that have gone back at least a century. He stated that he only has a problem with stuff in his driveway that he didn't know to cancel. Paul Bernier stated that the business has changed from the fourteen-year-old child being required to put the paper where they were told, to the adult driver throwing the paper in the driveway.

Councilmember Scott Bahr asked if this would go to a public hearing if this were approved. Paul Bernier stated that it would go to a first read then a second read.

Councilmember Brandon McCullough noted that he lives in a cul-de-sac and the papers are left at the curb line. When it rains, they go down to a catch basin and then it floods the streets. He has pulled twenty of them out over the years.

Councilmember Rob Donovic offered an approving resolution for the Regular agenda.

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

REGULAR

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: None

As there were no further questions or comments President Jim Jolly adjourned the Study Session at 8:40 p.m. on Monday, May 16, 2022.

Dated: May 17, 2022

SUSAN M. NASH, CITY CLERK