

**CITY OF LIVONIA – CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF STUDY MEETING HELD JUNE 6, 2022**

Meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by President Jim Jolly. Present: Vice President Laura Toy, Rob Donovic, Scott Morgan, and Brandon McCullough. Absent: Kathleen McIntyre, Scott Bahr.

Elected and appointed officials present: City Clerk, Susan Nash, Mike Fisher, Assistant City Attorney, Mark Taormina, Director of Planning and Economic Development, Todd Zilincik, City Engineer, Jeannine Laible, Human Resources Director and Don Rohraff, Director of Public Works.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: None

NEW BUSINESS

1. BLOCK PARTY: Amy Ashton, re: to be held Saturday, July 2, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, July 3, 2022, on Aloise Street from Plymouth Road South until it dead ends.

Amy Ashton, 11860 Aloise Street, Livonia, presented the request to Council.

President Jim Jolly asked if the resident was aware of the Neighborhood Grant Program and explained that the city will sponsor up to \$500 for these events.

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

DIRECTION:	APPROVAL	CONSENT
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2. BLOCK PARTY: Kate Dobson, re: to be held Saturday, July 16, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., with a rain date of Sunday, July 17, 2022, on Sherwood Street between Williams and Comstock Streets.

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

DIRECTION:	APPROVAL	CONSENT
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3. BLOCK PARTY: Gena Tucker, re: to be held Saturday, August 13, 2022, from 1:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m., on Ellen Drive from the intersection of Edgewood Street and Gary Lane to the intersection of Edgewood and Roycroft Streets.

Gena Tucker presented the request to Council and asked where to find the Neighborhood Grant information. President Jim Jolly responded that she could find the information on the city website.

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

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

CONSENT

4. REQUEST TO WAIVE THE CITY'S NOISE ORDINANCE AND TO ERECT SIGNS AT REFERENCED LOCATIONS: Wafi Barshini, Festival Chairperson, The Basilica of St. Mary Antiochian Orthodox Church, re: in connection with their 14th Annual Michigan Fun Fest to be held from Thursday, August 11, 2022, through Sunday, August 14, 2022, in the rear parking lot at 18100 Merriman Road.

Wafi Barshini and Freddie Sackllah, St. Mary's Church, 18100 Merriman Road, presented the request to Council. Freddie Sackllah explained they will be having a smaller scale festival this year, not the Fun Fest as done in the past, and will be following all of the rules involved.

President Jim Jolly asked what the hours would be and if there would not be fireworks. Freddie Sackllah responded there would not be fireworks and that they are planning to end the band at 11:00 pm on Friday, 12:00am on Saturday and 10:00 pm on Sunday.

Vice President Laura Toy asked why they weren't having the Fun Fest this year. Freddie Sackllah replied they were worried about COVID for the last two years. This year, they were worried about the expense of the festival due to the revenue loss from COVID along with the need to build back the community on a smaller scale to give the members of the church more attention. Vice President Toy asked when the band will end. Freddie replied with the times for each day as stated previously. Vice President Toy reminded him of the noise levels and offered an approving resolution.

Councilmember Rob Donovic thanked them for coming in and continuing to do things with the community. He asked to verify the location and direction of the speakers away from the resident's homes to minimize noise pollution to the neighbors. Freddie Sackllah stated they are bringing back a sound system person to regulate the noise.

Councilmember Rob Donovic asked to verify that there will be signage put out to alert the neighbors. Freddie Sackllah indicated they weren't going to put signs up, they were going to hand deliver cards to the neighbors to invite the neighbors. Council President Jolly thanked him for doing that and asked that his cellphone number be on the cards. Freddie replied that his cellphone number will be on them.

Paul Condon, 3115 Hillbrook, Livonia, approached the podium and stated that his home is 601 feet from the speakers when they are put up. He objects to the time of 11:59p on Saturday night, stating that they rarely stop on time. He also noted that he has never received a card regarding the event or contact information. He asked for more consideration and control of the volume of the music. He noted that Councilmember Donovic has worked with him directly regarding the needs around the event.

Council President Jolly stated to Freddie Sackllah that he has heard what has been said and does not want this to be an issue next year.

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

CONSENT

5. APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER N. BOLOVEN TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Kathleen E. McIntyre, Councilmember, for a three-year term which will expire on July 12, 2025.

Council Vice President Laura Toy noted that Christopher Boloven has been on the Zoning Board and offered an approving resolution for the Consent agenda in Councilmember Kathleen McIntyre's absence.

Council President Jolly asked for the item to be on the Regular agenda, stating that ZBA is a crucial appointment and felt it to be important to come before Council.

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

REGULAR

6. APPOINTMENT OF TIMOTHY J. KLISZ TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Brandon McCullough, Councilmember, for a three-year term which will expire on July 12, 2025.

Timothy Klisz was present at the podium and thanked Councilmember Brandon McCullough for appointing him. He explained his history of working with the Zoning Board and expressed that he enjoyed being a member.

Councilmember Scott Morgan offered an approving resolution for the Consent agenda.

Councilmember Rob Donovic thanked Timothy Klisz for serving the community.

Councilmember Brandon McCullough noted that he remembered hearing from Timothy Klisz in 2019 that he loved serving on ZBA and he is honored to appoint him as a member.

Council President Jim Jolly noted that there are many interesting things about Mr. Klisz and a great representative of the community.

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

CONSENT

7. WAIVER PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2022-03-02-08, submitted by Tiseo Architects, Inc. on behalf of TrueHeal Veterinarian Clinic, requesting to operate a veterinary clinic at 27488 Five Mile Road, located on the north side of Five Mile Road between Inkster Road and Foch Avenue in the Southeast ¼ of Section 13.

Ben Tiseo, 19815 Farmington Road, presented the request to Council.

Councilmember Brandon McCullough asked if there would be boarding overnight. Maria Potranko, owner of the building and manager of the clinic, responded there will not be

animals staying overnight. If the animal needs hospitalization overnight, they will be referred out to an emergency hospital. Councilmember McCullough asked if there would be an area of grass for the animals to use the bathroom. Ben Tiseo replied that it was not anticipated. Maria Potranko replied that there is landscaping proposed for grass in the front, but when an animal is brought inside for surgery, there is a place inside to relieve themselves. Councilmember McCullough stated that he appreciates they are reviving the building. He stated that for the sake of the neighbors, he would appreciate a space for that outside when going back to the car.

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

Council Vice President Laura Toy stated that she concurs with Councilmember McCullough, noting that animals relieve themselves when they smell other animals, so she would also like to see something outside.

Council Vice President Laura Toy asked how long they have been in practice. Maria Potranko stated they have been in practice for a total of fifteen years. She thanked everyone for being so nice.

Councilmember Rob Donovic asked about a wall at the back of the building. Ben Tiseo stated that there is a cross-access agreement with the neighbors, but there is a wall between the multi-residential on the east of the property line and will be taking down the wall at the front of the building.

Council President Jim Jolly asked about trash removal. Ben Tiseo stated they would hire a company to pick up and the medical waste would be a special pick up.

DIRECTION:	APPROVAL	CONSENT
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8. WAIVER PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2022-03-02-11 submitted by Livonia Veterinary Hospital requesting to expand the existing veterinary hospital at 13389, 13391 and 13393 Farmington Road, located on the west side of Farmington Road between the CSX Railroad right-of-way and Schoolcraft Road in the Northeast ¼ of Section 28.

Mark Taormina, Director of Planning and Economic Development presented the request to Council.

Dean DeVonce, DeVonce Custom Construction, 43650 Utica Road, Sterling Heights, Michigan was present at the podium to answer questions.

Council Vice President Laura Toy stated that the building has been there since the 50's and what they are doing is a vast improvement and offered an approving resolution for the Regular agenda.

DIRECTION:	APPROVAL	REGULAR
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9. WAIVER PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2022-04-02-12 submitted by Area Towing & Recovery, Inc. requesting to operate a vehicle tow yard at 12719 Inkster Road, located on the west side of Inkster Road between the CSX Railroad and Schoolcraft Road in the Northeast ¼ of Section 25.

Mark Taormina, Director of Planning and Economic Development, presented the request to Council.

Shane Anders, 12179 Inkster Road, Owner, Area Towing was present at the podium to answer any questions.

Councilmember Rob Donovic thanked the petitioner for being there and asked if they plan to renovate the building. Shane Anders replied they will probably do upgrades.

Councilmember Rob Donovic asked if the storage area for the vehicles is fenced in and if they plan to change the fencing. Shane Anders replied they opaque the entrance of the facility, as advised by the Planning Commission, the preference is vinyl.

Councilmember Rob Donovic asked what kind of cars they would be storing. Shane Anders stated that his sole purpose is for the storage for the police department as an impound facility. They are focused on technology to allow the law enforcement officers to remove themselves from the administrative paperwork to allow them time to focus on public safety needs. He also focuses on environmental needs; they take the absorbent to crash sites.

Council Vice President Laura Toy asked for a list of cities or townships in Wayne County they have towed for. Shane Anders replied that he has towed for Taylor, the State Police, all of I-75 from Southfield to Detroit border as well as I-94 from Inkster Road to Detroit border, all police agencies in Monroe County, I-75, US 23 and Ecorse.

Council Vice President Toy asked that if he didn't get the towing contract, they won't purchase or develop the site. Shane Anders confirmed that he has a lease agreement contingent on approval.

Council President Jim Jolly asked if there is a clause in the current proposal to limit the waiver usage to this operator and if not, he would like it added.

Councilmember Brandon McCullough offered an approving resolution for the Regular agenda with the stipulation of adding the clause stated by Council President Jolly.

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

REGULAR

10. WAIVER PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2022-04-02-13, submitted by Wade Shows, Inc. requesting to conduct a carnival in the parking lot of the former Sears, sponsored by the Livonia AM Rotary Club, consisting of amusement rides, games and food concessions from July 14, 2022, through July 24, 2022, on property at 29500 Seven Mile Road, located on the northwest corner of Seven Mile and Middlebelt Roads in the Southeast ¼ of Section 2.

Mark Taormina, Director of Planning and Economic Development, presented the request to Council.

Joanna Hardesty and Pat Zocal from the Livonia Rotary were present at the podium to answer questions.

Council Vice President Laura Toy commented that they run a good show, have never had any problems or accidents, and offered an approving resolution for the Consent agenda.

Councilmember Brandon McCullough stated that he supports Rotary AM and offered to promote their show. He asked how they pick the carnival games for the show. Joanna Hardesty replied that they are chosen as part of the Wade Shows family and travel with them. Councilmember McCullough asked if he could recommend games and shared that he made a prototype of one of the harder games and mastered it. It has since been removed.

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

CONSENT

11. SITE PLAN PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2022-03-08-01, submitted by MA Designers Inc., requesting to construct an addition and remodel the interior and exterior of the retail center at 34800 Plymouth Road, located on the north side of Plymouth Road between Stark and Wayne Roads in the Southwest $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28.

Mark Taormina, Director of Planning and Economic Development, presented the request to Council.

Alex Raichouni, MA Designers Inc., 5710 Rouge Circle, Dearborn Heights, Michigan, and Feras Seryani, 25734 Ann Arbor Trail, Dearborn Heights, Michigan, were present at the podium to answer questions.

Council Vice President Laura Toy asked to clarify the location. Alex Raichouni replied that it was the old flea market building with glass in the front. They won't demolish the building, just add to it on the top, take out the asphalt shingles and replace with standing seam metal.

Council Vice President Laura Toy complimented the building and asked if they have tenants already. Alex Raichouni stated they have tenants in mind already for a clothing store. Ross stated they only have one tenant now and are looking for good ones.

Council Vice President Laura Toy asked if they spoke to the neighbors. Alex Raichouni replied they have not. Council Vice President Toy suggested that they speak to the neighbors behind the building to be a good neighbor.

Councilmember Rob Donovic stated that would be a vast improvement to what it is now and asked about the dumpster enclosure being the same material as the new brick

material. Alex Raichouni confirmed the brick to be the same material to match the building.

Councilmember Donovic asked what the gate would look like. Alex Raichouni replied they will be an iron gate.

Councilmember Rob Donovic asked if they are changing the landscaping. Alex Raichouni stated the landscaping is all new and wasn't sure if there were shrubs left or not. Councilmember Donovic asked if they anticipate starting this year. Alex Raichouni replied that he would like to start this year.

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

Councilmember Brandon McCullough stated that he feels this building needed a huge uplift and this is it. He echoed the concern regarding the second floor and likes that they have no windows and screening for the HVAC and asked that they are not planning on deviating from the plan. Alex Raichouni confirmed.

Councilmember Brandon McCullough asked about the second floor as office space and asked about site enhancements to the parking lot. Alex Raichouni stated that he plans to resurface the whole area.

Councilmember Brandon McCullough noted they should reach out to the neighbors.

Councilmember Scott Morgan agreed this would be a great addition the building.

Councilmember Rob Donovic asked to note the building to the west is also two stories.

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

CONSENT

12.REQUEST TO APPROVE HOURLY RATE AND HOLIDAY PAY INCREASE:
Department of Civil Service, re: for 2022-2024 seasonal laborer positions.

Jeannine Laible, Human Resources Director, presented the request to Council.

Council Vice President Laura Toy stated she concurred with this request and noted that it is tough to get people and it would behoove us to take action quickly, she offered an approving resolution for the Consent agenda.

Don Rohraff, Director of Public Works noted that they are budgeted for forty seasonal employees, and they currently have six which is detrimental to getting the grass mowed and doing different things needed and wanted to thank Council for approving the request.

President Jim Jolly asked what jobs they are looking to fill and if the minimum age was eighteen. Don Rohraff responded the age requirement is due to those jobs using machinery and equipment the employees need to run.

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

CONSENT

13. REQUEST TO APPROVE INCREASE IN COMPENSATION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IN PARKS AND RECREATION: Department of Civil Service, re: to be in the same compensation range as other Parks & Recreation Administrative Assistants in comparable communities.

Jeannine Laible, Human Resources Director, presented the request to Council.

Council President Jim Jolly asked if she were referring to Tom Murphy being under this title, he is the building supervisor. Jeannine Laible responded that Mr. Murphy is the only employee classified as an Administrative Assistant. President Jolly asked why she doesn't change his title to Building Supervisor/Facility Manager. Jeannine replied they have outdated job titles and will approach that at another time. President Jolly noted that it is easier to make the argument to make the change if he is called what he really is, which would be going back to Civil Service. Jeannine agreed and stated his new title would be Administrative Assistant Facility Manager.

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

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

CONSENT

14. REQUEST TO WAIVE THE FORMAL BIDDING PROCESS AND APPROVE A FOUR-YEAR CONTRACT WITH RITTER GIS: Departments of Public Works and Information Systems, re: to provide GIS (Geographic Information Services) to the City of Livonia, in an amount not to exceed \$35,360 annually, with an option to extend for two years, from budgeted funds.

Don Rohraff, Assistant Director of Public Works, presented the request to Council.

Councilmember Brandon McCullough stated that he is familiar with GIS and asked about their price increase from previous years. Don Rohraff stated they are under 1% increase based on an average of eight hours of work per week.

Councilmember McCullough offered an approving resolution for the Consent agenda.

Council President Jim Jolly asked if the language on the agenda regarding the option to extend the contract for two years could also include the requirement to return to Council at that time.

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

CONSENT

15. AWARD OF CONTRACT: Department of Public Works, re: for water main taps and service connections along with emergency water and sewer repairs at various locations

throughout the city in an amount not to exceed \$375,000.00 annually, for a period of three (3) years, with an optional two-year extension, from budgeted funds.

Don Rohraff, Director of Public Works, presented the request to Council.

Council Vice President Laura Toy stated they have done a good job and offered an approving resolution for the Consent agenda.

Councilmember Rob Donovic noted that he is thankful that the city has partnered with this company for the work that needs to be repaired quickly. Vincent D'Angelo thanked Council for the opportunity.

Council President Jim Jolly asked for the status on water main breaks. Don Rohraff stated that when he started twelve years ago, there were 190-200 breaks. Since that time after hiring Jacob Rushlow, Tom Wilson and consultants, they are down to an average of 110 per year and his goal is to get it under 100.

Mike Fisher, Assistant City Attorney asked if they would like the resolution to note that they have to come back to Council for approval with the two-year extension. Council President Jolly confirmed that he would.

DIRECTION:

APPROVAL

CONSENT

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: None

As there were no further questions or comments President Jim Jolly adjourned the Study Session at 9:16 p.m. on Monday, June 6, 2022.

Dated: June 7, 2022

SUSAN M. NASH, CITY CLERK