CITY OF LIVONIA – CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF STUDY MEETING HELD SEPTEMBER 7, 2022

Meeting was called to order at 8:05 p.m. by Council Vice President Jim Jolly. Present: Vice President Laura Toy, Kathleen McIntyre, Scott Bahr, Rob Donovic, Scott Morgan. Absent: Brandon McCullough.

Elected and appointed officials present: Leo Neville, Assistant City Attorney, Lori Miller, Deputy Clerk Mark Taormina, Director of Planning and Economic Development, David Lear, Assistant City Engineer, Toni LaPorte, Library Director, LaShawn Thomas, Director of Governmental Affairs, Jeannine Laible, Human Resources Director.

Councilmember Kathleen McIntyre led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: None

NEW BUSINESS

1. BLOCK PARTY: Barb Ferrara, re: to be held Saturday, October 1, 2022, from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Perth Street, between Arden and Berwick Streets.

   Barb Ferrara presented the request to Council. Council Vice President Laura Toy offered an approving resolution on the Consent agenda. Council President Jim Jolly pointed out the block party grant option that the residents can apply for next year. Councilmember Rob Donovic thanked Barb for doing a block party for her neighbors.

   DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

2. WAIVER PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2022-07-02-15 submitted by Phamily Pharmacy, requesting to add a drive-up window to the east end of the retail shopping center at 29195 thru 29215 Plymouth Road, located on the south side of Plymouth Road between Garden Avenue and Middlebelt Road in the Northwest ¼ of Section 36.

   Mark Taormina, Director of Planning and Economic Development, presented the request to Council. Amer Saleh, Owner and Operator of Phamily Pharmacy was present at the podium to answer questions.

   Councilmember Rob Donovic thanked the petitioner for adding to the businesses in that area and offered an approving resolution on the Consent agenda.

   Council Vice President Laura Toy asked if they have diabetic supplies, stating the drive through will be very helpful. Amer Saleh replied they will have those supplies and the drive through is especially helpful for elderly and those to avoid contact.

   DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

3. WAIVER PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2022-07-02-16 submitted by LAG Development requesting to redevelop the Lafontaine Hyundai of Livonia dealership, including constructing an addition, modifying both the interior and exterior of the building and altering the site's parking and landscaping, at 34715 and 34801 Plymouth Road, located on the south side of Plymouth Road between Stark and Wayne Roads in the Northwest ¼ of Section 33.

   Mark Taormina, Director of Planning and Economic Development, presented the request to Council. Gary Laundroche, LaFontaine Development Group, was present at the podium to answer any questions.

   Council Vice President Laura Toy asked the petitioner about his background connection to LaFontaine. Gary Laundroche replied he has worked with LaFontaine for over 20 years. He explained they have done many things to better their businesses with updates and expansions. Vice President Toy thanked him for making the area better noting they have addressed the landscaping. Gary stated it isn't a favorite for car dealers to have landscaping, yet they are in the process of cleaning up the landscaping surrounding their lot for the neighbors. Vice President Toy thank him for doing that and offered an approving resolution on the Consent agenda.

   Councilmember Rob Donovic thanked the petitioner for being conscious of the car haulers, the neighbors and making the area look beautiful.

   Sunday Dupuie, 11196 Laurel Street, thanked the petitioner for cleaning up the area, noting how great it looks.

   Councilmember Kathleen McIntyre stated she looked forward to them joining the Chamber of Commerce.

   DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

4. WAIVER PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2022-07-02-17 submitted by Insight Management Consulting, L.L.C., requesting to utilize a Class C liquor license (sale of beer, wine and spirits for consumption on the premises) in connection with the operation of the existing movie theater (Phoenix Theatres) at 17310 Laurel Park Drive North, located within the Laurel Park Place shopping center on the northwest corner of Six Mile and Newburgh Roads in the Southeast ¼ of Section 7.

   Devin Cameron, Insight Management, presented the request to Council.

   Mark Taormina, Director of Planning and Economic Development added there are separation requirements with Class C licenses, which there are five active on-premises licenses within 1000 feet, which requires Council to waive the 1000 feet requirement as well as within churches. (Recording interrupted during this discussion)

   Councilmember Kathleen McIntyre offered an approving resolution for the Regular agenda and stated they have invested their theatres and asked if they have considered canned cocktails. She asked if canned cocktails are covered under Class C licenses. Devin Cameron responded they are on the menu.

Council Vice President Laura Toy stated that AMC has done the same thing and asked what type of profit it would generate. Devin Camry replied that it won't generate a lot of profit, mostly positive feedback to have it there. Council President Jim Jolly noted they have done an amazing job bringing back the location that was once a ghost town.

DIRECTION: APPROVING REGULAR

5. WAIVER PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2022-07-02-18 submitted by BBS Distilleries, L.L.C., requesting waiver use approval to expand the existing on-premises liquor license to include an outdoor seating area, and to amend Council Resolution #354-21 to expand the hours of operation in connection with the serving of alcohol at 27600 Schoolcraft Road, located on the north side of Schoolcraft Road between Inkster Road and Cardwell Avenue in the Southeast ¼ of Section 24.

   Jason Mitchell and Katie Nelson presented the request to Council. Council President Jim Jolly asked why type of food they offer. Jason replied they have pizza, briquette, sandwiches, all made on site.

   Council Vice President Laura Toy commended them on expanding their business and offered an approving resolution for the Consent agenda.

   Mark Taormina, Director of Planning and Economic Development added they would like to add enclosed outdoor seats as well as the extension of their business hours.

   Council President Jim Jolly asked what hour they want to stay open. Jason Mitchell replied 3 a.m. President Jolly asked if there is a market for people wanting food after 2 a.m., stating that he wants them to succeed, but expand the hours as they are needed. Jason Mitchell replied they hope to be less restricted with their time as they go on.

   Councilmember Rob Donovic asked if there were any established 24-hour restaurants in the city. Mark Taormina replied they used to, but only a handful now but are mostly drive-up operations. Councilmember Donovic noted that he is not comfortable going beyond 2 a.m. and asked for clarification on the hours of operation that were offered. Mark replied the resolution offered allows public entry limited to 7 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 2 a.m. on Sundays.

   Councilmember Kathleen McIntyre asked that the resolution be placed on the Regular agenda, stating she was unaware of any bars in the city open after 2 a.m. which reflects the community, rather than staying open later.

   DIRECTION: APPROVING REGULAR

6. SITE PLAN PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2022-08-08-03 submitted by N.C. Designs & Contracting Inc., requesting approval to remodel the interior and exterior of the existing gas station (Sunoco) at 27417 Five Mile Road, located on the southwest corner of Five Mile and Inkster Roads in the Northeast ¼ of Section 24.

   Nassar Choucair, 3241 S. Telegraph, Dearborn, introduced himself and was available at the podium to answer any questions.

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

   Councilmember Scott Morgan noted this project is long overdue and offered an approving resolution on the Consent agenda.

   Councilmember Scott Bahr asked about offering free air, as he did not see that offered as part of the resolution. Mark Taormina replied that it should be in there, stating that it is condition number 8.

   Council Vice President Laura Toy commended the petitioner for helping the seniors to pump their gas for them.

   DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

7. REQUEST TO APPROVE INCREASE IN COMPENSATION FOR LIBRARY PAGE & STUDENT PAGE CLASSIFICATIONS: Department of Civil Service, re: to be in the same compensation range as other Library Page and Student Page classifications in comparable communities.

   Jeannine Laible, Human Resources Director and Toni LaPorte, Library Director, presented the request to Council.

   Council President Jim Jolly asked what the profile of the Page would be along with expected wage. Toni LaPorte stated she would like the starting wage to be $11.00 per hour, a step-raise after one year to $11.75, then $12.75 after two years. They are mostly high school teenagers or those that are done with their career when the start out, the staff varies from ages 16 to 70.

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

   DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

8. REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF 63 CASES OF FOURSTAR 180-DAY BRIQUETTES: Department of Public Service, re: for the 2023 Mosquito Treatment Program, from budgeted funds.

David Lear, Assistant City Engineer, presented the request to Council.

Councilmember Scott Morgan asked if they are dropped in the catch basin. David Lear replied they dissolve. Councilmember Morgan offered an approving resolution on the Consent agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION: None

As there were no further questions or comments Council President Jim Jolly adjourned the Study Session at 9:00 p.m. on Wednesday September 7, 2022.

Dated: September 8, 2022 SUSAN M. NASH, CITY CLERK