

**CITY OF LIVONIA – CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF STUDY MEETING HELD JANUARY 15, 2025**

Meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m. by Council President McCullough. Present: Lynda Scheel, Scott Morgan, Laura Toy, Rob Donovic, Vice President Martha Ptashnik, Carrie Budzinski, and President McCullough. Absent: None.

Elected and appointed officials present: Carter Fisher, City Attorney; Lori L. Miller, City Clerk; Mark Taormina, Planning and Economic Development Director; and Todd Zilincik, City Engineer.

Councilmember Scheel led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

During Audience Communication, Christopher Martin, Livonia resident, expressed his idea for how Council vacancies should be filled and stated he brought his idea to the Council in the past, but it was ignored.

Greg Ralko, 36116 Fairway Drive, discussed other communities who have rejected proposals for a Sheetz Gas Station, notably Madison Heights. Mr. Ralko provided information he obtained from Detroit News and Fox News reports, and urged Council to reconsider the proposal and noted he did not feel it was appropriate near residential homes and neighborhoods. (Petition 2024-08-01-04)

NEW BUSINESS

1. REQUEST FOR DESIGNATION AS A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION: Jessica McQuiston, Penguin Corp Inc., re: as required by the State of Michigan to obtain a Charitable Gaming License to allow a raffle fundraiser in the future.

On behalf of Penguin Corp Inc., Treasurer Mr. Williams, presented the matter to Council. Mr. Williams indicated their non-profit hoped to host a raffle in May to raise money and it was required by the State of Michigan to get the charitable gaming license.

DIRECTION:	APPROVING	CONSENT
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2. APPOINTMENT OF BRIAN MEAGHER TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: Council Vice President, Martha Ptashnik, re: effective immediately in order to fill the unexpired term, which expires July 12, 2026.

Vice President Ptashnik presented her requested appointment of Brian Meagher to the Zoning Board of Appeals. She indicated he arrived as an exceptional choice who has great professional expertise and stated she met with him when he applied as a candidate for the recent Council vacancy and felt he would meet the needs of the

community and provide great service as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals and appreciated Council's support on this matter.

Councilmember Donovic stated he had not met Mr. Meagher until the recent appointment vacancy on Council and appreciated the opportunity to meet him and it was a great process to look at others' backgrounds and their interest in getting involved in serving our great community. He indicated his professional experience would be a good fit on the ZBA.

Councilmember Toy stated Mr. Meagher had a lot of great experience that she appreciated as well, but was grateful to have another small business owner join in serving our community.

Vice President Ptashnik provided a brief background on what the ZBA does as a formal body of local government and described the work that goes into this body and stated it was a very diligent group of individuals who serve on the ZBA.

Mr. Meagher was present to answer any questions of Council and stated he was grateful for the appointment.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

3. APPOINTMENT OF JUMANA JUDEH TO THE BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Office of the Mayor, re: to complete the remainder of a three-year term, which will expire on November 24, 2027.

Ms. Judeh was present to answer any questions of Council and thanked them for their support on this appointment. She elaborated on her extensive experience with Brownfields as well as the fact she holds a PhD in commercial redevelopment, which she felt was important to a Brownfield Authority. She thanked Council for the opportunity to serve the City.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

4. REQUEST WAIVE THE FORMAL BIDDING PROCESS AND AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE: Livonia Fire and Rescue, re: Hurst E-draulic Jaws of Life extrication tool sets in order to enhance emergency response capabilities, from budgeted funds.

Chief Jennison presented this item to Council and indicated their current “jaws of life” tool sets are out of date and are well worn. Chief Jennison indicated these tools are needed for many types of circumstances, not only used for automobile accidents.

DIRECTION:

APPROVING

CONSENT

5. REQUEST TO APPROVE LOCATION AND SCHEDULE OF DATES AND TIMES FOR THE 2025 BOARD OF REVIEW MEETINGS, AS WELL AS COMPENSATION RATES FOR MEMBERS: Department of Assessment, re: per the requirements of State of Michigan Statute MCL 211.30.

Jacob Liberati, Assistant Assessor, presented this item to Council and indicated it is simply a housekeeping item done on an annual basis. Mr. Liberati stated the Board of Review Meetings are scheduled and the rates of compensation for the Board members has been established.

Christopher Martin, Livonia resident, spoke regarding his experience attending the Board of Review meetings in the past. Mr. Martin expressed his concern for the Board not allowing residents to attend the meetings in an open manner and stated all decisions should be made in Open Meetings.

DIRECTION:

APPROVING

CONSENT

6. REQUEST TO APPROVE HOURLY RATE INCREASE: Department of Civil Service, re: the Highschool Co-Op, College Co-Op, and Seasonal Clerk classifications, due to the new minimum wage rates.

President McCullough indicated this item and the next two Agenda items were moved to this Agenda so that all three matters could be brought before Council at the same time.

Jeannine Liable, Director of Civil Service, presented the request to Council. Ms. Liable indicated this matter is to bring hourly wage rates for those who are paid minimum wage up to date and in line with the new laws effective in Michigan. Ms. Liable stated the positions involved in this request include the Highschool Co-Op, College Co-Op and Seasonal Clerk classifications.

DIRECTION:

APPROVING

CONSENT

7. REQUEST TO APPROVE HOURLY RATE INCREASE: Department of Civil Service, re: the Student Substitute Librarian classification.

Jeannine Laible, Director of Civil Service, presented this item to Council. Ms. Laible indicated it was similar in subject to the item just presented, regarding the hourly wage rates for the classification of Student Substitute Librarian. Ms. Laible clarified it was

currently pinned to minimum wage, but the increase is needed due to the educational requirements from the State of Michigan to hold the position. Ms. Laible indicated this classification is seldom used, however, the hourly wage rate has not been adjusted in some time.

Councilmember Morgan inquired why the increase was significantly more than the last item presented. Ms. Laible indicated this position requires a master's degree, or that the substitute at least be enrolled in a master's program with a minimum number of credit hours. Councilmember Morgan inquired if the City Librarian was present and could elaborate on the requirements of this position.

Following discussion by Council, it was determined Ms. Laible would provide additional requested information to the Council in order to better understand why this wage increase was significantly more than the others requested and not in line with a minimum wage increase.

DIRECTION: APPROVING REGULAR

8. REQUEST TO APPROVE MODIFICATIONS TO CLASSIFICATIONS AND WAGE INCREASES: Civil Service Department, re: to approve wage rate adjustments and classification adjustments for part-time Parks and Recreation employees.

Jeannine Laible, Director of Civil Service, presented this third item regarding wage increases to Council. Ms. Laible indicated these wage rate increases are for part-time, seasonal and permanent positions, within the Parks and Recreation Department. Ms. Laible indicated these wage increases are necessary to stay in line with the State of Michigan minimum wage increase taking effect in February, 2025.

Christopher Martin, Livonia resident, expressed his concern about seasonal employees not being properly supervised and encouraged the Council and Administration to investigate the matter further.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

9. AWARD OF BID: Department of Public Works, re: the 2025 Parks Tree & Stump Removal program, from budgeted funds.

Doug Moore, Assistant Director of Department of Public Works, presented the item to Council. Mr. Moore stated DPW went out to bid and is requesting approval to award the 2025 Parks Tree & Stump Removal program. This item is done on an annual basis and the bid should be awarded to Ashton Tree Service on Industrial Road, the lowest bidder. Mr. Moore indicated they would like to keep them on a retainer basis as well

12. REQUEST TO WAIVE THE FORMAL BIDDING PROCESS AND AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE TWO (2) 15" DRUM STYLE BRUSH CHIPPERS THROUGH THE STATE OF MICHIGAN BID PROCESS: Department of Public Works, re: to be used by the Roads Department, from budgeted funds.

Doug Moore, Assistant Director of Department of Public Works, presented the item to Council. Mr. Moore indicate these are the large chippers used throughout the City that go through the residential streets for brush pick-up service. Mr. Moore stated some of their equipment is past its use and the request is to purchase (2) 15" drum style brush chippers using the State of Michigan bid process. The equipment will be purchased through Bandit and there are sufficient funds in the budget for this purchase. Mr. Moore stated the old equipment would be sold at auction.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

13. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE ONE (1) SELF-CONTAINED LEAF VACUUM: Department of Public Works, re: to be used by the Roads Department, from budgeted funds.

Doug Moore, Assistant Director of Department of Public Works, presented the item to Council. Mr. Moore stated this type of equipment is used during leaf pick-up season and is rather larger, used on the main roads. The purchase is being made from McLean Equipment, used to be Bell Equipment. Mr. Moore indicated they have four (4) in inventory and the oldest would be disposed of. Mr. Moore concluded sufficient funds are available in the budget for the purchase of this equipment.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

14. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO WAIVE THE SEALED BID PROCESS AND PURCHASE TWO (2) TRAILER-MOUNTED LEAF VACUUMS THROUGH THE MI DEAL STATE BID PROCESS: Department of Public Works, re: to replace two current units, from budgeted funds.

Doug Moore, Assistant Director of Department of Public Works, presented the item to Council. Mr. Moore stated the equipment is for use during the leaf pick-up season and the dollar amounts are through the MI Deal bid process. The equipment will be purchased from McLean Equipment, formerly Bell Equipment. These are smaller units that will be used throughout the residential streets. Mr. Moore concluded funds are available in the budget for the purchase of the (2) requested trailer-mounted leaf vacuums.

DIRECTION:

APPROVING

CONSENT

15. REQUEST TO EXTEND THE CURRENT ANIMAL SHELTERING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LIVONIA AND THE MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY: Department of Public Works, Animal Control Division, re: from the period of January 1, 2025 to March 31, 2025.

Robb Drzewicki, Director of Governmental Affairs, presented the item to Council. Mr. Drzewicki explained all Wayne County communities have expressed concern regarding the contract renewal process with the Michigan Humane Society and are facing continuous increases fees outlined in all proposed renewed contracts with the Humane Society. Mr. Drzewicki stated his office has engaged in discussions with neighboring communities to try to leverage some ground to discuss current contract with them For that matter, at this point in time, they are requesting an extension of the current Animal Sheltering Agreement for a three-month period, January 1st through March 31st.

DIRECTION:

APPROVING

CONSENT

16. AWARD OF CONTRACT: Engineering Division, re: for the DPW Fencing Replacement Project, with a 1.00% increase from the 2023 contract unit prices, from budgeted fund. (CR 274-23 and CR 358-23)

Doug Moore, Assistant Director of Department of Public Works, presented the item to Council. Mr. Moore explained this is to complete the project that involves the perimeter fencing fencing, like what is seen at the Police Department, around the two sections of DPW that have not yet been completed. Mr. Moore stated they are looking to go with Motor City Fence, which has been an excellent contractor for them in the last few years. Mr. Moore indicated the contractor has only raised the contract by 1% rate increases and there are funds in the budget to complete the project.

Christopher Martin, Livonia resident, inquired if the fencing at the DPW Yard was cyclone. Mr. Moore indicated it is not, it is the same material as that found surrounding the public safety buildings on Civic Center campus, notably around the LPD and LFD Headquarters.

DIRECTION:

APPROVING

CONSENT

17. REQUEST FOR COUNCIL TO SET A DATE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING A RESOLUTION PLACING SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS UPON REFERENCED PROPERTIES WHOSE OWNERS HAVE NOT PAID CHARGES CONNECTED WITH THE 2024 SIDEWALK PROGRAM, CONTRACT 24-G, SINGLE LOT ASSESSMENTS: Engineering Division, re: same. (CR 74-24)

Todd Zilincik, City Engineer, presented this item to Council and indicated it is done on an annual basis. The information provided to Council comes from the Engineering department and is to authorize a special assessment be placed on properties whose owners have not paid in full for the sidewalk repairs done at their homes under the 2024 Sidewalk Program. Mr. Zilincik indicated there were 235 sites completed, and they are looking to set a date for the public hearing to move forward with collecting the outstanding funds.

DIRECTION:

APPROVING

CONSENT

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

None.

ADJOURNED

9:07 PM

For January 27, 2025 Regular Meeting