CITY OF LIVONIA – CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF STUDY MEETING HELD APRIL 14, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 8:49 p.m. by Council President McCullough. Present: Lynda Scheel, Scott Morgan, Laura Toy, Rob Donovic, Vice President Martha Ptashnik, and President Brandon McCullough. Absent: Carrie Budzinski.

Elected and appointed officials present: Carter Fisher, City Attorney; Todd Zilincik, City Engineer; Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan; and Lori L. Miller, City Clerk.

Councilmember Morgan led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

During Audience Communication, Christopher Martin, spoke to clarify that Item #4 voted as part of the Consent Agenda at the Regular Meeting had been a referral to Committee at the request of Councilmember Scheel. Mr. Martin stated the language on the Agenda was confusing to the public and stated it should have indicated it was a referral to a Committee, not an award of a bid.

Jacki Graham, 29552 Oakview Street, stated she is a candidate for Council. She expressed she understands the City Center is a hot topic but wanted to talk with residents about other items as well including public safety, economic development, infrastructure and roads, parks and rec, being fiscally responsible, neighborhoods, community development. Ms. Graham indicated she wants to make sure our City stays clean and well-maintained and encouraged residents to touch base with her.

Alex King, 19246 Merriman Road, introduced himself as a candidate for Council. He stated he was present in his capacity as community Vice President of the Livonia Jaycees and they are hosting an upcoming fundraising event. Mr. King stated the event takes place Saturday, April 26th from 6-11:30 p.m. and information is available on their Facebook page to get tickets. The event is “Renee Strong Forever”, in honor of a friend who passed a few years ago, and will include appetizers, open bar, music and will take place at St. Mary’s Cultural Center.

John Pastor, Livonia resident, provided an update on the Scooter’s Coffee & Ice Cream development and stated they hope to get started on the project next week after meeting with Wayne County and getting their preliminary plans outlined and permits pulled.

Steve King, Coventry Gardens, stated the traffic light that was out at Five Mile and Farmington was due to construction on a building in the area and power lines were being run to that building. This required a time and place permit which would alert the City if the traffic light would be out. Mr. King stated he lived in the area when Seven Mile Road was developed and it was a success, from Farmington Road east to Middlebelt Road. It was a pilot program, a European model with a deeper bed and a courser first level and it was very successful and should have been a model for every road in Michigan since. The concrete provided in the section in disrepair was bad cement and was a mess to begin with. Mr. King concluded that he has lived in Livonia and cautioned the City to slow down on the proposed project for the City Center and felt misuse of public dollars was abundant.

Justin Gooch, spoke in favor of a new library as part of the Civic Center project. Mr. Gooch also expressed his concern for the walkway path at Clements Circle Park which floods and leaves it unwalkable. President McCullough explained both items are on tonight's Study Agenda and he could address his concerns as the items were presented.

Deb Christiansen, Livonia resident, wanted to speak on two matters. Ms. Christiansen stated the first related to businesses affected by road closures and construction, specifically along Plymouth Road between Levan and Newburgh. Ms. Christiansen stated her second concern related to the Alfred Noble property which was brought up in the Regular meeting earlier. It was asked if the property had been sold and the answer provided was no. However, her question to the Council was is the property for sale?

Dave McFarland, Livonia resident, stated he wears various hats as a Trustee for the LPS School Board, serves as a member of the Library Commission, is a Livonia business owner and a resident with a young family. Mr. McFarland stated he wanted to share that in all four capacities he was in favor of the millage being proposed. President McCullough explained the item was on the Study Agenda and he could discuss the topic at that time.

Vice President Ptashnik responded to the concern raised by Mr. Martin earlier. The Regular Agenda did have on the Consent Agenda Item #4 regarding the ADA bathroom improvement at the Civic Center Library. Vice President Ptashnik indicated the vote on the matter was to send the matter to the Capital Outlay and Infrastructure Committee for further discussion and was not to award a bid from budgeted funds. She acknowledged how it may be confusing to residents from the language stated on the Agenda.

Councilmember Toy thanked Joe Gilligan, Livonia resident, who provided her with two chocolate bars that are sugar free, made in Hawaii and all natural. Councilmember Toy stated she wanted to acknowledge and thank him as a small business owner and entrepreneur.

Councilmember Morgan stated that if the City Attorney could answer the previous question raised by Mr. Martin that would be helpful to all present.

Carter Fisher, City Attorney, stated what appears on the Agenda is the original item from the Study session and is the overall heading for the subject matter. The action to be taken on the subject matters appears in our Attorney Notes and that is what goes to the Clerk 's Office as the actual resolution. So, it was a vote on the overall item and the action that the Council had taken at the Study session was the item to be voted on by the Council.

<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

1. REQUEST CONSIDERATION OF PLACING MILLAGE REQUEST ON THE AUGUST 2025 PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT: Office of the Mayor, re: for the purpose of Civic Center Campus site improvements.

   President McCullough stated there was new data on this item and encouraged residents to be patient for Audience Communication following the Mayor's presentation and the Council's discussion.

Mayor Brosnan presented a thorough and detailed, PowerPoint and interactive viewing map of the proposed development at the Five Mile and Farmington Road intersection. The "ask" is to place the item on the August ballot for a proposed millage for 25 years. Mayor Brosnan stated tonight's presentation was a culmination of multiple Committee meetings held with the Council on this subject. Mayor Brosnan stated she was joined by Plante Moran Realpoint and any questions related to the bond proposal could be answered by City Attorney, Carter Fisher.

Mayor Brosnan stated #Livoniabuilt.org website has been developed with a tax calculator that will go "live" once Council takes their final vote on this matter. The average resident cost will be approximately $12 per month and for more than 85% of our residents the cost will be less approximately $18 per month. Mayor Brosnan stated 70% of Livonia residents want a Civic Center area and to develop a thriving City, we must ask if we are the generation that wants to invest in our future, safety and kids and indicated she was present to answer any questions of Council.

Councilman Donovic stated the bond proposal is not necessarily a downtown or public safety bond, but a municipal improvement bond for the investment in City owned buildings and the money is to be spent only for the municipal buildings. Mayor Brosnan responded that is correct and deferred to City Attorney, Carter Fisher, to elaborate on the bond language as submitted.

Carter Fisher stated the bond language, if approved by the Council, would be put on the August ballot for residents to vote on. The language includes funds to renovate five (5) fire stations, to demolish and rebuild the Police Headquarters and similar funds related to the Library and infrastructure work on the property including underground utilities and so on and if approved by the public the City would be bound to use the funds only for the stated purposes. Mr. Fisher indicated these funds are reviewed and governed by the IRS and other federal entities, because of the bonding process, and there are very strict requirements on how these funds are used and an annual audit to ensure the funds are spent appropriately.

Councilman Donovic inquired if the bond proposal would last 25 years and at the end of the 25 yeas it would fall off the tax assessment. Mayor Brosnan responded in the affirmative and stated during the 25-year timeframe, there is time to renegotiate and sometimes things fall off sooner than expected. Mayor Brosnan indicated it was the intent to issue the bonds in two series, the first being $100 million and the second for $50 million, and to only borrow the money as needed. Mayor Brosnan stated the City will borrow no more than $150 million, but if less is needed, and borrowing the money at different times may afford the City to borrow at different interest rates. Mayor Brosnan stated this could make it a better deal than expected. Mayor Brosnan added the numbers outlined are very conservative, worst-case scenarios.

Councilmember Morgan inquired about the public safety millage currently being paid, which is set to expire in 2026, and asked if that millage will be renewed next year. Mayor Brosnan responded in the affirmative and highlighted they are very different millages. The millage in 2026 is specifically for people, not for municipal improvements, and it is the intent of the Administration to renew the public safety millage in 2026.

Councilmember Scheel asked through the Chair to City Attorney, Carter Fisher, about the proposed ballot language. She indicated the language contains wording, specifically allowing the City to “acquire any land” and asked if Mr. Fisher could explain what that means and why it is included. Mr. Fisher indicated it was complex as the City already owns the parcels required for the project. However, there are several easements that run through the property the City may be required to purchase the rights to, to build out the property as it is currently situated. Mr. Fisher indicated the Law Department is investigating how those costs may come about, and the language is just in place so that if needed, the City may purchase those rights and others that may run across the property.

Councilmember Donovic inquired if this proposal does not get approved, knowing that the buildings have had assessments done in the past, how much is it going to cost to renovate and/or update the municipal buildings. Mayor Brosnan responded that the facility assessment report done by Plant Moran is now a couple years old, and at that point it stated the City had $97.5 million worth of repairs needed for City buildings. Further, nothing major has been done since the analysis, so that number is up to $107 million now. Mayor Brosnan stated the City does not have that money anywhere in the budget so even if the City planned to bring the buildings up to “good enough”, the City would need to go to the taxpayers and ask them for help otherwise the buildings would simply continue to deteriorate.

Councilmember Donovic inquired about the long-term development, Phase IV, and stated he understood that it would be developed by private developers. Councilmember Donovic wanted to be sure that the bond proposal will end after 25 years and inquired what will happen during Phase IV if the land is sold or leased, whether it be through taxes, sales or leasing of the land, what happens to the funds from the private development phase of the project. Mayor Brosnan replied that those funds come back into the budget and that is the true part of the economic development component of the project. Those funds would come through in taxes and into the General Fund and the City would be able to invest in other city buildings and provide amenities to residents.

Vice President Ptashnik stated we are talking about Phase III of this project tonight, stating about 1/3 of the money was obtained for Phase I from grant money from our various governmental partners at the county, state and federal levels and the bond money for Phase II has already been approved. So now we must go to the residents for Phase III and this is where we must decide if we are going to live in the past or move to the future. Phase IV, not one penny, will come from this millage. It will all come from private developers and not one hard-earned taxpayer dollar will go into the final phase of the development and wants to make sure everyone understands exactly what we are looking for tonight.

During Audience Communication, Gini Krenz, 34075 Pembroke, questioned whether the bond money could be refinanced during the lifetime of the bonds. Mr. Fisher replied yes, it could be refinanced. Ms. Krenz inquired if the land to be developed would be sold to the developer or if the City would continue to own the land and become a landlord.

Jim Biga stated if the assessment would go down as home values went up, as spoken by the Mayor in her presentation, did not make sense to him. Mr. Biga thought perhaps the Mayor misspoke and the project was being rushed, and the numbers have changed. He indicated the presentation did not make much sense for 27 acres of land and the buildings, street and parking ratios did not seem to scale, and he felt the City was rushing into this and should pause. Mr. Fisher responded with reference to the millage, the rate goes down over time but as the assessment goes up, the millage goes down as we are only borrowing $150 million.

Justin Gooch, 9971 Garvett, spoke in favor of the Library being included in this project and hoped STEM programming would be included in the new Library and he was in favor of LED buildings for art space to be present and added the greenspace was a great benefit. Mr. Gooch indicated he understood this would cause his taxes to go up, but it was in favor of the project and thanked everyone for the hard work that has been done on the project.

Kayleigh Kavanaugh Reed, 35922 Ladywood Street, stated she is a lifelong resident and serves as the Executive Director of the Spree and is a mom to a young family. She indicated this is an important issue and would like to see it on the August ballot as residents deserve the opportunity to weigh in on this issue, and there will be a higher voter turnout in August as opposed to November. Ms. Reed stated if it needs to be discussed repeatedly, then that is what should be done. She indicated as Executive Director of the Spree she is working with City officials to have a tent at the Spree with a virtual reality of the project to provide residents with information and answers to questions and added the Clerk's Office will also be there with a tent to register people to vote. Ms. Reed encouraged residents to stop by either of these tents at the Spree if they are not sure how to register to vote or if residents are not sure how they want to vote on the issue to explore their options.

Gerald Karasinski, 19488 Bainbridge Avenue, inquired about the timeline for bonds issued in the second series; inquired about being told the developers would pay for the development of the land but the millage proposal includes the cost of tearing down all existing buildings; and lastly asked if the Spree would be moved to the new park being proposed in this project.

John Shaffer, 15638 Brookfield, inquired that if the bond proposal is approved for

Phase III of the project it would lead to Phase IV and the private development of City owned land. Mr. Schaffer indicated he supports Phase III but is strongly against Phase IV of the project and objects to the privatization of City-owned land. Mr. Schaffer asked if Phase III could be broken apart from Phase IV and did not understand how the City would be in the market of being a landlord rather than owning the land.

Dave McFarland, 15536 Shadyside, stated he wears multiple hats in the City, a young family homeowner, a School Board Trustee, a member of the Library Commission and a business owner that operates in the City. Mr. McFarland indicated in all four capacities, he believes it is the right way for the City to move forward to attract young families. Mr. McFarland stated there will soon be a high turnover market for residential homes as our population ages, because he works as a real estate agent and knows what attracts families to communities and a vibrant downtown area is key. Mr. McFarland stated he would like to see this proposal on the August ballot would like to see great information shared with citizens to make an informed decision.

Cindy Fleming, Woodring, stated when the Library millage was first promoted, the City promised to maintain the smaller auxiliary libraries through the General Fund. She expressed that the City did not keep that promise to the residents. She stated that when the Rec Center millage was put on the ballot, residents were promised free use of the Center, and the City did not keep that promise. Ms. Fleming stated there is an ever-changing feeling to the proposed project and inquired how residents can trust the City’s intent on this proposed millage.

Steve Alexander, 9919 Deering, stated he is a Council candidate and wanted to state three items. He asked if there could be a companion document developed showing what would happen if the millage did not pass, there would be a $107 million price tag to maintain current City buildings. Mr. Alexander stated if there was a prioritization of spending the requested funds putting the police and fire at the top, it would help alleviate any worry that leftover funds would not trickle down for the public safety divisions. Mr. Alexander stated he understands this proposal does not address how the City plans to maintain all other City buildings but if that could be addressed, showing how those things will be taken care of since they are not included in the proposed millage.

Councilmember Toy cautioned all residents about mixing election matters with any discussion about the proposed millage, as is well-known by the Administration, to not get into any trouble for using public funds to promote anything for or against while running for an elected office.

Mary Ann Cleaver, 15552 Alpine, inquired about the architectural style of new buildings compared to the new District Court building. Ms. Cleaver thought the architectural style would be logical as it looked as if the new Police Headquarters would be directly behind the Court building. Ms. Cleaver also inquired about the $20 million grant funding obtained for the Senior Wellness Center and if required to go to the Senior Wellness Center as part of the ARPA Plan and if the project was only for

Livonia citizens or all residents of Wayne County. Ms. Cleaver concluded all utility bills continue to rise for all and as a senior citizen on a fixed income although people may not think the millage will impact most residents, it will.

Mayor Brosnan clarified the $20 million grant funding was state, federal and county money and was all part of the America Rescue Plan and it was required to meet criteria set by the federal government that must be met which specifically stated it must be for the “wellness” of the community and that is what the money was specifically set aside for and why it is called the Senior Wellness Center.

Gary Smith, 9814 Eckles, inquired if $97 million was the appropriate rehabilitation funding needed to maintain current buildings and asked if consideration was given to offer sponsorship for naming of amenities by some of the private sector companies to help off-set costs for the development.

Jenny O’Connor, West Chicago, spoke to echo Mr. Alexander’s concerns about Fire and Police not being left at the bottom of the proposal and getting priority. Ms. O’Connor also inquired if the bond proposal language could include something to the effect that the Alfred Noble building would remain.

Bob Biga, 29846 Westfield, retired employee of many years and in various capacities and civic association groups. Mr. Biga indicated his first concern relates to the $2.4 million retiree healthcare savings. He has been trying to verify and was not able to get any information from the Assistant Chief Accountant and Human Resources Director and found it very hard to believe this amount, as a City retiree. Mr. Biga indicated according to the City Charter, any changes to retiree healthcare requires joint approval of the Civil Service Commission and Council and does not know if that has taken place. Mr. Biga inquired about the costs for maintaining current City buildings, City Hall and Library, while the new buildings are being constructed. Mr. Biga also suggested the three (3) categories should be separated out as far as Police, Fire and City Hall. Mr. Biga concluded as Vice President of Spree, he wondered where the thousands of vehicles would park when residents attend the Spree as they currently park on the Civic Center campus.

Maria Mitter, 9371 Iowa Street, stated she is excited about this proposal and has been a lifelong Livonia resident. She serves as a member of the Westland-Livonia Chamber and as a member of the Madonna University Alumni board and encourages the Council to consider this proposal. She indicated the infrastructure is failing and putting band aids on old buildings is not sufficient. She stated residents are going to other communities with downtown areas to host community events and felt this development would allow Livonia to do the same and keep our residents here.

Bill McEvoy, longtime Livonia resident on Wadsworth Street, stated although he understands some of the funding has come from the county, state and federal levels but as a taxpayer, he pays good tax money to those levels of government as well and did not feel it was a good sale to the residents as such.

Denise Mika, Lancanshire, stated she would like to have the Police and Fire separated out from the proposal and see how that part goes first. Ms. Mica also indicated she supported Phase III first and see how that goes before moving on to Phase IV. Ms. Mica stated most downtowns do not have a downtown at a major intersection, she did not feel a 2 acre parcel just slightly bigger than Kellogg Park in Plymouth was enough to motivate residents to support this, and felt no details have been provided with how the $150 million will be spent and knows personally when she applied for a mortgage on a new home, the bank would require to see plans and felt this development is lacking in showing where the money will be spent.

Livonia resident, Mark, who resides on Ingram Street, stated this is a $150 million project plus all the interest as we go. We are concentrating so much on Five & Farmington to attract young professionals, but we don't have hot spots to entice residents so they will continue to go downtown or to other areas. He concluded the library in 1988 has passed its useful life and does that mean in 25 years we are going to have to do this all over again because these new buildings will be outdated.

Jay Murray, Ravine Drive, stated he is a member of the media but also a longtime Livonia resident. Mr. Murray stated many journalists were present some time ago for a big political campaign going on downtown and he took some of his colleagues for a tour of Livonia to show them where he lives. Mr. Murray stated everyone thought it was cool but the comment that bugged him was "it feels like the 80's in here". Mr. Murray stated the construction of the current buildings is dated and our City is very outdated. Mr. Murray stated the City needs to modernize badly and something must be done, whatever that is.

Lori Shuk, Kimberly Oaks, stated she is in support of the proposal and is interested in the apartment style homes offered as she would like to downsize. The Police Department more opening for the public, is ironic as she does not get that feeling now. It doesn't seem putting the security fence around Public Safety buildings does not make it feel "inviting" and the "thin blue line" makes it an "us v. them" scenario. Ms. Shook stated she is not there with spending more of her money on this development, but felt multi-family housing was needed and perhaps murals could be painted on the buildings as current Ordinances in the community regarding signs and other items are very prohibitive.

Steve King, Coventry Gardens, stated a drawing in 1966 of a downtown Livonia that had a larger greenspace than is being proposed in this project and felt 2 acres for a park was insufficient. Mr. King stated Livonia City Center is a soleless name for what the City is trying to create but is in favor of a communal gathering place with a greenbelt but objected to using a third-party firm that does not build projects but rather acts as a consultant and would like the City to revisit that. Mr. King stated the banner at the newly constructed Senior Wellness Center states opening in Summer of 2025, the City's website states December, 2025, but he did not feel that was going to happen and stated the timeline is backward, build the central gathering place first that impacts a greater majority of the community.

Laura Jannika, Munger Street, stated she was in favor of modernizing this region but some of the numbers being put out by the Administration seemed untrue. Shouldn't the number include the maintenance of the current buildings, and it seemed as though including the Library was an afterthought and using the excuse of not having enough electrical outlets felt odd to her. Ms. Jannika further stated a retention pond is not a water feature but is simply a retention pond. She felt the photos looked like Disneyland and the City has not been able to fix Rotary Park, so it all seemed farfetched. Ms. Jannika stated many libraries have been renovated and modernized and that they could be looked into. Fixing Noble would be extremely beneficial to the south side of town and would bring people in. And would like to be part of the generation that brought in some sustainability as well.

President McCullough passed the gavel to Vice President Ptashnik to speak on the matter. President McCullough stated he has vast experience in these types of municipal projects and there are many pitfalls to something of this scale and it must be fiscally responsible. President McCullough acknowledged the needs are there, from the Fire stations and Police Headquarters to the defunct City Hall building. He agreed as a facilities director with a builder's license, but the delivery and rollout has not been great. President McCullough stated we will never make everyone happy but wanted to task the Administration to get real, actual figures with real design renderings, and felt the square footage cost being proposed at the last Committee meetings was overstated and exaggerated, even with contingencies built in.

President McCullough stated with his knowledge base, prioritize the needs 1-5, public safety being #1 and City Hall has already been bonded and is in motion. He stated inflated numbers are 3-4 times the actual cost as a subject matter expert. From his knowledge base, a lot more could be done with $150 million to include the Police headquarters, Fire Station 1, all ancillary fire stations, then look at the civic center campus to get actual numbers of construction with contingencies based on actual square footage of the facilities proposed. President McCullough stated there would be a ton of extra money, money to develop the Noble building ($5.2 million), money to invest in the Greenmead Master Plan, bikeways and pathways, and so on. He felt it should be all laid out and we would have enough money to take care of all these projects and that would be the investment to make this City where people want to be. President McCullough stated he believed in transparency, and Social media would not be the best avenue, but would rather see actual numbers and he knows the Administration is working on that at this time. He felt the numbers and scope must change and as a father, this would be a great investment for our community and was in favor of putting the subject on the ballot for residents to decide and encouraged all to have an open mind on this project.

Councilmember Donovic inquired of the Administration about the municipal bond proposal, but Phase IV, why would we not pay down the bond from that phase of private development whether for sale or leasing the land to business owners, to help pay down the millage faster than the 25 years. Mayor Brosnan deferred to the City Attorney for the exact tax limitations to do so.

Carter Fisher, City Attorney, stated over the lifetime of the project bond counsel would be included in the discussion and analysis but stated if the land was sold, those taxpayers would be paying taxes and would off-set the costs of the millage. Further, a structure has not yet been decided on whether the land would be sold or leased but even in a TIF or DDA situation, those funds are outlined for specific purposes but would lower the burden for all taxpayers to a certain extent.

Councilmember Donovic inquired about the two series of bond purchases, giving the City two different times to get into the market and save interest and indicated he is happy the City is doing that but inquired how the City could refinance those bonds without penalty.

Carter Fisher, City Attorney, stated all bonds would be 25 years from the date of issuance, the first $100 million from the date obtained and then the second in the amount of $50 million from the date obtained. During the lifetime of each of those series, at certain times, there would be an opportunity to refinance and get a lower interest rate as the market bears.

Councilmember Donovic inquired about the costs of maintaining the newly constructed buildings and the savings that may be realized over the term of the 25 years. Mayor Brosnan deferred to the representative from Plante Moran to answer the question more completely but acknowledged there would be significant savings in the expense of operational and maintenance expenses for the new buildings.

Paul Terrio, Plante Moran, addressed the maintenance savings as far as electrical fixtures, water fixtures using less water, added insulation and better planning, HVAC savings, etc. and added the proposed buildings will be significantly smaller in scale and far more efficient, which will cause far less in maintenance costs for these new buildings. He felt there would be a huge upside for the savings to be realized which could then be used to invest in the maintenance of other City buildings.

Councilmember Scheel asked the Administration about Phase IV being sold or leased, and stated the Council is only voting on Phase III at this time and that Phase IV would come before the Council for approval at the appropriate time.

Mayor Brosnan responded in the affirmative and acknowledged Phase IV would have to come before Council for approval at any point in time. Mayor Brosnan stated any sale of City land must come before the Council for approval, reminding all Noble Library property has not been offered for sale, including contracts, leases, all most come before Council.

Councilmember Donovic inquired why not separate this millage out, for the Police, Fire and Library. Mayor Brosnan responded because it is one big project and there is trouble separating the infrastructure as the improvements will be shared and all will be contributing to those amenities. The cost of the Library of just bringing it up to "good" standard comes very close to the cost of building a new building, and this adds further to the problem of separating it all out as it is a bold project that enhances the entire community. Mayor Brosnan stated many residents see the value in the development of a new, more user-friendly library and does not feel that will impact the overall support of the project by residents.

Councilmember Toy stated this can sometimes be a bit overwhelming and may be hard for folks to understand the entire project. She stated she is encountering a lot of residents who are concerned and don't understand, stating it can be kind of confusing, and she refers them to the Mayor's Office for information. Mayor Brosnan acknowledged Livoniabuilt.org is a website being developed for a list of many questions raised by residents to help them understand the project, what is proposed, what is included, and there is a lot of education that will take place. Mayor Brosnan stated the Administration will use all avenues, including the Connections Magazine, Town Hall meetings, etc. to get the information to residents so they understand the scope of the project and its benefits. Mayor Brosnan stated she appreciated Council's in-depth analysis, collaboration and participation in the discussions over time and because of their input, some design elements of the project have been fine-tuned, and they are invested in getting the millage to the lowest possible mills, by purchasing the bonds in two-part series, which has affected the best possible scenario to bring to the residents on the August ballot.

Councilmember Donovic stated this has been a long time coming and further Committee meetings would not be beneficial as the Council has had more than a dozen meetings and it is time now to bring the matter forward. Councilmember Donovic stated he understood residents are dealing with increased utility bills, water bills, and other everyday expenses and realizes it is not just a $12 or $18 month increased expense but if stated if the City does not take the county, state and federal funding, it will be given to other communities. He stated it is not easy to ask residents to add a millage, but after having reviewed the Rec Center millage proposed in 1999 and the question posed to the Council at that time, Councilmember Donovic felt comfortable putting the proposed tax increase to the residents to decide. Councilmember Donovic reiterated the vote is to invest in our municipal buildings, as the current buildings are falling apart, and the ultimate decision will be made by our residents. Councilmember Donovic stated it will be on the Administration to educate the community on the significance of the project and its impact.

Moved by Councilmember Donovic to put this item on the regular portion of the next Regular Agenda.

Vice President Ptashnik returned the gavel to President McCullough.

DIRECTION: APPROVING REGULAR

2. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO PURCHASE ONE (1) LIFELINE TYPE-1 SUPERLINER AMBULANCE: Livonia Fire & Rescue, re: the replacement of an ambulance in the vehicle replacement program, from budgeted funds.

Fire Chief Bob Jennison presented the request to Council. Chief Jennison indicated the request is to purchase a 2027 or newer Lifeline Ambulance as part of their replacement vehicle program. Chief Jennison indicated the current timeframe from order placement to receiving ambulance vehicles is at a three-year turnaround. The Fire Department takes part in the Huston-Galveston Co-Operative process and so they are asking to waive the bid process. Chief Jennison explained the Fire Department keeps past ambulances and they rotate 1-5 reserve vehicles from newest to oldest at which time they are disposed of at the best possible financial option available for the City.

Moved by Councilmember Scheel to put the item on the consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

3. AWARD OF BID: Livonia Housing Commission, re: the replacement of Make-Up Air System at Building #2 of McNamara Towers, using funds allocated by the Community Development Block Grant program.

Madison Bjertness, Housing Director, presented the request to Council. Ms. Bjertness indicated the current make-up air system at Building #2 McNamara Towers is outdated and has not been updated since 2008. Ms. Bjertness stated there are sufficient funds under the Community Development Block Grant program to replace the old and outdated system for Building #2 at Mac Towers.

Moved by Councilmember Toy to put the item on the consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

4. AWARD OF BID: Department of Parks and Recreation, re: replacement of leisure pool decking at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center, from budgeted funds.

Ted Davis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, presented the item to Council. Mr. Davis indicated this is preventative maintenance that is required for the leisure pool at the Rec Center and stated the leisure pool is critical for the residents who use it at the Rec Center. The sole, qualified bidder is the recommended vendor. The pool would be closed July 5th through the second week of August.

Councilmember Donovic stated he was frustrated over the continuous maintenance that seems to be done on the pool at the Rec Center. Mr. Davis responded that all pool decking experiences wear and tear, and the required maintenance and replacement is needed to keep the pool in use and to limit further maintenance down the road and is just a reinvestment in our facilities. Mr. Davis stated he remembers a time when the leisure pool was often been referred to as the "heart" of the City and residents make use of the pool's amenities and it is common practice for pool maintenance. Mr. Davis stated funds have been set aside in the budget for this maintenance request.

Motion by Councilmember Donovic to put approval of this item on the consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

5. AWARD OF BID: Department of Parks and Recreation, re: waterslide refurbishment at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center, from budgeted funds.

Ted Davis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, presented the item to Council. Mr. Davis indicated the slide is 20+ years old and needs maintenance and repair and is a great amenity offered in the pool area at the Rec Center used by many residents. Mr. Davis stated the request is to award the bid not to the lowest bidder, but to a vendor who has previous experience with the City and job references and stated funds have been budgeted for this purpose.

Motion by Councilmember Morgan to put approval of this item on the consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

6. REQUEST TO AMEND COUNCIL RESOLUTION 360-24: Department of Public Works, re: to accurately reflect to monies quoted for the 2025-2028 calendar year requirements for the Portable Toilet Program, from budgeted funds.

Doug Moore, Assistant Director of DPW, presented the request to the Council. Mr. Moore indicated when the Council Resolution was adopted in 2024, a clerical error was made on reading the bid-tab and the full dollar amount for all the years of the contract were not included in the approving Council Resolution. As such, DPW is requesting an amendment to CR 360-24 relative to the Portable Toilet Program to include the total contract amount for the years 2025-2028, no other changes were needed.

Vice President Ptashnik inquired if the Portable Toilet Program included ADA compliant units, specifically no units were listed for Devon-Aire and golf courses. Mr. Moore stated the units were not asked for originally at Devon-Aire but could look at putting one in there as was not originally asked for when the program was initiated. A unit was put out there once requested. Further, golf courses requested some of the units be removed. However, they can investigate that and see if they are needed and get them put out there. Vice President Ptashnik indicated she understood at least 5% of our units must be ADA compliant but did not know if that was per location or City-wide, and asked Mr. Moore for clarification at the next meeting.

Motion by Vice President Ptashnik to put approval of this item on the regular portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING REGULAR

7. AWARD OF BID: Engineering Division, re: the Newburgh Road Sidewalk Extension Project, Pembroke Avenue to Joshua Simmons Drive, from budgeted funds.

Todd Zilincik, City Engineer, presented the request to the Council. Mr. Zilincik indicated replacing a 6' sidewalk from Pembroke up to Greenmead and then a crossing up to Tin Cup and connection from the east side of the road where there are 9 homes being developed. The hope was this would provide connectivity in that area. There were 15 bids received, the lowest being Rotondo Construction. The request is to allow Rotondo to make that bike-walk pathway for connectivity to get this constructed this Spring/Summer.

Councilmember Donovic congratulated City Engineer and his department for prioritizing connectivity in that area and thanked him for doing this project and acknowledged Rotondo Construction does a great job and was present in the audience at tonight's meeting.

President McCullough acknowledged how competitive this business is and was grateful Rotondo stuck through the length of the meeting and was present to answer any questions if needed.

Motion by Councilmember Morgan to put approval of this item on the consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

8. AWARD OF BID: Engineering Division, re: the Country Homes Park Sidewalk Installation, from budgeted funds.

Ted Davis, Director of Parks and Recreation, presented the item to Council. Mr. Davis indicated the item is a community block grant program to add sidewalks from Yale Street to the park and these are ADA compliant projects. Mr. Davis indicated the Parks & Rec Department has worked hand in hand with Engineering to check off this project and others. Mr. Davis indicated the request was to award the bid to the lowest, qualified bidder on the project.

Motion by Vice President Ptashnik to put approval of this item on the consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

9. AWARD OF BID: Engineering Division, re: the Clements Circle Park Walking Path Renovations, from budgeted funds.

Ted Davis, Director or Parks and Recreation, presented the item to the Council. Mr. Davis indicated a block grant project that they have worked on with Engineering and Housing departments to repair this walking path at Clements Circle Park. This will raise up part of the pathway to alleviate the flooding issues that occur there and will greatly improve the park.

Councilmember Donovic stated he lives in that area and uses the walkway, so the plan is to replace parts of the path or entire path itself? Mr. Davis replied to replace certain parts, raise up other parts, and modify the culverts where needed. Councilmember Donovic stated he is happy to see the improvements as it is a well-used park and will make many residents in the south end of Livonia very happy.

Motion by Vice President Ptashnik to put approval of this item on the consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

10. REQUEST TO ACCEPT LICENSE AGREEMENT: Department of Law, re: between the City of Livonia and Class A Training Center LLC, d/b/a Testing and Prevention Center ("TAP"), to allow the 16th District Courthouse to perform drug testing services for defendants who are required to do so by court order.

Carter Fisher, City Attorney, presented the item to Council. Mr. Fisher indicated the request is a partnership with the 16th District Court to allow the vendor, Testing and Prevention Center (Class A Training Center LLC) to perform drug testing services for those required by court order. It is a leased space within the Court building that does drug testing. This creates increased efficiency at the Court and both the City and Court make a small amount of money by leasing this area in the Court building.

Motion by Councilmember Scheel to put approval of this item on the consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

There was no Audience Communication at the end of the meeting.

ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 pm

For April 28, 2025 Regular Meeting