CITY OF LIVONIA – CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF STUDY MEETING HELD MAY 19, 2025

Meeting was called to order at 8:17 p.m. by Council President McCullough. Present: Vice President Martha Ptashnik, Carrie Budzinski, Lynda Scheel, Scott Morgan, Rob Donovic, and President Brandon McCullough. Absent: Laura Toy.

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

Councilmember Budzinski led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

During Audience Communication, Steve King, 33950 Coventry, pointed out useful ordinances regarding the blight on Plymouth Road and gave a suggestion on how to handle Noble Library.

Christopher Martin, Livonia Resident, reported a complaint about verbal harassment while visiting the library.

Deb Christiansen, Livonia Resident, asked the Council for information regarding the study of Noble Library.

Councilmember Budzinski stated there will be an announcement with an upcoming meeting date regarding the study of Noble Library.

NEW BUSINESS

1. BLOCK PARTY: Jasmine Cone, re: to be held Thursday, June 5, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., between 14926 and 14987 Alexander Street.

   Jasmine Cone, Livonia Resident, confirmed the amount of time requested is enough as it will just be a short party celebrating the end of the school year.

   Motion was made by Councilmember Budzinski to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

2. BLOCK PARTY: Lisa Misenheimer, re: to be held Saturday, August 23, 2025, from 1:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., on Rayburn Street, between Williams Street and Levan Road, with a rain date of Saturday, September 13, 2025.

   Lisa Misenheimer, Livonia Resident, stated the block party has been a yearly tradition including a barbeque, a corn-hole tournament, and other fun games.

Motion was made by Councilmember Budzinski to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

3. REAPPOINTMENT OF RHETT GRONEVELT TO THE PLYMOUTH ROAD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Office of the Mayor, re: for a three-year term, which will expire on May 16, 2028.

Mark Toarmina, Planning and Economic Development Director, spoke highly of Rhett and his qualifications.

Councilmember Donovic noted the importance of having experienced appointees and commended Rhett for his work.

Motion was made by Councilmember Donovic to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

4. REAPPOINTMENT OF GREGORY COPPOLA TO THE LIVONIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP: Office of the Mayor, re: for a six-year term, which will expire on June 7, 2031.

Motion was made by Councilmember Scheel to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

5. 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, 2028.

Motion was made by Councilmember Donovic to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

6. REAPPOINTMENT OF JOHN MURPHY TO THE LIVONIA LOCAL OFFICERS COMPENSATION COMMISSION: Office of the Mayor, re: for a seven-year term, which will expire on April 2, 2032.

Motion was made by Vice President Ptashnik to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

7. WAIVER PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2025-02-02-07, submitted by Midwest Freight Storage, requesting waiver use approval to operate an outdoor truck and trailer storage facility at 32225 Schoolcraft Road, located on the south side of Schoolcraft Road between Hubbard and Merriman Roads in the Northeast ¼ of Section 27.

Mark Toarmina, Planning and Economic Development Director, explained how the property is currently being used for storage, future construction/repair plans, and granted the approval of the Planning Department with requirements for repairs.

Vice President Ptashnik inquired about the plans regarding repairs.

Councilmember Morgan inquired about the current operating hours at the facility.

Councilmember Donovic inquired what type of materials are being hauled.

Angelo Zannis, 31801 Schoolcraft, stated the repairs have already been made, operating hours are usually between 6:30a.m.-6:00p.m., and the facility is just used for storage.

Motion was made by Councilmember Scheel to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

8. SITE PLAN PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2022-08-08-04 submitted by Future Land Holdings. L.L.C., requesting to amend a previously approved site plan (CR 354-22) to repurpose and expand the former restaurant building at 19265 Victor Parkway to operate a BMW motorcycle dealership, located on the west side of Victor Parkway between Seven Mile Road and Pembroke Avenue in the Southeast ¼ of Section 6.

Mark Toarmina, Planning and Economic Development Director, stated the building had been vacant for several years and explained the construction plans of the site including a sign that will be seen from the highway.

Motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

9. SITE PLAN PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2025-03-08-03 submitted by Jonathan Tiwaini of Johnny's Express Car Wash requesting approval under Consent Judgment Case No. 2:22- cv-12734 to construct a car wash facility at 30207 Plymouth Road on the south side of Plymouth Road between Middlebelt Road and Milburn Avenue in the Northeast ¼ of Section 35.

Mark Toarmina, Planning and Economic Development Director, stated the Planning Department reviewed the plans presented and noted that Council approval was needed.

Carter Fisher, City Attorney, explained the Consent Judgement demands Council approval.

Johnathan Tiwaini, Plymouth Resident, stated he lives nearby the property and believes the property is a good fit due to the large public draw to the area.

Deb Christiansen, Livonia Resident, noted the amount of car washes already present in the area and stated that she is unhappy about the development.

Motion was made by Councilmember Donovic to put the matter on the Regular portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING Regular

10. SITE PLAN PETITION: Planning Commission, re: Petition 2025-03-08-04 submitted by Leo Soave Building Inc., requesting approval to construct a one-story office building at 37739 Seven Mile Road, located on the south side of Seven Mile Road between Blue Skies Drive and Glengarry Drive in the Northeast ¼ of Section 7.

Mark Toarmina, Planning and Economic Development Director, stated the building would be placed on the South side of the property with a small parking lot at the front. There would be a vinyl fence and visually appealing landscaping separating the business and neighboring residential property with a wall built closer to the building.

Motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to put the matter on the Regular portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING Regular

11. AWARD OF CONTRACT: Office of the Mayor, re: pre-construction services in a not-to-exceed amount of $78,312.00 for the new Police station facilities, from budgeted funds.

Rick Erickson, Plante Moran Realpoint, explained the project is currently in the design phase and being designed to budget.

President McCullough expressed concern on the pace of the project and expenses considering the proposal has not yet been voted on by the residents.

Debra Lichtenberg, Finance Department Head, explained the funds for the expenditure exist in the capital project fund to be refunded from bond proceeds, and she is not worried about this expenditure as it is helpful to have good cost estimates earlier in the project rather than later.

Cindy Fleming, Livonia Resident, stated that the subject should not be lumped in with the City Hall project, and agreed it is too soon to be spending so much money on something that has not been approved yet.

Eileen McDonnell, 36099 Brookview, inquired how the contractors were chosen.

President McCullough stated the City's procurement website is MITN.info.

Jenny O'Connor, 31601 W. Chicago, stated that the subject matter should be voted on in August before continuing.

Lynn Mills, Plymouth Rd., expressed her disapproval and urged the Council to disapprove of the subject.

Councilmember Budzinski stated the importance of having the subject on the August ballot as the budgeting takes place in August.

Councilmember Donovic asked Rick Erickson whether or not the procedure taking place was standard or if the project was getting ahead of itself.

Rick Erickson, Plante Moran Realpoint, ensured that it is standard practice to have a Construction Manager hired before the end of the schematic design phase.

Motion was made by Councilmember Donovic to put the matter on the Regular portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING Regular

12. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE CDBG ANNUAL ACTION PLAN: 2025-2026

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGET; AND REQUEST TO APPROVE HOLD HARMLESS CONTRACTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF LIVONIA AND FIRST STEP, FAIR HOUSING CENTER OF METROPOLITAN DETROIT, WAYNE METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, CARES IN FARMINGTON, CRUZ CLINIC, STONEBROOK COUNSELING: Livonia Housing Commission, re: in connection with the operation of a domestic violence victim assistance program; for the purpose of providing fair housing; providing utility assistance; and food assistance provided for through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs for the 2025-2026 program year.

Madison Bjertness, Executive Director of Housing, mentioned the department has plans for/will continue working on home rehab programs, acquisition of tax for closed properties, book lockers for the library, mental health counselling programs, utility assistance programs, small business grants, food assistance, and providing senior transportation.

Motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

13. REQUEST TO APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CHARTER COUNTY OF WAYNE AND THE CITY OF LIVONIA: Department of Parks and Recreation, re: for a grant of $140,519 to be used toward the redevelopment of Shelden Park.

Ted Davis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, gave thanks to District 12 and Glenn Anderson for the grant to be used for Shelden Park, and thanked Penske for their help too.

Motion was made by Councilmember Budzinski to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

14. REQUEST TO APPROVE AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CHARTER COUNTY OF WAYNE AND THE CITY OF LIVONIA: Department of Parks and Recreation, re: for a grant of $106,401 to be used toward the replacement of the fitness cluster at Rotary Park.

Ted Davis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, stated that the cluster was removed for safety reasons and is happy for the opportunity granted to replace the equipment.

Motion was made by Councilmember Budzinski to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

15. REQUEST TO APPROVE A SUBLEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF LIVONIA AND MI WORK MATTERS, OPERATORS OF ANASTASIA AND KATIE'S COFFEE SHOP AND CAFE IN LIVONIA: Department of Parks and Recreation, re: for a five-year agreement with an option for an additional five years for designated cafe space in the new Senior Wellness Center.

Kelly Rockwell, Executive Director of Mi Work Matters, stated that the coffee shop will provide coffee while providing employment for people with disabilities.

Vice President Ptashnik noted her excitement and approval of the Anastasia and Katie's Coffee Shop and vouched for the quality of their product.

Ian Edgar, Barista, stated how much it meant to him to meet customers and hear about the quality of the product that he can help provide.

Motion was made by Vice President Ptashnik to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

16. REQUEST TO APPROVE THE HOLIDAY PARADE AND TREE LIGHTING ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025; REQUEST TO APPROVE PARADE ROUTE AND THE CLOSING OF CERTAIN CITY STREETS; TO REQUEST PERMISSION FROM WAYNE COUNTY TO CLOSE FARMINGTON ROAD FROM LYNDON TO FIVE MILE, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 4:00 P.M. AND 5:00 P.M., OR UNTIL THE ROAD IS RETURNED TO NORMAL TRAFFIC OPERATION; TO AUTHORIZE SENIOR POLICE OFFICER MICHAEL ARAKELIAN TO SIGN THE ROAD CLOSURE PERMIT ON BEHALFOF THE CITY, AND THAT THE CITY OF LIVONIA WILL ASSUME LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGE CLAIMS RESULTING FROM THE ROAD CLOSURE: Department of Parks and Recreation, re: same.

Motion was made by Vice President Ptashnik to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

17. REQUEST TO APPROVE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF OUTDOOR IN-LINE RINK SURFACE THROUGH THE SOURCEWELL PURCHASING

PROGRAM: Department of Parks and Recreation, re: to replace the existing surface of the outdoor in-line rink at the Jack E. Kirksey Recreation Center, from budgeted funds.

Ted Davis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, stated that the surface was redone recently but expressed great disapproval of the quality of the product. Ted Davis stated there were limited options but noted on the positive side that the current state left, at the very least, an even solid ground to work on top of.

Councilmember Donovic inquired about the price difference between the previous contract and the current proposed contract.

Ted Davis, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, stated that even though the entire amount was not paid to the previous company due to the poor quality it would still require an additional $40,000.

Motion was made by Councilmember Scheel to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

18. AWARD OF BID: Department of Public Works, re: for two (2) Wachs Valve Maintenance trailers, from budgeted funds.

Ryan Ferrell, Assistant Director of Public Works, stated that with the purchase of the units the department will be able to implement a more efficient program.

Motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

19. AWARD OF BID: Department of Public Works, re: for the purchase and installation of a replacement heat pump system at the 16th District Court, from budgeted funds.

Ryan Ferrell, Assistant Director of Public Works, stated the outdated system required constant repairs, the project was put out for bid, the prices for the project went up, forcing funds to be located from a different account, and is now looking for approval from the Council.

Motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

20. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO WAIVE THE SEALED BID PROCESS AND PURCHASE FROM SOLE SOURCE PROVIDER: Department of Public Works, re: for the purchase of stormwater, water main and sanitary manhole-related items in an amount not to exceed $150,000.00 annually, for the period of July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

Ryan Ferrell, Assistant Director of Public Works, explained that East Jordan Iron Works is their supplier of fire hydrants, water mains, valves, storm structures, frames, and covers in their utility system. East Jordan Iron Works prefers to do one-year contracts at a time. This contract is the same as last year's.

Motion was made by Vice President Ptashnik to put the matter on the Consent portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING CONSENT

21. REQUEST TO ADJUST WATER AND SEWER CONSUMPTION RATES, INDUSTRIAL SURCHARGE RATE AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE CONTROL CHARGE: Public Works Division, re: to become effective on July 1, 2025.

Debra Lichtenberg, Finance Director, stated the goal was to set fair water and sewer rates for Livonia customers that cover the City's operating costs and maintains the infrastructure. Current year increase water rate adjustment from Great Lakes Water Authority is 5.69%. Estimated adjustment from Wayne County is a 4% increase, as Wayne County does not provide information until May or later. Rate changes from GLWA and Wayne County go into effect on July 1st. Once the cost increases are available, DPW and Finance work together to project costs and propose rates. This subject is being brought before Council now so that the timeline fits the effective dates of increases.

Councilmember Donovic inquired on the possibility if Council were to deny the rate changes.

Debra Lichtenberg, Finance Director, informed the Council that if rate adjustments are not made the reserve funds would shrink and infrastructure improvements would not be able to be made.

Councilmember Donovic inquired about water towers and their cost.

Ryan Ferrell, Assistant Director of Public Works, informed the Council about the multiplied cost of water towers in recent years and that it isn't advantageous anymore for cities to own water towers for storage.

Motion was made by Vice President Ptashnik to put the matter on the Regular portion of the next Regular Agenda.

DIRECTION: APPROVING Regular

AUDIENCE COMMUNICATION

There was no audience communication at the end of the meeting.

ADJOURNED

10:12 PM

For June 2, 2025 Regular Meeting