

**SENIOR CITIZENS, FAMILIES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 20, 2026
6:00PM**

A Senior Citizens, Families and Environment Committee meeting was held on May 20, 2026, in the Livonia City Hall Auditorium.

Committee Members Present: Eileen McDonnell, Chair
Carrie Budzinski, Vice Chair
Patrick Brockway, Member

Committee Members Absent: None

City Officials Present: Brandon McCullough, Councilmember
Eric Goldstein, City Attorney
Madison Bjertness, Housing Director
Aarica Smith, Government Affairs Director

Additional attendees: See the attached list.

1. The subject matter of urban environmental concerns. (CR 42-20)

The Committee meeting commenced at 7:00PM and discussion was led by Eileen McDonnell, Committee Chair.

Several audience members asked questions regarding their environmental concerns.

A discussion took place regarding Racer Trust and the Ford Motor Transmission plant's environmental issues.

Councilmember Budzinski offered to have the Law Department draft resolutions for the subject matter of both Racer Trust and Ford Motor Company to go to the Senior Citizens, Families and Environment Committee.

Councilmember McCullough asked City Attorney, Eric Goldstein for updates on resolutions requested by Council.

The Committee recommends:

- For the Law Department to draft a resolution putting the subject matter of RACER Trust in the Senior Citizens, Families and Environment Committee.
- For the Law Department to draft a resolution putting the subject matter of Ford Transmission Plant in the Senior Citizens, Families and Environment Committee.

Note: This item will remain in Committee.

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of June 15, 2026**

2. The subject matter of senior citizen needs and construction of the new Newburgh Senior Housing. (CR 38-25)

A discussion was led by Eileen McDonnell, Committee Chair, regarding the above-mentioned subject matter.

Madison Bjertness, Housing Director gave an update regarding Golden Oaks Housing, noting the following information:

- Cost of project is approximately \$27M, funded through State and Federal Funds
- Approximately 100 units
- Currently in financing and design phase; one year to complete
- Construction phase; two years to complete totaling three years for project completion
- Residents at Newburgh Village have been notified of the project and timeline

A resident commented that residents of Silver Village and Newburgh Village do not have trash carts and leave trash out for pickup in bags on the curb, suggesting a shared bin for residents.

More affordable housing was discussed, with \$27M needed to fund the Golden Oaks project.

Councilmember McCullough asked about the status of the funding for the project.

Councilmember McCullough asked about funding overages and options for contingency funding. Director Bjertness indicated if funding was needed, they could apply for it using various sources.

Councilmember Budzinski explained the Housing Department is a unique and separate entity and not directly part of the city. She asked the City Attorney for an explanation on how the Housing Commission is managed.

Eric Goldstein, City Attorney, further clarified the specifics laid out by the statute of the State of Michigan regarding the Housing Program and Housing Commission. Also stating the Housing Department is not required to go through Council for spending funds.

President Brockway asked about contact information for resident questions. Madison stated they could call 734-421-6450, extension 4, 8a-4:30p.

Councilmember McDonnell asked about the Golden Oaks property needing tree removal clean up. Madison indicated there are no plans currently, but she will look into it.

Residents shared examples of the following:

- Detriment to the residents by taking down the trees
- The property was left a mess by the contractor
- Poor treatment of the residents at Newburgh Village
- Inability to attend Housing Commission meetings
- Difficulty in finding the agendas
- No oversight on Housing Commission

A question was asked regarding financial oversight of the Housing Commission, suggesting an update to the Charter. Attorney Goldstein suggested there is oversight on spending from the various programs and funding sources.

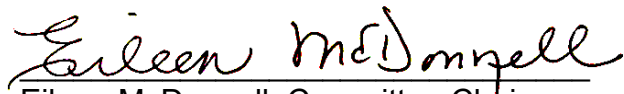
Councilmember McCullough requested the Housing Commission be more transparent with their spending, if their bylaws have been updated and if the financials were audited. Councilmember McDonnell would like updates from Housing Commissioners so that Council knows what is going on to better answer questions of the residents.

Councilmember Budzinski felt the HUD auditing is very stringent. Madison stated most of their programs follow the city's procurement policy, which is approved by the Housing Commission, rather than City Council.

The meeting adjourned at 6:52PM.

Note: This item will remain in Committee.

This item is to be placed on the **Regular Meeting Agenda of June 15, 2026.**


Eileen McDonnell, Committee Chair