

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL

June 17, 2019

Council convened at 7:06 p.m. with Council President Patrick presiding.

Present: Council Pro Tem McDonald, Councilmember Woodard, Councilmember Lewis, Councilmember Bates and Council President Patrick. (5).

Absent: None

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councilmember Woodard

Supported by Councilmember Bates

To approve the agenda with the following changes, remove agenda item V-b & c regarding reappointments of Planning Commissioners and Zoning Board of Appeals members and add a resolution under council affairs to formally request engagement with Data Driven Detroit to research and assist the Highland Park City Council with the creation of 3 City Council representative districts. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Councilmember Woodard

Supported by Councilmember Lewis

Workshop and Regular Meeting minutes from June 3, 2019. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

06-17-19-V-a-1

Moved by Councilmember Lewis

Supported by Councilmember Bates

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 3-1 of the City of Highland Park, "the City shall have power to manage and control the finances, rights, interests, buildings and property" of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park holds in its inventory a surplus of City-owned parcels that are not producing a taxable, habitable and general benefit to the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the City to decrease the number of City-owned parcels and return them to productive use; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park is the owner of the vacant side lot at 66 Puritan (vacant lot adjacent to resident's home); and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, Highland Park resident Edna Anderson, who lives at 60 Puritan, submitted an application to purchase the vacant side lot at 66 Puritan, adjacent to his/her residence; and

WHEREAS, Edna Anderson paid the \$25 (twenty-five) fee prior to March 4, 2019, she shall be permitted to purchase said lot for \$250 (two hundred fifty); and

WHEREAS, The Community and Economic Development Department recognizes that Edna Anderson meets all requirements for purchasing property in the City of Highland Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Department of Community and Economic Development to 1) grandfather the sale price at \$250, 2) to sell the city-owned property at 66 Puritan to Edna Anderson. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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06-17-19-V-a-2

Moved by Councilmember Lewis

Supported by Councilmember Bates

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 3-1 of the City of Highland Park, "the City shall have power to manage and control the finances, rights, interests, buildings and property" of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park holds in its inventory a surplus of City-owned parcels that are not producing a taxable, habitable and general benefit to the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the City to decrease the number of City-owned parcels and return them to productive use; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park is the owner of the vacant side lot at 180 Tuxedo (vacant lot adjacent to resident's home); and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, Highland Park resident Richard Cole, who lives at 184 Tuxedo, submitted an application to purchase the vacant side lot at 180 Tuxedo, adjacent to his/her residence; and

WHEREAS, Richard Cole paid the \$25 (twenty-five) fee prior to March 4, 2019, he shall be permitted to purchase said lot for \$250 (two hundred fifty); and

WHEREAS, The Community and Economic Development Department recognizes that Richard Cole meets all requirements for purchasing property in the City of Highland Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Department of Community and Economic Development to: 1) grandfather the sale price at \$250, 2) to sell the city-owned property at 180 Tuxedo to Richard Cole. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

06-17-19-V-a-7

Moved by Councilmember Lewis
Supported by Councilmember Bates

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 3-1 of the City of Highland Park, “the City shall have power to manage and control the finances, rights, interests, buildings and property” of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park holds in its inventory a surplus of City-owned parcels that are not producing a taxable, habitable and general benefit to the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the City to decrease the number of City-owned parcels and return them to productive use; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, Highland Park resident Enel Littles, who lives at 222 Ferris, submitted an application to purchase the vacant side lot at 220 Ferris, adjacent to his/her residence; and

WHEREAS, Enel Littles paid the \$25 (twenty-five) fee prior to March 4, 2019, she shall be permitted to purchase said lot for \$250 (two-hundred fifty); and

WHEREAS, The Community and Economic Development Department recognizes that Enel Littles meets all requirements for purchasing property in the City of Highland Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Department of Community and Economic Development to 1) grandfather the sale price at \$250, 2) to sell the city-owned property at 220 Ferris to Enel Littles. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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06-17-19-V-a-8

Moved by Councilmember Lewis
Supported by Councilmember Bates

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 3-1 of the City of Highland Park, “the City shall have power to manage and control the finances, rights, interests, buildings, and property” of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park holds in its inventory a surplus of City-owned parcels that are not producing a taxable, habitable and general benefit to the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the City to decrease the number of City-owned parcels and return them to productive use; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park is the owner of the vacant side lot at 232 E. Buena Vista (vacant lot adjacent to resident’s home); and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, Highland Park resident Antonise Parkman, who lives at 228 E. Buena Vista, submitted an application to purchase the vacant side lot at 232 E. Buena Vista, adjacent to his/her residence; and

WHEREAS, Antonise Parkman paid the \$25 (twenty-five) fee prior to March 4, 2019, she shall be permitted to purchase said lot for \$250 (two-hundred fifty); and

WHEREAS, The Community and Economic Development Department recognizes that Antonise Parkman meets all requirements for purchasing property in the City of Highland Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Department of Community and Economic Development to 1) grandfather the sale price at \$250, 2) to sell the city-owned property at 232 E. Buena Vista to Antonise Parkman. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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06-17-19-V-a-10

Moved by Councilmember Lewis

Supported by Councilmember Bates

WHEREAS, IN ACCORDANCE WITH Section 3-1 of the City of Highland Park, “the City shall have power to manage and control the finances, rights, interests, buildings and property” of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park holds in its inventory a surplus of City-owned parcels that are not producing a taxable, habitable and general benefit to the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the City to decrease the number of City-owned parcels and return them to productive use; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park is the owner of the vacant side lot at 111 Florence (vacant lot adjacent to resident’s home); and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, Highland Park resident Virgie Williams, who lives at 115 Florence, submitted an application to purchase the vacant side lot at 111 Florence adjacent to his/her residence; and

WHEREAS, Virgie Williams paid the \$25 (twenty-five) fee prior to March 4, 2019, she shall be permitted to purchase said lot for \$250 (two-hundred fifty); and

WHEREAS, The Community and Economic Development Department recognizes that Virgie Williams meets all requirements for purchasing property in the City of Highland Park;

NOW, THEREFOR, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Department of Community and Economic Development to: 1) grandfather the sale price at \$250, 2) to sell the city-owned property at 111 Florence to Virgie Williams. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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06-17-2019-VI-a

FINANCE:

Moved by Councilmember Woodard

Supported by Council Pro Tem McDonald

Receive and file the Monthly Financial Report for the Month of May, 2019. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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06-17-19-VI-b

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Councilmember Woodard

TO APPROVE REDUCED PENSION CONTRIBUTION FOR FISCAL YEAR END JUNE 30, 2019

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park General Employees Retirement Plan, the Policemen and Firemen Retirement System, and the Public Safety Retirement Plan are single-employer defined benefit pension plans; and

WHEREAS, these defined benefit pension plans are less than 60% funded and the actually determined contribution for all of the defined benefit pension retirement systems of the City of Highland Park is greater than 10% of City's annual government fund revenues, and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Public Act 202 of 2017, the City of Highland Park, in April 2018, requested a waiver on the 60% funding requirement and cited a court-ordered dedicated millage funding source, and

WHEREAS, under the provisions of Public Act 202 of 2017, the City of Highland Park was denied a waiver on the 60% funding requirement and submitted multiple corrective action plans to reach the 60% funding, and

WHEREAS, the city council approved an annual contribution toward the funding deficit from the General Fund of \$500,000.

WHEREAS, revised computations have indicated the City can meet the 60% funding objectives with the following annual reduced contribution from the General Fund:

- a. \$20,000 to General Employees Retirement System
- b. \$30,000 to Policemen and Firemen Retirement System
- c. \$210,000 to the Public Safety Retirement System

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Highland Park City Council hereby approves the reduced 2019 appropriation of \$260,000 for transfer to the same from the General Fund. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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06-17-18-VI-c

Moved by Councilmember Woodard
Supported by Councilmember Bates

TO AMEND THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET AND OTHER FUNDS AS PRESENTED BY THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT AND MAYOR HUBERT YOPP AS OF JUNE 17, 2019 FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2018-2019

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park is required by the State of Michigan to periodically amend the annual operating budget to accurately reflect current operations; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Department has reviewed the current fund expenditures for the year ending June 30, 2019 and would like to submit to the Highland Park City Council proposed budget amendments; (see attached budget);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Highland Park City Council adopts the amended General Fund and other fund budgets as presented by the finances department and Mayor Hubert Yopp;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution becomes a part of the official records of the City of Highland Park. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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06-17-19-VI-d

Moved by Councilmember Woodard
Supported by Councilmember Bates

RESOLUTION TO ENTER INTO A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT WITH RANDY K. LANE, P.C., CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, FOR FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2019, the Highland Park City Council authorized that the Finance Director be allowed to issue a RFP for audit services for the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the primary purpose of the auditing and reporting requirements of PA 2 of 1968 is to maintain the confidence of all interested parties in the integrity of the record keeping and financial reporting of local units of government; and

WHEREAS, 21 accounting firms were notified of the RFP for Audit Services directly and/or through BIDNET and no bids were received; and

WHEREAS, on May 20, 2019, the Council approved the removal of the resolution to extend the contract for Gregory Terrell & Company (current auditor) for one year; and

WHEREAS, the subsequent solicitation of prominent accounting firms resulted in receiving an engagement letter from Randy K. Lane, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, 535 Griswold, Suite 111-607, Detroit, MI 48226; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Highland Park that the Finance Director be allowed to accept the attached June 7, 2019 engagement letter for Randy K. Lane, P.C. for \$36,500 for the audit of the financial accounts and records covering fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, for a period of one year. (The additional \$5,500 quote is for the Single Federal Audit Act and would be necessary if the City has received more than \$750,000 in grant funding from the federal government for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.) Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

LEGAL

06-17-19 VII

Moved by Council Pro Tem McDonald
Supported by Councilmember Woodard

**RESOLUTION APPROVING SETTLEMENT IN THE MATTER OF ROGER COLLINS V. CITY OF HIGHLAND
PARK CASE NO. 17-017769-N1**

WHEREAS, Plaintiff alleges he slipped and fell on ice on Hamilton Avenue after exiting a bus. Plaintiff further alleges the ice was formed from an accumulation of water from a defective fire hydrant; and

WHEREAS, a case evaluation award of \$5,000.00 was recommended and the City accepted the recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the parties wish to settle the lawsuit pursuant to the terms of the Release and Agreement attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, settlement of this case limits the City's exposure, however, if rejected and the case proceeds to trial, the City would be exposed to a jury verdict and incur attorney fees and court costs that would far exceed the proposed settlement amount;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that City Council approves a settlement payment to Plaintiff in the amount of \$5,000.00. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

PUBLIC WORKS

06-17-19-VIII

Moved by Council Pro Tem McDonald
Supported by Councilmember Bates

**RESOLUTION TO ALLOW DPW TO PURCHASE TWO HEAVY DUTY COMMERCIAL ZERO TURN
LAWNMOVERS**

WHEREAS, the mission of the Public Works Department (DPW) is to maintain a safe, healthy, and clean environment in the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the DPW also has general responsibility for maintenance of parks and public grounds (including vacant lots); and

WHEREAS, the DPW had four heavy duty commercial zero turn lawnmowers, however, two burned up in the field in 2017 and 2018 and are no longer usable; and

WHEREAS, the two remaining mowers have stress cracks on the frames and are in danger of also becoming unusable; and

WHEREAS, the DPW received two bids for mowers (see attached bid summary sheet); 10 Sell's Equipment - \$26,618 for two mowers and 2) Weingartz - \$25,354 for two mowers; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Highland Park that the DPW Director be allowed to purchase two mowers from Weingartz, 39050 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335 for an amount not exceeding \$25,354. Yeas (3) Council Pro Tem McDonald, Councilmember Bates, Council President Patrick, Nays (2) Councilmember Woodard and Councilmember Lewis, Absent (0).

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06-17-19-IX-a

Moved by Councilmember Lewis
Supported by Councilmember Bates

RESOLUTION TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FY 2020 WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND RATES AS REQUESTED BY THE WATER DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 1040.17 and 1042.01 of the City Code of Ordinances, it is the responsibility of the City of Highland Park to establish water and sewer rates; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has received and reviewed the Water Department Director's recommended water and sewer rates for FY 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park City Council shall receive comments on the recommended water and sewer rates from citizens at a duly advertised public hearing; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Water Department Director that rates shall adhere to the proposed budget funds for FY 2020; and

WHEREAS, all comments received from citizens at a duly advertised public hearing, will be documented; and

BE IT RRSOLVED, THAT THE City of Highland Park Water Department requests a public hearing to be held at the Regular City Council Meeting of July 1st and July 15th @ 7:00 p.m. to receive these comments regarding the FY 2020 Water Department Budget and Rates; and

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 17th day of June 2019 by the votes of Highland Park City Council. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0)

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06-17-19-VII-b

Moved by Council Pro-Tem McDonald
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

RESOLUTION TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE CITY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND SCHEDULE OF FEES AS REQUESTED BY THE CITY ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Charter of the City of Highland Park Sections 7-10, 8-6, and 15-2 related to city engineering functions, schedule of fees, and department budgets and City of Highland Park Chapter 1022 and 1024 Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the City Council shall receive and review the City Engineering Department's recommended budget and schedule of fees for FY 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park City Council shall receive comments on the recommended budget and schedule of fees from citizens at a duly advertised public hearing; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the City Engineering Department that schedule of fees shall adhere to the proposed budget funds for FY 2020; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Highland Park City Engineering Department requests a public hearing to be held at the regular City Council meeting of July 1st and July 15th @ 7:00 p.m. to receive these comments regarding the FY 2020 City Engineering Department budget and schedule of fees; and

PASSED AND ADOPTED, this 17th day of June 2019 by the votes of Highland Park City Council. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

OUTSIDE COMMUNICATION:

06-17-19-X

A communication from Debra Simmons, spokesperson for Moratorium Now.

Citizens want each council member to address their own opinion on the hiring of unethical police officers who the citizens of Highland Park don't trust to police them.

Moved by Councilmember Lewis

Supported by Councilmember Bates

To receive and file the above communication. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

CITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

06-17-19

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION TO FORMALLY REQUEST ENGAGEMENT WITH DATA DRIVEN DETROIT TO RESEARCH AND ASSIST THE HIGHLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL WITH THE CREATION OF 3 CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICTS

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, May 7, 2019 the voters of Highland Park decided to narrowly support the Revised Charter question that was placed on the ballot; and

WHEREAS, language in this Revised Charter included the creation of the 3 City Council representative districts; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park City Council will be responsible for the creation of these 3 City Council representative districts; and

WHEREAS, Data Driven Detroit is considered an industry leader in regional data collection in regards to population and various demographics, and

WHEREAS, these 3 City Council representative districts must have 'near equal' population representation, NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Highland Park City Council is formally requesting that Data Driven Detroit located at 440 Burroughs Street, Suite 330, Detroit, MI provide research and assistance to the Highland Park City Council in its creation of these 3 City Council representative districts. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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Moved by Council Pro Tem McDonald
Supported by Councilmember Woodard

To postpone the Regular & Workshop meeting scheduled for August 5, 2019 to August 12, 2019 due to election being held on August 6, 2019. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

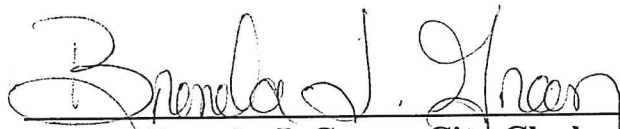
ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

To adjourn this meeting at 9:37 p.m. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0) motion carried.

CERTIFICATE

I, hereby certify that the attached is a true copy of the proposed minutes of a Regular Meeting held on the 17th day of June, 2019 and that said proposed minutes are available for public inspection at the address designated on the posted public notice.



Brenda J. Green, City Clerk