

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL**

October 2, 2023

Council convened at 7:02 p.m. with Council President Thomas presiding.

Present: Council President Thomas, Council Pro Tem Robinson, Councilwoman Manica, Councilwoman Martin, and Councilman Ash-Shafii (5).

Absent: (0).

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii
Supported by Council Pro Tem Robinson

To approve the agenda with the removal of the Community Development items and refer to legal. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilwoman Martin

To approve the minutes of the In-Person and Virtual Regular meeting held September 18, 2023. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

TABLED ITEMS

10-02-23 Va

The following item was tabled at the September 18, 2023, meeting.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE AGREEMENT, DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT
AND SELL THE VACANT COMMERCIAL LOT AT 11811 HAMILTON TO SEPIA COFFEE
PROJECT LLC**

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

To bring back from the table. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii
Supported by Council Pro Tem Robinson

To remove this item from the agenda and refer to Legal. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Thomas, Absent (0).

10-02-23 Vb

The following item was tabled at the September 18, 2023, meeting.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE AGEEMENT, DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT
AND SELL THE VACANT COMMERCIAL LOT AT 11817 HAMILTON TO SEPIA COFFEE
PROJECT LLC**

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

To bring back from the table. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Thomas, Absent (0).

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii
Supported by Council Pro Tem Robinson

To remove this item from the agenda and refer to Legal. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Thomas, Absent (0).

**ADMINISTRATION
10-02-23 VI**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilman Ash-Shafii

**RESOLUTION TO APPOINT BISHOP VICTOR THOMAS TO THE TAX INCREMENT FINANCING
AUTHORITY (TIFA BOARD)**

WHEREAS, the City has established the TIFA Board to oversee the policies & procedures of the TIFA District; and

WHEREAS, the Administration is seeking to improve, redevelop and grow the economic development in the City; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the TIFA District Ordinance, the Board is to consist of seven (7) members of the City of Highland Park appointed by the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the appointments of the TIFA Board members are subject to Council approval.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highland Park City Council approves the Mayoral appointment for the TIFA Board as follows:

Bishop Victor Ricardo Thomas Term to expire June 30, 2025

Yeas (3) Martin, Manica and Thomas, Nays (2) Ash-Shafii and Robinson, Absent (0).

A 5-minute recess was called at 7:41 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

**FIRE
10-02-23 VII**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF (1) ONE FIRE VEHICLE FROM LAFONTAINE GMC TO BE FUNDED THROUGH THE CURRENT AVAILABLE FUNDS FROM THE 2023/2024 FIRE BUDGET

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

WHEREAS, the City wishes to add (1) or,;e new fire vehicle to replace the current aging fleet. Vehicles will assist in 1) the reduction of maintenance expenses, 2) improved vehicle response time, and 3) assisting with Fire Prevention.

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park Fire Department requested a quote for (1) one new 2023 Vehicles through the State of Michigan MiDEAL program to obtain optimal pricing and

WHEREAS, LAFONTAINE GMC offered (1) one new Fire Admin vehicle for \$40,000.00 and **WHEREAS** the State of Michigan MiDEAL Program is an extended purchasing program that allows Michigan cities to use state contracts to buy goods and services and

WHEREAS, the City is currently a MiDEAL dues-paying member, LAFONTAINE GMC is a MiDEAL vendor, and

WHEREAS, the prices from the MiDEAL contract for vehicles from Berger Chevy have an overall savings of approximately \$8,000.00 that could be realized by the City when compared to vehicles purchased from other vendors and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City approves the purchase of (1) one vehicle from Berger Chevy for a total cost of \$40,000. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

**RECREATION
10-02-23 VIIIa**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION REVIEWING AND APPROVING 2023-2024 HANNAN CENTER MY NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS AMERICORPS PROGRAM HOST SITE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council Pro Tem Robinson

WHEREAS, the Hannan Center, is a nonprofit organization that provides programs and services addressing the needs of metro Detroit area seniors which includes the City of Highland Park and My Neighborhood Connections (MNC) ArneriCorps Program connecting older adults in Southeast Michigan with resources and information **and**,

WHEREAS, the Hannan Center has submitted a 2023-2024 host agreement to partner with the City of Highland Park to provide community resources, programming and service assistance to our senior residents as they successfully age in place **and**,

WHEREAS, the plan will be funded for a 1-year period starting October 23, 2023, to Oct 25. 2024 based on a

Hannan Center's My Neighborhood Connections Program (MNC) grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service ("AmeriCorps") [Code of Federal Domestic Assistance (CfDA) 94.006] in partnership with Michigan Community Service Commission (MCSC). This agreement does not request or need funding from the City of Highland Park **and**,

WHEREAS, the funding will be used to fund one AmeriCorps member (12 months, 900 hours minimum) residing at the Ernest T. Ford Field House to help enhance the delivery of services and address the needs of our Highland Park Seniors. under the Host Site supervision of the City of Highland Park Senior Coordinator **and**,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Highland Park approves the 2023- 2024 Hannan Center My Neighborhood Connections AmeriCorps Program Host Site Memorandum of Agreement as submitted without revisions. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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10-02-23 VIIIb

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SAY DETROIT AS AN ADOPT-A-PARK PARTNER FOR IVES FIELD AND CASEY PARK

Moved by Councilwoman Martin
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

WHEREAS, SAY Detroit (led by Mitch Albom) would like to extend their commitment to Highland Park by becoming an Adopt-A-Park partner for Casey Park and Ives Field; and

WHEREAS, SAY Detroit will cut the grass and pick up rubbish every 10-14 days for two years; and

WHEREAS, they will also do the following:

- Casey Park: install new industry standard fitness equipment, plant flowers & shrubs, conduct a park clean-up
- Ives Field - install an outdoor performance raiser (see separate resolution)

WHEREAS, by adding fitness equipment amenity to Casey Park, parents will be able to use the equipment and watch their children on the playscapes; and

WHEREAS, all projects will be completed by licensed contractors, with insurance and permits provided; and

WHEREAS, any additional improvements would be approved by the Highland Park Director of Parks and Recreation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City approves SAY Detroit, as an Adopt-A-Park Partner for Casey Park and Ives Field and accepts the proposed improvements. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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10-02-23 VIIIc

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT GIFT OF OUTDOOR STAGE FROM SAY DETROIT

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilwoman Martin

WHEREAS, SAY Detroit (led by Mitch Alborn), an Adopt a Park Partner, would like to donate a built-in stage to be installed in the grass area behind the Ernest T. Ford Field House; and

WHEREAS, the organization will hire BL Construction, Jorge Bernal, to manage the project and work closely with the city to ensure all permits are pulled and that the project complies with all city regulations; and

WHEREAS, it is their desire to complete the project so it can be used as a part of our Halloween event; and

WHEREAS, we can also host youth music events, small plays, storytelling, magic shows, talent shows, award ceremonies, etc. using that stage; and

WHEREAS, this social infrastructure can improve both physical and mental health for our citizens by supporting the development of social connection and combating social isolation and loneliness for our citizens; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Highland formally approves the donation from SAY Detroit of a built-in stage to be installed in the grass area behind the Ernest T. Ford Field House. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

Councilman Ash-Shafii stated he rescinds his vote on the gas station on Oakland.

Council Pro Tem Robinson held up a white binder and stated sections are missing; sections do not match. We've been asking since January 2nd, I know myself, and still haven't gotten them.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

To adjourn the meeting, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the attached is a copy of the proposed minutes of the In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting held the 2nd day of October 2023 and that said minutes are available for public inspection at the address designated on the posted public notice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cidia Wicker-Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Cidia Wicker-Brown, Deputy City Clerk