

MINUTES OF THE RECESS FEBRUARY 20, 2012
REGULAR MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL
RECONVENING ON FEBRUARY 21, 2012

Council reconvened at 5:05 p.m. with Council President Christopher Woodard presiding.

**Present: Council Pro-Tem Lewis, Councilmember Moore,
Councilmember McClary and Council President Woodard (4).**

Absent: None (0).

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

Council Pro Tem Lewis requested to go back to Council Affairs.

**Moved by Councilmember Moore
Supported by Council Pro Tem Lewis**

To go back to council affairs. Yeas (3), Nays (1) Councilmember McClary, Absent (1) Councilmember Patrick.

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The following communication was received from CED Director, Sandy McDonald.

17 Council President and Council Pro-Tem, per the directive of City Council, I am informing you in advance that the office of Community and Economic Development has received a request for a walk thru and site visit through the McGregor Library. The request was made by:

**Pastor D. Bullock
Greater St. Matthews, Baptist Church
396 Labelle, Highland Park**

The purpose of the visit is to assess the property for consideration of a development project and/or mixed use development. The Pastor is seeking a visit the week of March 5, 2012. As in the past, if permission is granted we will have the Pastor and any accompanying members to sign a Waiver and Liability Form.

If you have no objections, the office of CED will schedule the week of March 5th to take the Pastor through the facility. We will also inquire prior and during the visit more details of the potential proposed use.

**Moved By Council Pro Tem Lewis
Supported by Councilmember Moore**

To authorize the CED Director to schedule a walk thru for Pastor Bullock and contact two members of council with the date and time. Yeas (3), Nays (1) Councilmember McClary, Absent (1) Councilmember Patrick.

****Councilmember Patrick entered the meeting.**

**Moved by Councilmember Patrick
Supported by Council Pro tem Lewis**

To remove the following resolution from the table. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

RESOLUTION to Eliminate Health Benefits for the Highland Park City Council.

9 WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park, in order to eliminate its increasing debt and to balance its budget, must reduce its expenditure; and

WHEREAS, after much thought, deliberation and professional input, the Mayor and his Administration have prepared and presented a plan to resolve the City's fiscal dilemma; and

WHEREAS, the plan seeks to implement significant cost savings and reduction in the expenditure made by the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the members of the City Council currently do not receive any health benefits pursuant to each members service as councilmember's; and

WHEREAS, to provide health benefits to members of City Council would upset the debt elimination efforts that have been recommended by the Mayor and his Administration; and

WHEREAS, members of the City Council understand that there is a necessity for all members of the City's government to accept reductions in expenditure; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and his Administration have identified this cost savings in its debt elimination plan, which are identified in its Fiscal Stabilization Plan; and

WHEREAS, without a balancing of the City's budget and a plan to cease the increasing debts incurred in the governing of the City shall cause the City to be unable to present the State of Michigan, specifically the Department of Treasury, with an acceptable plan; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is but one of the numerous steps that have been incorporated into the Mayor's Fiscal Stabilization Plan and represents a significant step towards the balancing of the City's budget and reduction of the long-term debt of the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the failure to present a balanced budget or an acceptable plan will cause the City to cede its autonomy to an Emergency Manager; NOW

THEREFORE, the Highland Park City Council hereby accepts the recommendation of the Mayor and his Administration and hereby resolves to forgive any and all health benefits for City Councilmembers.

**Moved by Councilmember Patrick
Supported by Council Pro Tem Lewis**

To discuss the resolution. Yeas (5) Nays (0), Absent (0).

**Moved by Councilmember McClary
Supported by Councilmember Patrick**

To remove the resolution to Eliminate Health Benefits for the Highland Park City Council from the agenda. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

**Moved by Council Pro Tem Lewis
Supported by Councilmember Moore**

To remove the following resolution from the table. Yeas (5) Nays (0), Absent (0).

Resolution to Eliminate Corporate Law Department

10 WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park, in order to eliminate its increasing debt and to balance its budget, must reduce its expenditure; and

WHEREAS, after much thought, deliberation and professional input, the Mayor and his Administration have prepared and presented a plan to resolve the City's fiscal dilemma; and

WHEREAS, the plan seeks to implement significant cost savings and reductions in the expenditure made by the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, in the review of the expenditures, the Corporate Law Department, not including benefits and legacy costs, presents itself as a significant expenditure from the City's General Fund; and

WHEREAS, this expenditure can be reduced substantially through the delegation of this service to an independent contractor;

WHEREAS, the current city attorney, Todd Russell Perkins, of The Perkins Law Group, PLLC, shall provide the legal services to the City of Highland Park by and through a contractual agreement; and

WHEREAS, this agreement shall cause The Perkins Law Group, PLLC, to provide the service currently provided by the Corporation Counsel of the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, The Perkins Law Group, PLLC, shall provide said legal services to the City of Highland Park at the rate of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00USD) per annum, which shall be prorated for this current fiscal year;

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park currently expends a fixed amount of Two Hundred Twenty-Three Thousand (\$223,000.00USD) per annum on its current in-house legal staff; and

WHEREAS, without a balancing of the City's budget and a plan to cease the increasing debts incurred in the governing of the City shall cause the City to be unable to present the State of Michigan, specifically the Department of Treasury, with an acceptable plan; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is but one of the numerous steps that have been incorporated into the Mayor's Fiscal Stabilization Plan and represents a significant step towards the balancing of the City's budget and reduction of the long-term debt of the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the failure to present a balanced budget or an acceptable plan will cause the City to cede its autonomy to an Emergency Manager; NOW

THEREFORE, the Highland Park City Council hereby accepts the recommendation of the Mayor and his Administration and hereby resolves to contract the legal services of

the Corporate Law Department of the City of Highland Park to The Perkins Law Group, PLLC.

****Councilmember Patrick requested to abstain due to monetary conflict.**

**Moved by Councilmember McClary
Supported by Council Pro Tem Lewis**

To approve Councilmember Patrick requested. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Abstain (1).

**Moved by Council Pro Tem Lewis
Supported by Councilmember McClary**

**To approve the resolution to eliminate the Corporate Law Department.
Yeas (3) Council Pro Tem Lewis, Councilmember McClary, Council President Woodard,
Nays (1) Councilmember Moore, Absent (0), Abstain (1) Councilmember Patrick.**

**Moved by Councilmember Patrick
Supported by Council Pro Tem Lewis**

To remove the following resolution from the table. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

Resolution to Support the Fiscal Stabilization Plan

11 WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park, in order to eliminate its increasing debt and to balance its budget, must reduce its expenditure; and

WHEREAS, after much thought, deliberation and professional input, the Mayor and his Administration have prepared and hereby present a plan, hereafter referred to simply as the “Fiscal Stabilization Plan”; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Stabilization Plan seeks significant cost savings and reductions in the expenditure made by the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the Fiscal Stabilization Plan, which include specific, reductions or cost savings that shall be the substance of separate resolutions presented to City Council, provides an overview and guidance as to how the Mayor and his administration propose to offer a balanced budget;

WHEREAS, the failure to agree to this Fiscal Stabilization Plan shall cause the City to fail in its effort to balance its budget; and

WHEREAS, without a balancing of the City’s budget and a plan to cease the increasing debts incurred in the governing of the City shall cause the City to be unable to

present the State of Michigan, specifically the Department of Treasury, with an acceptable plan; and

WHEREAS, in as much as City Council or others may wish to provide alternatives to the proposed Fiscal Stabilization Plan, there is no time to discuss, negotiate and prepare another plan;

WHEREAS, the failure to present a balanced budget or an acceptable plan will cause the City to cede its autonomy to an Emergency Manager; NOW

THEREFORE, the Highland Park City Council hereby accepts the recommendation of the Mayor and his Administration and hereby resolves to support the Fiscal Stabilization Plan, in its totality, into the configuration and preparation of the City's budget.

**Moved by Councilmember McClary
Supported by Council Pro Tem Lewis**

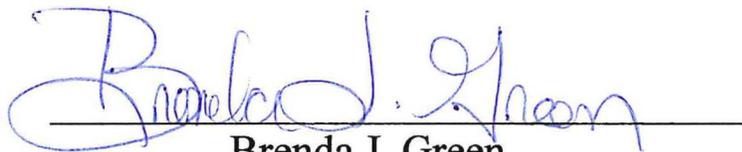
To remove the resolution to support the Fiscal Stabilization Plan from the agenda per legal. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

**Moved By Council Pro Tem Lewis
Supported by Councilmember Moore**

To adjourn this meeting, meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. motion carried

CERTIFICATE

I, hereby certify that the attached is a true copy of the proposed minutes of the Recess Regular Meeting held on the 21st day of February 2012 and that said proposed minutes are available for public inspections at the address designated on the posted public notice.



Brenda J. Green
City Clerk