

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL  
FEBRUARY 20, 2012**

**Council convened at 7:15 p.m. with Council President Christopher Woodard presiding.**

**Present: Council Pro-Tem Lewis, Councilmember Moore, Councilmember Patrick,  
Councilmember McClary and Council President Woodard (5).**

**Absent: None (0).**

**A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.**

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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

**To approve the agenda with the following additions.**

- 1. Approval of facility rental on February 23, 2012**
- 2. Resolution for Ten Percent (10%) Reduction of wages for Non-Public Safety and Non-Union Highland Park Employees.**
- 3. Resolution to Eliminate Health Benefits for the Highland Park City Council.**
- 4. Resolution to Eliminate Corporate Law Department.**
- 5. Resolution to support the Fiscal Stabilization Plan.**

**Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).**

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**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- 6. Moved by Councilmember McClary  
Supported by Council Pro Tem Lewis**

**To remove the following item from the table.**

**WHEREAS, from time to time the City of Highland Park receive claims alleging injury by the City and asking for damages as a results of such alleged injury; and**

**WHEREAS, from time to time there are lawsuits filed against the City alleging various causes of action against the city; and**

**WHEREAS, all claims and lawsuits can have potential economic consequences on the financial situation of the City and the city's budget; and**

**WHEREAS, the City Attorney is charged with representing the city in those instances; and**

**WHEREAS, there are occasions where the city attorney determines as a result of professional experience that it would be in the city's best legal and economic interests to settle such claims and lawsuits rather than litigate them; and**

**WHEREAS, in some instances there are claims and lawsuits that can be resolved and settled for relatively smaller amounts in an expeditious fashion; and**

**WHEREAS, the mayor and city attorney believe that the City Attorney where appropriate should have authority to resolve and settle those legal matters for amounts under five thousand dollars and hereby request such delegation of authority from City Council now;**

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council hereby grants authority to the City Attorney to settle such legal matters that may be resolved for less than five thousand dollars and then report such settlements to the City Council; and that all proposed settlements of legal matters over five thousand shall come to the City Council for its approval prior to settlements resolution.**

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

**To remove the above item from the agenda. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

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**7. Senator Bert Johnson submitted a rental application request of Ernest T. Ford Recreation Center on February 23, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. for a Community Public hearing.**

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

To approve the request of Senator Bert Johnson to rent Ernest T. Ford Recreation Center on February 23, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. upon receipt and proof of liability insurance. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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8. The following communication was received from Administration.

**Resolution for Ten Percent (10%) Reduction of Wages for Non-Public Safety and Non- Union Highland Park Employees**

**WHEREAS, The City of Highland Park, in order to eliminate its increasing debt and to balance its budget, must reduce its experience; and**

**WHEREAS, after perusing every alternative, this reduction, amongst other educations in other areas of the expenditures made by the City, is necessary to be able to present a balanced budget; and**

**WHEREAS, this ten percent (10%) reduction shall apply to all employees of the City of Highland Park, with the exception of the City Clerk, City Treasure. Also public safety, who have agreed to significant cuts and reductions; and**

**WHEREAS, this reduction shall include, but not be limited to, non-union employees and elected officials;**

**WHEREAS, the failure to present a balanced budget 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 Administration and hereby orders a ten percent (10%) reduction of the wages and salary of all the Non-Public Safety and Non-Union Highland Park employees.**

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

**To approved the above resolution. Yeas (4), Nays (1), Councilmember Moore, Absent (0).**

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9. The following resolution was received from Administration.

**Resolution to eliminate health Benefits for the Highland Park City Council**

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

**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 and all health benefits for City Council Members**

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

**To table the resolution to eliminate Health Benefits for the Highland Park City Council until more information is received. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Councilmember McClary, Absent (0).**

10. **The following resolution was received from Administration.**

**Resolution to Eliminate Corporate Law Department.**

**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;**

**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 expenditure, 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.**

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

**To table the resolution to eliminate Corporate Law Department until council can discuss and look further into the stabilization plan. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).**

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**11. The following resolution was received from Administration.**

**Resolution to Support the Fiscal Stabilization Plan**

**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 though, deliberation and professional input, the Mayor and his Administration have prepared and hereby present a plan, hereinafter 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 includes 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 Council Pro Tem Lewis  
Supported by Councilmember Moore**

**To table to resolution to support the Fiscal Stabilization Plan. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).**

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**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

**12. The following resolution was received from Councilmember McClary.**

**RESOLUTION  
CHARTER REVISION PROPOSAL**

**WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park is in need of a Charter Revision proposal and;**

**WHEREAS, The City Council is asking the citizens of Highland Park to decide if a charter revision is necessary in the City of Highland Park at this time; and**

**WHEREAS, the decision to be made on the next schedule election, whether it's state, local, regular or special election; and**

**THEREFORE, be it resolved, that on this day, Monday, February 20, 2012 the City Council of Highland Park, Michigan adopts the following language for the proposal:**

**Proposal "1"**

**GENERAL CHARTER REVISION**

**SHALL THERE BE A GENERAL REVISION OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK?**

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Moved by Councilmember McClary  
Supported by Councilmember Moore**

**To approve the resolution for Charter Revision Proposal and refer to the City Clerk. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).**

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**OUTSIDE COMMUNICATIONS:**

**13. The following communication was received from Senator Bert Johnson.**

**This correspondence is a request for Senator Bert Johnson to speak at the Highland Park City Council meeting scheduled for Monday, March 5, 2012**

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

**To refer this request to Council President Woodard. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).**

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**14. The following communication was received from Sterling Brown & Dwayne Saunders.**

**We would like to be added to the council meeting agenda, to introduce myself, Sterling Brown, and Dwayne Saunders o the City of Highland Park. We are a minority supplier. Our company supplies led commercial, residential, street lighting. We would like to discuss the opportunity to supply the city with this technology lighting that will save energy.**

**Mr. Saunders and Mr. Brown gave a presentation about their company and were refer to administration and Community Development.**

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**15. The following communication was received from Seventh-Day Adventist Church.**

**This summer young people from the Michigan Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists will be in your area doing door-to-door missionary work during the months of June, July, and August o 2012.**



**The activities that our young people will be involved in include:**

- 1) Seeking to place Christian literature in each home that will accept it, enabling residents to give a donation to the young people to help further their education.**
- 2) Offering Bible study programs to those interested.**
- 3) Praying with individuals that desire prayer**
- 4) Interesting individuals in the Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**For the safety of our young people, we have provided two-way radios and group supervisors. A list of our Young people and vehicle information will be available upon request beginning June 8, 2012.**

**Please accept this letter as acknowledgment of our youth missionary project in your area. If you have any other questions, please don't hesitate to call us at 517-316-1515**

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

**To refer the above communication to the police department. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).**

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**16. The following communication was received from DTE Energy.**

**Energy Conference and Exhibition 2012 hosted by DTE Energy and the Engineering Society of Detroit. May 2, 2012 Novi, Michigan Suburban Collection Showplace. The 2012 Energy Conference and Exhibition's theme will once again focus on "Energy Efficiency."**


**The above communication was ordered received and file.**

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

**To recess this meeting until 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 21, 2012.  
Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).**

## CERTIFICATE

I, hereby certify that the attached is a true copy of the proposed minutes of the Regular Meeting held on the 20th 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