

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

FEBRUARY 20, 2024

Council convened at 7:00 p.m. with Council President Thomas presiding.

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

Absent: (0).

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilwoman Martin

To take a 5-minute recess. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilman Ash-Shafii

To reconvene Regular Meeting. Meeting reconvened at 7:09 p.m. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councilwoman Martin
Supported by Councilman Ash-Shafii

To approve the agenda with the addition of the minutes from the In-Person and Virtual Special Meeting held February 9, 2024. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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

To add the resolution regarding posting of City Treasurer position. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Martin

To approve the amended agenda. Yeas (3), Nays (2) Martin and Robinson, Absent (0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council President Thomas

To approve the minutes of the In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting held February 5, 2024.
Yeas (3), Nays (2) Ash-Shafii and Robinson, Absent (0).

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

To approve the minutes of the In-Person and Virtual Special Meeting held February 9, 2024.
Yeas (4), Nays (1) Thomas, Absent (0).

**CITY ADMINISTRATOR
02-20-24 Va**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council President Thomas

To recess into Closed Session. Yeas (2), Nays (3) Ash-Shafii, Martin and Robinson, Absent (0).

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02-20-24 V b

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Martin

To approve contract and settlement with Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA).

Councilman Ash-Shafii withdrew his motion.

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilman Ash-Shafii

To reconsider recessing into Closed Session. Yeas (3), Nays (2), Martin and Robinson, Absent (0).

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council President Thomas

To recess into Closed Session. Yeas (3), Nays (2) Martin and Robinson, Absent (0).

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii

To approve the contract and settlement with Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA).

** Motion dies, lack of support **

Moved by Councilwoman Martin
Supported by Councilman Ash-Shafii

To table the approval of the contract and settlement with Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA).
Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
02-20-24 VI**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE OPTION TO PURCHASE AND SALE OF COMMERCIAL LOT
AND BUILDING LOCATED AT 12024 WOODWARD AVENUE TO JAKM HOLDING, LLC
(OPTIONEE) SHOULD OPTION TO PURCHASE BE TIMELY EXERCISED BY OPTIONEE**

Moved by Councilwoman Martin
Supported by Councilwoman Thomas

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park (the "City") owns surplus real property in its inventory which real property is currently neither habitable, operable nor producing meaningful property tax revenue for the benefit of the City and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, it is the stated desire of the City to reduce its inventory of surplus real property and sell such parcels to individuals and/or entities which intend to develop and improve those parcels so that they may become habitable, operative, productive, and producing property tax income for the benefit of the City and its residents all in accordance with the City's Ordinances; and

WHEREAS, the City owns the vacant building and lot located at 12024 Woodward Avenue, the legal description of which is set forth on the attached Exhibit "A" (the "Property") which is specifically incorporated by reference into this Resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Optionee (whose principal is Lawrence Johnson) proposes to renovate the building located upon the Property and create a breakfast cafe to seat up to 80 persons inside the building and up to 80 persons outside; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Property into a breakfast cafe is beneficial to the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney prepared an Option to Purchase, to which there are attached as exhibits, a Purchase Agreement, and a Development Agreement for the sale of the Property to Optionee should Optionee timely exercise its option to purchase the Property; and

WHEREAS, the Development Agreement would be executed by the City and the Optionee on the date which Optionee closes on its purchase of the Property; and

WHEREAS, the option price of \$2,500.00 (10% of the purchase price, and which is characterized as a Performance Bond under Ordinance Number 208.07) is payable by Optionee to the City upon its execution of the Option to Purchase and is non-refundable but applicable to Optionee's purchase of the Property under the Purchase Agreement should the Option to Purchase be timely exercised by Optionee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council approves: (1) the granting of the Option to Purchase to Optionee; (2) the execution of the Option to Purchase by a member of the City's

administration; (3) sale of the Property to the Optionee for a sale price of \$25,000 under the Purchase Agreement should Optionee timely exercise its option to purchase the Property; (4) the execution of the Purchase Agreement by a member of the City's administration once it signed by Optionee and (4) the execution of the Development Agreement by a member of the City's administration on the date Optionee closes on the purchase of the Property. Yeas (3), Nays (2) Ash-Shafii and Robinson, Absent (0).

FINANCE
02-20-24 VII a

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council President Thomas

To receive and file the Monthly Financial Statement January 2024. Yeas (2), Nays (3) Ash-Shafii, Martin and Robinson, Absent (0).

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02-20-24 VII b

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Council President Thomas

To receive and file the Financial Statements June 30, 2023. Yeas (2), Nays (3) Ash-Shafii, Martin and Robinson, Absent (0).

FIRE
02-20-24 VIII

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE HIGHLAND PARK FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FEMA ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT FOR A NEW FIRE TRUCK

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

WHEREAS, The City of Highland Park Fire Department is a unit of the certified local government in which the City of Highland Park can apply for annual grants; and

WHEREAS, grants are available for certified local governments (CLG's) to provide funding for priority projects identified in FEMA's 'Notice of Funding Opportunity; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department, through internal review, has determined the need for a new fire engine, due to current in-service engines needing many costly repairs; and

WHEREAS, the current in-service engines are older than what the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) recommends fire departments to have; and

WHEREAS, a new fire engine would better protect the citizens of the City of Highland Park, their

property, and the firefighters working for the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant request amount is for \$500,000, with 5% being paid by the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the application is due on Friday, March 8th by 5pm; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park Mayor, administrative departments, engineering, and building department are supportive of the grant; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the Highland Park Fire Department to apply for FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grant for a new fire engine to replace one of the existing fire engines. (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

**RECREATION
02-20-24 IX**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE TRANSFER OF PARCELS 43006010136000, 43006010047000
AND 43006010044001 TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT INVENTORY**

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

WHEREAS, The Joe Louis Greenway has secured funding to assist with the design and installation of landscaping of these three parcels adjacent to the Greenway; and

WHEREAS Tile Joe Louis Greenway Partnership is willing to assist with the maintenance, and upkeep of the project as well as programing assistance; and

WHEREAS, The Recreation Department is requesting that City Council transfer Parcels 43006010136000, 43006010047000 and 43006010044001 to the Recreation Department's inventory, and accept the offer for the beautification of the parcels from the Joe Louis Greenway; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the transfer of Parcels 43006010136000, 43006010047000 and 43006010044001 to the Recreation Department inventory, accepts gift of landscaping and maintenance from the Joe Louis Greenway and the Joe Louis Partnership. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

**OUTSIDE COMMUNICATION
02-20-24 X a**

The following communication was received from Deborah Bunkley, President of the League of Women Voters of Detroit.

Dear Members of the City Council of the City of Highland Park,

The League of Women Voters Detroit - serving Detroit, Hamtramck & Highland Park - is a nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to promote informed, active participation of citizens in

government. The League maintains an Observer Corps of members, who regularly attend and report on meetings of governmental units, including county, city, township, and school councils, commissions, boards, authorities, and committees. We hope to educate our members and demonstrate our support of good government.

This letter is to introduce you to LaWonna Washington who will be observing the meetings of the Highland Park City Council beginning in January 2024. Note that League Observers do not participate in the meetings they observe. They do not ask for time on the agenda, nor do they address, during meetings, the issues being discussed. They may sometimes ask questions for clarification. League Observers wear identifying badges and identify themselves as League Observers on virtual-meeting participant sign-ins.

If practical, whenever not posted on your website, please send copies of agendas in advance of meetings and minutes when they become available.

Moved by Councilman Ash-Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Manica

To receive and file. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Robinson, Absent (0).

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02-20-24 X b

The following communication was received from Demond Petty, Founder of Juneteenth Outreach.

We are the Juneteenth community, celebrating our 14th annual year by adding a 5k Run to the festival. We are seeking approval from the City of Highland Park.

In 2023 we hosted a wonderful parade and family day. There were no reasons for alarm throughout the event and everyone enjoyed themselves. We want to continue gathering and celebrating with Highland Park residents in mind, first.

The route for the 5k Run is included below. The total distance start to finish is just over 3 actual miles. The short marathon would begin at 8am, June 19th.

Start in Glory Market
Lot Left onto
Manchester Right on
John R then Left on
Victor St.
Right on Oakland
Turn around at Woodland
Stay on Oakland (same side or
not) Left onto Manchester
Finish line in the Glory Market lot

We are ready to present at the next available City council meeting. We hope to be added to the agenda. Please let us know the proper steps we should take at this point.

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

To approve the Juneteenth 5K Run, Parade and Family Day June 19, 2024. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

**CITY COUNCIL
02-20-24 XI**

The following resolution and posting were submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE POSTING FOR CITY TREASURER POSITION

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

WHEREAS, the City Treasurer is an elected position in the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, the Wayne County Circuit Court has ordered that the City Treasurer is ineligible to hold the position of Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, as a result of that Court Order, the position will be vacated on February 22, 2024, absent further Court action; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the City Charter, there is a process for the replacement of the City Treasurer pursuant to Highland Park City Charter Section 4-13;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that, pursuant to Highland Park City Charter Section 4-13(c), the Highland Park City Council directs the City Clerk to determine if any individuals in the last preceding election for Treasurer received votes other than Janice Bibbs; and •

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, if there are no individuals that received votes in the last preceding election for City Treasurer that are eligible to hold office, the Highland Park City Council directs City staff to post the position of City Treasurer so that qualified candidates may be considered for placement in the position by the Highland Park City Council and pending a Special Election to elect a permanent replacement. Vacancy posted on February 23, 2024. Submission deadline March 4, 2024. Special Meeting to hold interviews March 11, 2024. Appointment March 18, 2024. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

ADJOURNMENT

President Thomas adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the attached is a copy of the minutes of the In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting held the 20th day of February 2024 and that said minutes are available for public inspection at the address designated on the posted public notice.



Cidia Wicker-Brown, Deputy City Clerk