

CITY OF STERLING HEIGHTS
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2016
IN CITY HALL

Mayor Michael C. Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Mark Carufel, City Clerk, gave the Invocation.

Council Members present at roll call: Deanna Koski, Joseph V. Romano, Maria G. Schmidt, Nate Shannon, Doug Skrzyniarz, Michael C. Taylor, Barbara A. Ziarko.

Also Present: Mark D. Vanderpool, City Manager; Marc D. Kaszubski, City Attorney; Mark Carufel, City Clerk; Carol Sobosky, Recording Secretary.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Koski, seconded by Romano, to approve the Agenda as presented.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

REPORT FROM CITY MANAGER

Mr. Vanderpool reminded that the refuse collection is delayed one day this week due to the Labor Day holiday. He reported that the City will be hosting a rededication ceremony of Van Dyke on September 21st at 4:30 p.m. near the Metropolitan Parkway intersection. Coinciding with the rededication, the Sterling Heights Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Annual Fall Grub Crawl will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will involve restaurants all along Van Dyke. This is to

get customers re-acclimated to the businesses along Van Dyke and there will be shuttles available to take customers from one restaurant to another, so he urged those interested to register through the Regional Chamber of Commerce website.

Mr. Vanderpool provided a road update, stating that 15 Mile Road will be resurfaced from Morningdale, located just east of Moravian, all the way to Schoenherr. It started today and they anticipate it will be completed by November 1st, and although there will be a lot of disruption and intermittent closures, the residents and local businesses will still have access to their property throughout the project. He informed that those wanting more information on that project can call City Hall or visit “Cone Zone” link on the city’s website.

Mr. Vanderpool reported that the City applied for and was recently awarded a Stormwater, Asset Management and Wastewater (SAW) grant for \$2.4 million and the funds will be used to complete several projects through the Department of Public Works, including digitization of the storm water and sanitary assets citywide, upgrades and enhancements to the geographical information system, purchase of the Cityworks Asset Management software, and cleaning and video inspection of the sewer and sanitary system. He thanked the DPW Director, the Engineer and all other staff members who worked hard to obtain this grant for the City.

Mr. Vanderpool introduced Police Captain Dale Dwojakowski, highlighted a very important program that their department has been working on.

Police Captain Dwojakowski provided a presentation involving Narcan, the drug that stops opiate overdose. The Sterling Heights Police Department now has this drug and it is carried in about 45 of the police cars. He reviewed national statistics for drug overdose rates, average age of heroin users and opiate users, and added that double the amount of people will die from prescription pain pills than from heroin. He reviewed some of the drugs and their strengths, stating that Fentanyl is one hundred times more powerful than Oxycodone and is being added to heroin. Carfentanil is an elephant tranquilizer so powerful that one small “dot” is enough to take a life, and they are now seeing evidence of that drug in Michigan and Ohio. He stressed the importance of improving prescription practices and reviewed statistics for prescriptions in this country. Captain Dwojakowski explained how Narcan works and its statistics for saving lives. They then need to get these people off of the drugs, and that takes money and treatment centers. He reviewed the number of calls the Fire Department had last year where they used Narcan, and added that the Police have been carrying this for two weeks in their cars and they have already had to use it on an 18-year-old. He informed that the Police Department has a drop box for old prescription medications in an effort to remove all old medications no longer needed before they get in the wrong hands. They had a campaign last April at St. Michael’s Church where they collected 260 pounds of unused medications. He summarized that Narcan saves lives but they have to follow up with long-term treatment and care. There are national trends to figure out what to do with these individuals,

and they are looking into decriminalization, where these individuals will not go to jail as long as they receive the treatment and help they need. A letter went out to all elected officials in Macomb County asking them to help with this problem, and Judge Linda Davis, of Clinton Township's District Court, has been spearheading this and is one of the leaders of FAN (Families Against Narcotics). Captain Dwojakowski informed that Sterling Heights will be hosting a Call To Action Day at 8:30 a.m. at the Velocity Center in Sterling Heights. He thanked the Mayor and City Council for stepping up to help with this.

Mr. Vanderpool thanked Captain Dwojakowski and other team members of the Police Department for all of their hard work on this, and he also thanked the Mayor and City Council for taking a lead role in this troubling situation. He is proud that the City of Sterling Heights is being proactive. Mr. Vanderpool introduced Mr. Mike Moore, DPW Director, to give a presentation on the upcoming DPW Open House.

Mr. Mike Moore, DPW Director, announced that their 1st annual open house will be taking place on Saturday, September 17, 2016 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at their DPW site at 7200 18 Mile Road, located on the south side of 18 Mile Road, west of Van Dyke, and just west of Fuddrucker's. He urged residents to come early, noting there are a limited amount of small gifts for children. It will provide a fun interactive environment where those attending will be able to learn more about what the DPW does. He explained their departments' responsibilities, including providing safe drinking water, removal of wastewater and floodwater, keeping

streets clear of ice and snow to provide safe travel, maintaining city parks and municipal sites, removal of refuse and recyclables, providing a reliable city fleet of vehicles to respond to emergencies and responding to any natural disaster in the community. He added they will be hosting a food drive at the open house, and residents who make a donation will receive a raffle ticket to receive one of the donated prizes, with the collected goods donated to Sterling Heights area food banks. He outlined the various vehicles that will be on display, and added there will be a tractor-drawn hayride where they can go to the back of the 25-acre site to see more activities. There will be a light lunch and refreshments provided by the Public Works staff. It will be a family event, and he encouraged all to attend. He thanked the sponsors who have donated so far, and urged anyone who wants more information to contact their department at (586) 446-2440 or visit the City's website.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Mr. Luke Bonner, Senior Economic Development Advisor, introduced the guests present from FCA. He explained they are committed to investing nearly \$1.5 billion at the Sterling Heights Assembly Plant (SHAP) to produce the next generation RAM 1500 pick-up truck. He stated this was a long process, as FCA was looking at a number of their other assembly plants across North America to find the best fit. He outlined some of the incentives that they are receiving, and noted the Plant Rehabilitation package is a city incentive. This falls under the Industrial Facilities Exemption Act but it differs because it freezes the property

values in place for up to twelve years. Because of the State's elimination of the personal property tax, they do not have that incentive to offer, so this is an incentive that can be offered. He added that FCA's commitment to Sterling Heights is huge, with their commitment of nearly \$3 billion over the last five years, and \$8 billion over all of the U.S., so he noted that Sterling Heights has been the biggest benefactor.

Mayor Taylor opened the discussion to the audience.

There was no audience participation.

Mayor Taylor closed the public hearing.

Moved by Romano, seconded by Skrzyniarz, **RESOLVED**, to adopt the resolution approving the application by FCA US LLC to establish a Plant Rehabilitation District at 38111 Van Dyke Avenue.

Mayor Pro-Tem Romano commented that former Mayor Notte worked diligently with members of the administration to make sure Chrysler stayed open, and that saved 1,500 jobs, and now Fiat-Chrysler is willing to invest more. He stressed the City appreciates this investment, and just the economic overflow from the employees living here, buying groceries, gas, and patronizing the local businesses is all part of Sterling Heights. He thanked Mr. Bonner and those responsible for putting this together.

Councilman Skrzyniarz also expressed his appreciation for the partnership that goes back a few decades, and he assured they will do everything they can to make

sure this is the best possible community possible for them to locate their business in the future.

Councilwoman Ziarko stated she has a long family history with Chrysler and highly praised the company. She stated that because Chrysler stayed in this area, and people that once worked there tend to stay in the area, continuing to pump money into the economy. She recalled that at one time the largest number of Chrysler retirees lived in Macomb County, and that has continued to make their communities prosperous. She thanked them for helping Sterling Heights move into the future with this new investment.

Mayor Taylor echoed the sentiments of his colleagues. They have gone from seeing the building shuttered to now seeing it open with a vibrant new product come in that is one of the best-selling vehicles in Fiat-Chrysler's portfolio. He felt it is a tremendous success story when public and private sectors work together. He stated they are proud to have this success story here in Sterling Heights, and he wished them all the best.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

~ Resolution ~

A resolution of the Sterling Heights City Council establishing a Plant Rehabilitation District.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of Sterling Heights, Michigan, held on the 6th day of September, 2016, at the City Hall, 40555 Utica Road, in Sterling Heights, Michigan, at 7:30 p.m.:

PRESENT: Koski, Romano, Schmidt, Shannon, Skrzyniarz, Taylor, Ziarko

ABSENT: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Romano and supported by Skrzyniarz.

Resolution Establishing a Plant Rehabilitation District for FCA US LLC (Applicant)

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 198 of 1974, as amended, this City Council has the authority to establish "Plant Rehabilitation Districts" within Sterling Heights; and

WHEREAS, Applicant has petitioned this City Council to establish a Plant Rehabilitation District on its property located in Sterling Heights hereinafter described; and

WHEREAS, construction, acquisition, alteration, or installation of a proposed facility has not commenced at the time of filing the request to establish this district; and

WHEREAS, written notice has been given by mail to all owners of real property located within the district, and to the public by newspaper advertisement in the Sterling Heights Sentry newspaper and/or public posting of the hearing on the establishment of the proposed district; and

WHEREAS, on September 6th, 2016 a public hearing was held at which all owners of real property within the proposed Plant Rehabilitation District and all residents and taxpayers of Sterling Heights were afforded an opportunity to be heard thereon; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it to be in the public interest of Sterling Heights to establish the Plant Rehabilitation as proposed; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Sterling Heights that the following described parcel of land situated in Sterling Heights, Macomb County, and State of Michigan, to with:

PARCEL A (Part of Parcel No. 10-21-400-012)

A parcel of land located in the Southeast 1/4 of Section 21, Town 2 North, Range 12 East, City of Sterling Heights, Macomb County, Michigan, being part of Parcel No. 10-21-400-012 and more particularly described as:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of said Section 21; thence along the south line of said Section 21, also being the centerline of 16 Mile Road (60 foot half width), S89°20'50"W, 666.00 feet; thence N00°06'00"E, 60.01 feet to the north line of 16 Mile Road and the Point of Beginning; thence along said north line, S89°20'50"W, 1461.55 feet to the east line of Parcel No. 10-21-400-009; thence along said east parcel line, N00°08'30"E, 600.00 feet; thence along the north line of said parcel, S89°20'50"W, 490.00 feet to the east line of Michigan Central Railroad; thence along said east line, N00°08'30"E, 1937.33 feet; thence N89°55'11"E, 2500.51 feet to the west line of Van Dyke Avenue (variable width); thence along said west line the following three (3) courses: 1) S00°00'40"E, 422.13 feet; 2) N89°59'20"E, 6.00 feet and 3) S00°00'40"E, 1820.06 feet to the north line of Parcel No. 10-21-400-010; thence along said north line, and the north lines of Parcel No. 10-21-400-006 and 10-21-

400-002, S89°20'50"W, 561.24 feet to the west line of Parcel 400-002; thence along said west line, S00°07'24"W, 270.01 feet to the aforementioned north line of 16 Mile Road and the Point of Beginning. Containing 135.186 acres of land, more or less is established as a Plant Rehabilitation District pursuant to the provisions of PA 198 of 1974, as amended.

AYES: Romano, Skrzyniarz, Koski, Schmidt, Shannon, Taylor, Ziarko

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of Sterling Heights, County of Macomb, Michigan, at a regular meeting held the 6th day of September, 2016.

Mark Carufel, City Clerk

2. Mr. Luke Bonner, Senior Economic Development Advisor, introduced Mr. Dennis Hayes from Mitchell Plastics, who will be doing business as Ultra Manufacturing. He also introduced Mr. Clay Thomas from J.D. Donaldson, a representative of the developer for the property. This will be located in an industrial park on the former Sunnybrook Golf Course, and Mitchell Plastics will be the first tenant and has footings in the ground. This is a by-product of having FCA investment in the City. They will initially employ 122 people, and looked at their other facilities in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada and also Charlestown, Indiana, so the City of Sterling Heights was in a competitive situation. Mr. Bonner explained this is the first step in the process to establish this Industrial Development District.

Mayor Taylor opened the discussion to the audience.

There was no audience participation.

Mayor Taylor closed the public hearing.

Moved by Romano, seconded by Ziarko, **RESOLVED**, to adopt the resolution approving the application by Chalk Spade Investments (USA), Inc. to establish an Industrial Development District at 7191 Seventeen Mile Road.

Mayor Pro-Tem Romano inquired as to whether there will be a lot of hiring done at this manufacturing facility when it is completed.

Mr. Dennis Hayes replied the employees at the Troy facility, which is the sales and engineering office, will be consolidated with this facility. He stated that the plant will have over 100 employees, including staff managers, engineers, technical employees and general labor.

Mayor Pro-Tem Romano advised residents that there will be hiring taking place.

Mayor Taylor thanked the applicants for investing in Sterling Heights, and he felt this will be one of the premier industrial districts in the area. He added it will be good to see them breaking ground and the new jobs that will result from this new development.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

~ Resolution ~

A resolution of the Sterling Heights City Council establishing an Industrial Development District.

Minutes of the regular meeting of the City Council of Sterling Heights, Michigan, held on the 6th day of September, 2016, at the City Hall, 40555 Utica Road, in Sterling Heights, Michigan, at 7:30 p.m.:

PRESENT: Koski, Romano, Schmidt, Shannon, Skryzniarz, Taylor, Ziarko

ABSENT: None

The following preamble and resolution were offered by Romano and supported by Ziarko.

Resolution Establishing an Industrial Development District for Chalk Spade Investments (USA), Inc. (Applicant)

WHEREAS, pursuant to PA 198 of 1974, as amended, this City Council has the authority to establish "Industrial Development Districts" within Sterling Heights; and

WHEREAS, Applicant has petitioned this City Council to establish an Industrial Development District on its property located in Sterling Heights hereinafter described; and

WHEREAS, construction, acquisition, alteration, or installation of a proposed facility has not commenced at the time of filing the request to establish this district; and

WHEREAS, written notice has been given by mail to all owners of real property located within the district, and to the public by newspaper advertisement in the Sterling Heights Sentry newspaper and/or public posting of the hearing on the establishment of the proposed district; and

WHEREAS, on September 6th, 2016 a public hearing was held at which all owners of real property within the proposed Industrial Development District and all residents and taxpayers of Sterling Heights were afforded an opportunity to be heard thereon; and

WHEREAS, the City Council deems it to be in the public interest of Sterling Heights to establish the Industrial Development District as proposed; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of Sterling Heights that the following described parcel of land situated in Sterling Heights, Macomb County, and State of Michigan, to with:

T2N, R12E SEC 16 COMM AT SE COR SEC 16; TH N89*23'00"W 1325.88 FT TO POB; TH N89*23'00"W 1309.05 FT; TH N00*06'37"E 2598.68 FT; TH N00*00'57"E 1317.08 FT; TH S89*36'02"E 1329.40 FT; TH S00*29'29"W 1314.36 FT; TH S00*21'08"W 33.63 FT; TH S89*24'55"E 241.86 FT; TH S38*57'44"E 168.59 FT; TH N89*24'55"W 348.67 FT; TH S00*21'08"W 660.99 FT; TH S89*28'16"E 596.50 FT; TH S00*10'24"W 99.30 FT; TH S89*11'13"E 411.84 FT; TH S00*10'00"W 65.0 FT; TH S89*30'28"E 222.86 FT; TH S00*40'23"W 327.65 FT; TH N88*52'45"W 554.92 FT; TH S00*41'01"W 905.65 FT; TH N89*23'00"W 167.27 FT; TH N00*33'33"E 260.00 FT; TH S89*23'00"W 335.17 FT; TH N00*21'24"E 42.98 FT; TH S59*19'00"W 195.74 FT; TH S00*14'00" W 590.24 FT TO POB. 142.36 AC. 02-21-05: Split/Comb 10-16-476-008 & 10-16-401-004 into 10-16-476-029 & 10-16-401-005; is established as an Industrial Development District pursuant to the provisions of PA 198 of 1974, as amended.

AYES: Romano, Ziarko, Koski, Schmidt, Shannon, Skrzyniarz, Taylor

NAYS: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

I hereby certify that the foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the City Council of Sterling Heights, County of Macomb, Michigan, at a regular meeting held the 6th day of September, 2016.

Mark Carufel, City Clerk

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Mr. Joe Judnick inquired as to Item “H” and whether there will be any vehicles retired. He also inquired as to whether the purchase listed under Item “I” is replacing a current piece of equipment. He recalled abatements being granted to Chrysler in the past and inquired as to whether those are going to be paid back.

Ms. Jazmine Early questioned how many places of worship have been denied by the City.

Mr. Vanderpool replied that the police vehicles being purchased are replacements of retired Crown Victoria vehicles and one Dodge Charger, all ranging from 80,000 to 100,000 miles. The ladder truck for the Fire Department is replacing their 1990 ladder truck. Mr. Vanderpool informed that Chrysler is the City’s largest taxpayer, so even with some of the considerations the Council is taking under review, they will continue to be their largest taxpayer. He addressed the comment about the City offering Chrysler a 12-year tax abatement, and he

clarified that was a 6-year abatement and it will be coming off the books, so they will start getting that revenue next year. He stated the other question involved litigation so he will not address it.

Moved by Koski, seconded by Romano, **RESOLVED**, to approve the Consent Agenda:

- A. To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 16, 2016, as presented.
- B. To approve payment of the bills as presented: General Fund - \$602,230.33, Water & Sewer Fund - \$3,279,421.95, Other Funds - \$1,558,509.74, Total Checks - \$5,440,162.02.
- C. **RESOLVED**, to approve the agreement for reclassification services between the City of Sterling Heights and Rahmberg, Stover and Associates and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.
- D. **RESOLVED**, to accept a proposal by Empco, Inc. for promotional testing services for the position of police sergeant and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.
- E. **RESOLVED**, approve the contractual services agreement between the City of Sterling Heights and Alpha Psychological Services, P.C. for police officer and firefighter pre-employment psychological evaluations and authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

- F. **RESOLVED**, to accept a proposal by Geographic Information Services, Inc., 2100 Riverchase Center, Suite 105, Birmingham, AL 35244 to upgrade the geographical information system (GIS) at a cost of \$68,600 and authorize the City Manager to sign all required documents on behalf of the City.
- G. **RESOLVED**, to award the bid for washing, cleaning, and reconditioning of City-owned vehicles to Backus Incorporated, d/b/a Backus Auto Wash, 7755 17 Mile Road, Sterling Heights, MI48313, for a two-year period at unit prices bid.
- H. **RESOLVED**, to
- a) Purchase nine 2017 Ford Interceptor police pursuit vehicles from Gorno Ford, 22025 Allen Road, Woodhaven, MI 48183, through the State of Michigan cooperative bid, MiDeal contract #071B13000051 in the cumulative amount of \$244,224; and
 - b) Purchase a 2017 Chevrolet Tahoe SUV from Berger Chevrolet, Inc., 2525 28th Street S., Grand Rapids, MI 49512, through the Oakland County cooperative bid, contract #4556, in the amount of \$33,637; and
 - c) Authorize an amendment to the Capital Project Fund budget in the amount of \$14,161 from Capital Project Fund reserves.
- I. **RESOLVED**, to purchase a Pierce Ascendant PUC 107' aerial ladder fire truck and accessories from Pierce Manufacturing, Inc., 2600 American Drive, P.O. Box 2017, Appleton, WI 54912, at pricing available through a

Houston-Galveston Area Council cooperative bid in the amount of \$825,000, and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents required in conjunction with this purchase.

- J. **RESOLVED**, to adopt the resolution directing the City Engineer to fulfill the requirements of City Code §47-6 in preparation for the public hearing on the Gardner Street East Asphalt Paving Special Assessment District.

RESOLUTION

Gardner Street East Special Assessment District

Resolution made and adopted at a regular meeting of the Council of the City of Sterling Heights, Macomb County, Michigan, held at the City Offices on the 6th day of September, 2016 at 7:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Savings Time.

Members Present: Koski, Romano, Schmidt, Shannon, Skrzyniarz, Taylor, Ziarko

Members Absent: None

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Member Koski and supported by Member Romano:

WHEREAS, this City Council has been presented with information concerning the undertaking of certain local public improvements consisting of street paving together with all necessary appurtenances and attachments, the cost of which improvements are to be paid in whole or in part by the levy of a special assessment; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 47 of the City Code of Ordinances requires the preparation and presentation of certain information before the Council determines to make any such local public improvement to be defrayed by special assessment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT :

1. The City Engineer be and is hereby directed to ascertain the assessed valuation of all property affected by the proposed improvement, the number of parcels which show tax delinquencies, the number of parcels owned by public authorities and the number of parcels which are vacant and further to prepare or cause to be prepared plans and specifications therefore and an estimate of the cost thereof and to file the same with the City Clerk together with the City Engineer's recommendation as to what proportion of the cost of the improvement should be paid by special assessment and what part, if any, should be a general obligation of the City, the number of annual installments in which assessments may be paid and the lands to be included in the special assessment district.
2. All resolutions and parts of resolutions insofar as they conflict with the provisions of this resolution be and they hereby are rescinded.

AYES: Koski, Romano, Schmidt, Shannon, Skrzyniarz, Taylor, Ziarko

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

ABSENT: None

Resolution declared and adopted.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the above Resolution is a true and correct copy of a Resolution entered in the Minutes of the Sterling Heights City Council, held at a meeting of said Council on the 6th day of September, 2016.

Mark Carufel, City Clerk

- K. **RESOLVED**, to set a public hearing on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. regarding the application by FCA US LLC, for an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate at 38111 Van Dyke.
- L. **RESOLVED**, to set a public hearing on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. regarding the application by Ultra Manufacturing USA, Inc. for an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate at 7191 17 Mile Road.
- M. **RESOLVED**, to set a public hearing on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. regarding the application by Ring Screw, LLC. for an Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption Certificate at 6125 18 Mile Road.
- N. **RESOLVED**, to approve the application by Cora & Toma Management, Inc., d/b/a AI Shoroq Restaurant, for a Type B Amusement Device License located at 33120 Ryan Road, Sterling Heights, MI48310.
- O. **RESOLVED**, to authorize the City Attorney to pursue all available remedies to abate the nuisance conditions and code violations existing at 35235 Mound Road.
- P. **RESOLVED**, to receive the lawsuit, *American Islamic Community Center, Inc. v City of Sterling Heights*, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan Case No. 2:16-cv-12920-GAD-EAS.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

CONSIDERATION

4. Moved by Romano, seconded by Ziarko, **RESOLVED**, to nominate Ms. Junina Jean for consideration as an appointee to the Zoning Board of Appeals at the September 20, 2016 regular City Council Meeting.

Mayor Pro-Tem Romano stated Ms. Jean is a long-time Sterling Heights resident, a substitute teacher or teacher's aide, and she has voted in all elections. He added this is the first time she is being appointed to a commission.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

Moved by Ziarko, seconded by Romano, **RESOLVED**, to postpone a nomination to the Board of Ordinance Appeals II to the October 4, 2016 regular City Council Meeting.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

5. Moved by Schmidt, seconded by Romano, **RESOLVED**, to appoint Mr. Steven Pomaville to the Historical Commission to a term ending June 30, 2019, subject to the appointee meeting the qualifications set forth in Charter §4.03 and taking the oath of office within two weeks.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

Moved by Ziarko, seconded by Schmidt, **RESOLVED**, to postpone the appointment to the Elected Officials' Compensation Commission to the October 4, 2016 regular City Council Meeting.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Dr. Steve Naumovski – Capt. Dwojakowski’s presentation this evening, credit to former Mayor Notte for Chrysler development in the city, *ReCreating Recreation Initiative*, Regional Transit Authority Millage.

Mr. Bob Moffa – *ReCreating Recreation Initiative* ballot language, public forums being held for discussion.

Mr. Dustin Lehman – water bill, condition of Mulberry Street and the catch basin in front of his house.

Ms. Jazmine Early – forums for *ReCreating Recreation Initiative*, water bills, City’s celebration of Patriot Week from September 11th through 17th, 2016.

Ms. Dolores Hatton – Michigan State Lottery sponsoring/renaming Freedom Hill County Park, breakdown of lottery proceeds.

Mr. Charles Jefferson – boards and commissions, social media.

Mr. Giulio Russo – water bills and taxes, condition of Merrill, establishment of a “downtown” area for Sterling Heights.

Mr. Joe Judnick – concerns about high water bills, deterioration of the local roads and the cost for repair, Sterlingfest, condition of Waldo Street, pedestrian crossing signs at Riverland bridge, tax abatements for Chrysler.

REPORTS FROM CITY ADMINISTRATION AND CITY COUNCIL

Mr. Vanderpool responded about water bills, noting that the September bills include the months of May, June and July. He explained that this summer was one of the worst drought seasons in history, and for an accurate comparison of bills, residents would have to go back to the same months in 2012. He stated a

comparison of this summer's bill to last summer's bill will only create more frustration, and he suggested anyone wishing to compare their current bill to the same period in 2012 can call the City or get the information on line. Mr. Vanderpool sympathized with the residents and could understand their frustration, but he stated it is a direct correlation to the drought.

Mayor Taylor inquired as to how the drought affects the bills of those residents who claim they do not water their grass.

Mr. Vanderpool explained the peak water usage indirectly affects the rates they are required to pay, and there is a more direct correlation to that in the summer months. He added that even moderate watering results in an increase. He suggested requesting Mr. Brian Baker, Finance Director and Macomb County's representative to the Great Lakes Water Authority, to be present at the next meeting to discuss it.

Mayor Taylor felt having Mr. Baker present at the next meeting scheduled for September 20, 2016 will be helpful, and he will request his presence at the beginning of the meeting.

Mr. Vanderpool addressed the comment about the condition of Mulberry, agreeing that the road needs attention. He explained they are evaluating the roads but there is only a certain amount they can get through each year. He stated he will see where it is on the list and try to provide a more exact timeframe. Mr. Vanderpool stated that they have a contractor who repairs the catch basins on an

annual basis, and he will be coming in late summer or early fall to complete the repair of a couple hundred catch basins yet this year.

Mr. Kaszubski stated he has nothing to report.

Councilman Shannon inquired as to what happens when a resident cannot pay their water bill, and whether their water is shut off. He felt there needs to be some type of program to allow these residents make payments on their staggering water bills.

Mr. Vanderpool stated Mr. Baker will be able to address that at the next meeting, and he encouraged residents to contact the City to switch to the budget plan. He added that there are no easy solutions, and the residents will have to go back to another drought period to compare their usage.

Councilman Shannon inquired as to how the budget plan works, and whether it is based on the residents' incomes. He is aware of budget plans through DTE and Consumer's Energy, and he felt they are helpful.

Mr. Vanderpool replied it is a similar program done on a quarterly basis and it creates a smoothing effect so there are not large variations. He will request that Mr. Baker provide more information on it at the next meeting.

Councilman Shannon stated that, with regards to the comments made about Freedom Hill County Park, County Executive Mark Hackel and the County Board hold public meetings and residents are welcome to attend and speak. He said the time spent on public comments relating to social media and other issues are not city business. He stated that people are aware when they stand up to make their

comments that they are being recorded by SHTV, but he did not feel they appreciate their comments being recorded by other residents and put out on social media.

Mayor Pro-Tem Romano agreed with Councilman Shannon and felt that if someone is upset with what is showing up on social media, they do not have to look at it. He addressed the concern of the water bills, and questioned the possibility of having two meters, one that would assess the water and sewer rate based on usage, and the other meter would be strictly for watering lawns and there would be no sewer rate assessed on that amount. He would like Mr. Baker to discuss it at the next meeting, as well as provide a breakdown of what the water bill covers and whether the residents of Sterling Heights are paying for other municipalities, which he felt would not be fair. He did not feel the high bills are strictly related to the fact it is a dry summer because people who are not watering their lawns at all are still getting high bills. He expressed concern about residents, especially those on fixed incomes, not being able to pay these high bills.

Councilwoman Ziarko agreed with her colleagues and felt it may be beneficial to look at the possibility of going to two meters if that would help the residents in paying their bills.

Councilman Skrzyniarz stated the City Council listens to what the residents have to say, but he expressed concern that some of the residents are not participating in city business but only speak to get on television and promote their own personal agendas. He felt the Council needs to look at other options with regard to public

comments, possibly by having another avenue for receiving them or listening to public comments at 6:30 p.m. before they start their official business. He stated he has no problem with those who want to express their opinions about actual city business, but could not see how they can continue with the current system where some of these speakers do not follow protocol or show respect to the City and its residents.

Councilwoman Koski agreed with her colleagues. She liked the idea of separate water meters to help with future water bills, and some type of relief program to allow residents to make partial payments until their current high bills are paid off. She stated that as far as the segment of the meeting that allows for communications from residents, possibly the communications could be off camera and the residents could speak as much as they want. They may need to look at rules and procedures to prohibit individuals from filming the speakers at the podium and posting them on the internet without permission from the City.

Councilwoman Schmidt stated she would be curious to see how double meters would work. She claimed her husband is frugal and they do not water their lawn, yet her bill went from \$80 to \$250. She recalled asking Mr. Baker about the water bills during the budget process about the water bills and the amount they would be paying through the Water Authority, and was told a lot of it was due to funding Highland Park and Detroit. She felt that may have had a large impact on their bills rather than the drought.

Mayor Taylor has received calls from residents about their water bills and he agreed some of these amounts are shocking and difficult to budget. He hoped Mr. Baker will explain some of the options. He indicated the city does not shut the water off but puts the unpaid amount as a lien on the property. He would like to see if they can find a way for the residents to have the time to pay these bills, and then start figuring out how to attack the root problem. He recalled the double-metering being discussed within the last six to twelve months, and it was mentioned that it would be cost prohibitive to install a second meter, and the payback was several years; however, with these extremely large bills, the payback period may be quicker. He stated he would like to explore that option. He suggested the possibility of having a dedicated link on their website to answer questions about the water bills and provide as much information as possible to the residents. Mayor Taylor addressed comments about the Parks and Recreation initiative and why language is not included to limit the use to residents only, and he explained that is not the way they currently operate. Non-residents are permitted to use their Parks and Recreation services, although they have a higher fee. He imagined that will be the same program in the new building. He clarified it will be a dedicated millage and \$45 million is the infrastructure investment. There is also a dedicated amount to operational cost. He advised there will be four forums for the Parks and Recreation Initiative. The first one is tomorrow at 11 a.m. at the Senior Center, with another on September 19th at 6:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Mayor Taylor stated that, with regard to the “Communications

from Citizens” portion of the meeting, he does not know that anything can change. He stated he does not let these comments bother him personally, but he urged people to be respectful to each other and avoid the name-calling so they can be productive.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no Unfinished Business discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

ADJOURN

Moved by Ziarko, seconded by Romano, to adjourn the meeting.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

MARK CARUFEL, City Clerk