

City of South Lyon
Regular City Council Meeting
January 11, 2021

Mayor Pelchat called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
Mayor Pelchat led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Mayor Pelchat joined the meeting from South Lyon MI, Councilmembers: Dilg joined the meeting from South Lyon MI, Kennedy joined the meeting from South Lyon MI, Kivell joined the meeting from South Lyon MI, Kurtzweil joined the meeting from South Lyon MI, Richards joined the meeting from South Lyon MI and Walton joined the meeting from South Lyon MI
Also, present: City Manager Zelenak, Attorney Hamameh, Chief Sovik, Chief Vogel, Finance and Benefit Administrator Tiernan, DDA Director Nate Mack, Superintendent Varney and Clerk/Treasurer Deaton

MINUTES

CM 1-1-21 MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES DECEMBER 14, 2021

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Dilg

Motion to approve minutes as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BILLS

CM 1-2-21 MOTION TO APPROVE BILLS

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Kivell

Motion to approve the bills as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGENDA

CM 1-3-21 MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Dilg, supported by Kennedy

Motion to approve the agenda as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

1. 2021 Council meeting schedule

2. Board of Review re appointment

CM 1-4-21 MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Dilg

Motion to approve the consent agenda

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENT

State Representative Kelly Breen stated she wanted to thank the City's public safety departments. It has been a difficult time for our nation, our country and our state and for a small town like South Lyon to have to deal with such tragedy in recent history and she commended the South Lyon Police Department as well as the Fire Department for handling the tragic killing of a young person in the community. So

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many lives have been ruined and she knows the Police Department worked swiftly and quickly to bring ... some type of resolution. She stated she comes from local government and she knows we have mutual aid agreements and we are always there for each other's communities. She further stated Novi lost a family in the tragic plane crash that took place in Lyon Township. She then thanked the first responders. Ms. Breen stated her office is up and running and she is excited to get to work for her district. She further stated one of her top priorities is to ensure the community has the money that is needed and the resources that is needed to keep moving forward. She is a resource and she is accessible.

Ryan Lare of 716 Grand Court and the Cultural Arts Commission stated on behalf of the commission, he is very sorry for the attacks on our Capital, many police officers lost their lives. He then thanked the people that protected our constitution and defended the Capital from attack and reduced the violence. He then thanked everyone for bringing a peaceful resolution to a tragic situation.

DISCUSSION- Downtown

Nate Mack, DDA Director stated through the Oakland County Restaurant Relief Program, the City was awarded a few weatherization items from the County and he has been in contact with all the restaurants. We were awarded everything that we requested other than one greenhouse. We have received 3 greenhouses and an igloo. We will be distributing those items as fairly as possible. He stated he has put together a spreadsheet that reflects what the restaurants have requested and what they have received as far as stabilization funds go. He is hoping to distribute them later this week or next week. He further stated there is a phase 2 of this program and we have a total of \$24,089 that we have available that will go to businesses that have already spent money trying to weatherize their establishment and it can be used for additional items for weatherization of their businesses. He then stated there will be an interlocal agreement that will come before Council at the next meeting. The City can decide how to distribute these items, as well as the City can keep ownership of them. He stated we will have a lease agreement for them to use. He further stated he is working on the DDA budget and he has submitted our annual report. Discussions are still happening regarding the dangerous building at 110 Detroit Street. Mr. Mack stated the task force has developed a bingo card promotion to encourage citizens to patronize the local shops in town and in Lyon Township. He stated it will begin on the 15th of January and go through February 15th. He then stated the property owner at 135 E Lake submitted a liquor license application. That will come before Council at the next meeting. He stated he is looking into coming up with a welcome package for new residents. Councilmember Dilg asked if the same businesses will be able to use the tents or equipment next year or will they have to apply again. Mr. Mack stated they will be able to use them again. Councilmember Kennedy asked if there is anything in the agreement reflecting that they are responsible for any damages. Mr. Mack stated any damage is the responsibility of the business. Councilmember Kurtzweil asked about the rebate program, is that similar to the program in Royal Oak. She then explained Royal Oak's DDA purchased cards with \$10.00 or \$15.00 on it and when someone shopped at one of the downtown businesses, they were given one of the cards that they could use in the downtown area, and it was extremely successful. Mr. Mack stated his vision is we will have the gift cards printed and they will be purchased at City Hall, then they spend it at a downtown business, then the business returns it to the City and then we write them a check for what was spent. Councilmember Kurtzweil asked about the downtown building that is abandoned. Mr. Mack stated he has not been told anything new. Councilmember Kivell stated he is hoping we recognize the fact there may be some changes in the downtown and some new businesses will likely be going in and he wants to make sure we keep them in mind when the time comes because they may need to use the green houses or igloos as well. Councilmember Richards stated a demo permit has been issued inside the Draft Street building. He then asked what kind of medical facility will be going in there. Mr. Mack stated the Doctor is a general

practitioner. Councilmember Walton then asked about keeping the downtown light on and maybe we can change the lights in Paul Baker park. Mr. Mack stated the lights will be on through Valentines Day and he will check with City staff about the lights at Paul Baker Park.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Vogel thanked Kelly Breen for her kind words. He then stated we brought in some critical incident teams after the shooting and the plane crash. We had staff at both. He and Chief Sovik are making sure their employees have what they need for their mental health after both incidents. We didn't realize there was a glitch with our employee assistance program, but he and Patricia have been able to solve it, so his staff will have access to the program. He then stated if anyone is interested in getting the vaccine, you can text oak gov to 28748 and you will receive updates on your phone. He stated they have been bombarded with calls about the vaccine. He wants everyone to know the City of South Lyon and Lyon Township will not be a vaccine site. It will be Novi, station 4 near Wixom Road. He then stated Inspector Mathews was hospitalized from complications of COVID, but he is now home resting. Councilmember Kurtzweil asked if when you get the first shot of the vaccine, does it take 8-10 days for the body to build some immunity? She doesn't think it is immediate. Chief Vogel stated it is about 50% effectiveness until you get the second shot.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Sovik stated there was a 17-year-old that was tragically killed, and his 43-year-old father was also shot. We have one individual that is in custody and charged with that murder, as well as 3 others that are housed in the Oakland County jail in connection with the incident. They should be arraigned this week. Unfortunately, these things do happen. He stated we were very fortunate to have the resources of the Oakland County Sheriff's office. We had detectives from the Special Investigation Unit that were not dealing with any other incident in the County and they were able to assist with locating some of the individuals. Chief Sovik thanked them for all their assistance. Chief Sovik then stated the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Program represents a significant professional achievement. Accreditation acknowledges the implementation of written directives, policies, and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective. He further stated it can be a daunting task and right now there are only 26 agencies that are accredited and there will be 5 more in February and 70-80 more is in the process. We hope to be on the edge of the technology that we need in the compliance standards and as far as receiving federal funds, this will help. We will begin the process as soon as the new hire is on his own, hopefully in February. Chief Sovik stated he will be coming to Council with information from CLEMIS for equipment that we need to update within the next 18 months, the fingerprinting and mug shot hardware will need to be updated. He further stated we have funds from the DEA asset forfeiture seizure that we would like to use to purchase these items. He stated it is all part of the criminal case building system and it is very important. He then stated we now have the contracts signed and they should be dropping the lines this week. In the meantime, we have all the phones ordered and hopefully will be installed in the next couple weeks. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated his handling of all the situations in the City reflects the true leader that you are. For you to be working with McCabe and the Oakland County Sheriff's office demonstrates that you are developing the professional network and the professional connections to lead the city in any issues that involve law enforcement issues.

PRESENTATION- MMRMA check presentation

Tim McClorey stated the MMRMA is not an insurance company, we are a group of self-insured governmental entities that pull together for insurance purposes. You have voting rights and we are

nonprofit, when there is money to be had, we give money back to the members. One way is through grant programs and another way is the asset distribution program and last year we gave back 33.5 million dollars to the membership, bringing that total since 2006 to over 340 million distributed. He further stated he is presenting two checks for net asset distribution for \$59,615 and the next check is for \$10,397. He stated that represents approximately half of what the City pays yearly.

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS- None

BUDGET- No discussion was held

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Zelenak stated the proposed Holly Hills Development will be discussed at the next Planning Commission meeting. He then asked Council to remember to give him their list of goals for the upcoming budget year. He stated he received the CDBG application last week and the deadlines have been delayed and are now due in early February and he will be bringing information to Council after he attends the workshop later this month. He further stated we have discussed the zoning ordinance rewrite and we will be having a joint meeting with Council and the Planning Commission. City Manager Zelenak stated the MML is having a virtual conference on March 16th and 17th and if anyone is interested, we will register you. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she spoke with the City Manager earlier, and during the holidays she received some great Christmas cards for her time spent with improving Paul Baker Park. She stated she would like to get back with the individuals, but she wanted to ensure no one had an issue if she continues her gardening projects at Paul Baker Park, and the only money coming from the City would be for the flowers and some time by the DPW. Councilmember Walton asked if he had a chance to look into the water bill for her condo complex. City Manager Zelenak stated the bill will be corrected by the billing clerk. Councilmember Richards stated he made a comment about 825 W Lake Street regarding the missing sidewalks. City Manager Zelenak stated he will speak with the planner and let Council know. Councilmember Kivell stated he is also interested in finding out why the sidewalk slipped by.

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she had a great Christmas and many people had their fire pots in her neighborhood and the lights looked wonderful and it was a wonderful time to be living in South Lyon. She further stated it will be spring soon and the City has some great things coming, it will be a great year for South Lyon.

Councilmember Richards stated the Historical Commission will be discussing Depot Day next week and we don't know if we can have it this year, but if we do, we hope it will be the best ever. He then stated the DPW will help dismantle the lights off the gazebo and the tree will be stored in the shed behind 501 McMunn. He then stated the tube mill has received some good news, and they have recalled 14-18 employees that were laid off 8 months ago. They also got a safety award and after the tragic accident a few years ago, they have put a lot of money into safety. He then stated the water plant is coming along and he is very pleased with the finish that was put on the outside of the tank. He further stated the larger tank will be drained and then they will work on that later this year.

Councilmember Walton stated she hopes everyone stays safe.

Councilmember Dilg thanked the Fire Chief and the Police Chief for their work, and many people in the community are very happy with the way things were handled, and we all feel very grateful to them. She then stated it has been a tough time, and she appreciates the support the public is giving to our public safety departments. She then stated our City Attorney is on the top 20 list of municipal lawyers and she congratulated her. She then stated she hopes everyone participates with the bingo they are working on and everyone shops local and dines local.

Councilmember Kivell stated it is hard to accept that South Lyon is sometimes exposed to the dark things that happen in the world. We are very fortunate that it doesn't happen very often, but when it did, it was handled in a very professional and swift manner. Everyone can be comforted that we have a very strong and capable Fire and Police Department and they always step up for the cause. He then stated the national scene has been bizarre, but he hopes there will be some stability around the corner.

Councilmember Kennedy stated the Salem-South Lyon District Library was one of fifty organizations across the country selected for a \$1,200 Lift Every Voice programming grant. The Library is using the grant to host a traveling exhibit from the Michigan State University Museum titled "Welcome to Idlewild: The Black Eden of Michigan". The exhibit provides a glimpse beyond the often told stories of Idlewild's entertainment scene during its resort heyday period to learn the full story of a community that has survived the challenges of historical change. The exhibit has been created in collaboration with current residents and scholars of Idlewild. The exhibit consists of photographic banners and a reproduction of an Idlewild history quilt by Michigan quilter Deonna Todd Green. The exhibit is currently on display at the Salem-South Lyon District Library through February.

Mayor Pelchat stated after the holiday break, he received a letter from a long-time co-worker thanking our first responders in assisting their mother in a slip and fall accident. He stated when you get a letter like that, it makes you reflect on the highest level we have in our first responders. He stated it is always tough with the situations that occurred this year, but it makes it easier knowing the best of the best responding to our community. He then thanked our Police and Fire Department. Mayor Pelchat thanked Kelly Breen for joining the meeting tonight. The community had a good relationship with Cathy Crawford and he looks forward to building our relationship with Ms. Breen.

CLOSED SESSION- Closed session pursuant to Sections 8 (e) and (h) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss pending litigation in Lockwood vs City of South Lyon

CM 1-5-21 MOTIOIN TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Walton

Motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Sections 8 (e) and (h) of the Open Meetings Act to discuss pending litigation in Lockwood vs City of South Lyon at 8:28 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Dilg- Yes
 Kennedy- Yes
 Kivell- Yes
 Kurtzweil- Yes
 Richards- Yes
 Walton- Yes
 Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council reconvened the regular Council Meeting at 8:58 p.m.

CM 1-6-21 MOTION TO DIRECT ATTORNEY TO ACCEPT THE EVALUATION

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Kivell

Motion to direct Attorney to accept the case evaluation of \$107,500 in the matter of Lockwood vs the City of South Lyon

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Kennedy- Yes

Kurtzweil- No

Walton- No

Dilg- Yes

Richards- No

Kivell- Yes

Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

CM 1-7-21 MOTION TO ADJOURN

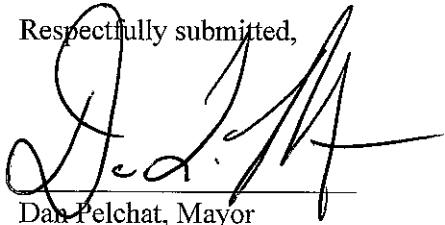
Motion by Kurtzweil, supported by Walton

Motion to adjourn meeting at 9:00 p.m.

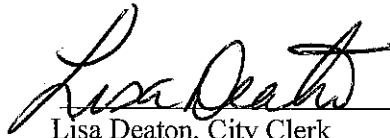
VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,



Dan Pelchat, Mayor



Lisa Deaton, City Clerk