

City of South Lyon  
City Council Meeting  
October 28, 2019

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

Present: Mayor Pelchat, Councilmembers Kennedy, Kivell, Kurtzweil, Parisien, Richards and Walton  
Also, present: City Manager Zelenak, Chief Sovik, Superintendent Varney, Fire Chief Vogel, Attorney Hamameh and City Clerk/Treasurer Deaton

MINUTES- October 14, 2019

CM 10-1-19 MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

Motion by Kivell, supported by Parisien  
Motion to approve the minutes as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BILLS- None

AGENDA

CM 10-2-19 MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Walton  
Motion to approve the agenda as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Kiwanis Christmas Tree Sale
2. Resignation of Amber King from Cable Commission
3. ZBA Board Appointment
4. Historic District Commission appointment
5. Cultural Arts Appointment

CM 10-3-19 MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Parisien  
Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Dilg of 634 Covington stated she was here in August asking for civility during the Election campaigning and she wanted to say this has been a wonderful campaign season and she considers some of the candidates her friends and the residents have a tough choice to make on Election Day there are some great candidates. Ms. Dilg then thanked Councilmember Parisien for her service on Council and her poise and positivity and strength during some tough times has been wonderful.

DISCUSSION- Downtown

Bob Donohue stated they will have a full schedule and it will be on the City website later this week. Mr. Donohue then stated the landscaping company is scheduled for next week at the Veterans Memorial and the DPW has been helping as well, they have been great. He stated the dedication is on November 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30. Mr. Donohue stated the downtown trick or treating event was a success. He thanked everyone that was involved. He further stated the Pup Parade was very cool. Mr. Donohue reminded everyone that November 15<sup>th</sup> is the Ladies Night Out and Small Business Saturday is November 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Donohue stated there are 2-4 building rehabs that may take place in 2020. Mr. Donohue thanked Councilmember Parisien for her support for downtown and congratulated her on her baby. Mr. Donohue thanked all of the 252 businesses that had the opportunity to participate with the business survey. He further thanked the 22 businesses that participated. He stated he agrees with one of the concerns on the survey of the business owners. He stated the City Manager is considering a Facebook page for the City and the DDA now will be using the Event section of their Facebook page. Mr. Donohue further stated we are adopting the National Main Street Program. He stated we want to make improvements and constructive criticism is great and he would like to see the survey done annually. Councilmember Kennedy stated the Hometowne Life newspaper would like to do an article on the Veterans Memorial. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she has contacted other Veterans group about the Veterans Memorial so they may attend. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated the pet parade was very popular and she had a great time at the Down Town Trick or Treating and it gets bigger each year. Councilmember Kivell stated the pet parade is a great opportunity to grow that event in the future. Discussion was held regarding the poles at the Veterans Memorial. Gene Carroll a past DDA Chair paid for the poles and Andrea Phillips is donating the flags. Mr. Donohue stated the VFW may combine the Memorial dedication and not do their normal Veterans Day service on that Monday. Councilmember Walton stated she would like the electronic sign updated as well as the city website. Mr. Donohue stated there will be a 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the event guide. Amber King stated there were 22 responses from the 252 businesses that were mailed the survey letter. There was a range of businesses and ages that responded. She stated overall over 3/4ths stated they would suggest someone to open a business in the City. She stated supportive businesses and the community and the small-town feel was a popular comment for the 3 great business advantages. She stated traffic was the biggest disadvantages which wasn't a surprise. High taxes and regulations were also mentioned. The most effective that people stated they use for marketing was social media and event fliers. Ms. King stated there was a question asked about group marketing and 2/3<sup>rd</sup> expressed interest. The follow up question was what events are beneficial to their business and Pumpkinfest got the highest ranking and Cool Yule was the second. Another question that was asked was when was the last interaction between their business and the City and 59% stated within the last 6 months. Ms. King stated another question was what department had the business owner interacted with recently and what would you rate that experience. She stated the highest rating was for the Police and Fire Department. DPW and Water and Sewer followed. We had space for suggestions and communication was the most mentioned, lowering taxes, widening Pontiac Trail. She stated there was a question regarding the website and most people don't use the website at all, but a few found it very effective. Ms. King stated they recommended updated website, Facebook and sending emails to businesses. She then stated the last question was left open for comments. Communication was the most mentioned as well as a request for more city sponsored events. Ms. King stated the majority that responded were service businesses. Councilmember Kivell stated there were many positive responses and he sees this as a starting platform and he expects a better result next time. Councilmember Parisien thanked everyone involved with this survey. She stated we were trying to find out what we can do to better assist our local businesses. She thinks we achieved that. This is the first year and she thinks it will grow each year we do this. She further stated and in turn

the City itself will be able to better facilitate communication. She stated we need to use the information we did receive such as an email push. City Manger Zelenak stated this is a good start for what we are looking at doing in the future. In other communities they have been involved with email pushes for such as safety issues, events, power outages and other things. He stated some may not be interested in filling out a survey when we are asking for their email because it should remain anonymous. He further stated this is just one of the tools we plan on using to get feedback and move forward in the future.

Councilmember Kurtzweil stated everyone did a good job on this, but we have to be careful on speculating because the response was very small. When you look at the number of questions that were skipped is pretty high. She further stated with that said, she is out in town a lot and she speaks with many business owners and she has heard that the City needs to communicate more and ordinances so she didn't gain too much from this. Although she looks at this as more of a validation to what they businesses are saying and there hasn't much been done about the concerns. Mr. Donohue stated he has always responded to businesses professionally. All criticism is good, but he is a change agent so his responses are not always what people want to hear. He finds one of the humorous things is he was asked if we cut all the trees downtown and if not, he wouldn't be supported. City Manager Zelenak stated this is a good tool that may assist with the possible new members of Council next month. He stated the survey will be available in color on our website as well as the front counter at City Hall and the library.

#### FIRE CHIEF REPORT-

Chief Vogel stated he reviewed the survey and he is proud of the 4.5 and he hopes to make some improvements. He stated he thinks one of the issues is the Inspector Mathews is part time. He is flexible and he tries to work with the business owners, but the problem is he is bombarded with phone calls and emails. He stated he made the change that he now receives his emails as well so if the Inspector isn't available, he can respond to it. He further stated another issue is the growth and public safety. He is going to make the website more user friendly by adding the tent code as well as the fire code. Chief Vogel stated the overhead door at the Fire Department is still broken, so the fire truck is still at the Water Department. He stated he had a conversation with Councilmember Kurtzweil who gave him contact information for Jim Runestad. He stated he tried contacting him by phone, but he emailed him regarding the PA291 and the requirements for training in the future and he is happy to be heard. Councilmember Kivell stated we are in the process of updating the websites. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she always gets questions on the firework policy. Chief Vogel stated it is much more restrictive and it has always been on their website. Councilmember Parisien asked if the change with the email will go into effect. Chief Vogel stated it is in the process of being changed. Councilmember Parisien suggested possibly amend the budget for a full-time position or maybe hiring an assistant for him. Chief Vogel stated the Inspector does a great job and he is seen in 100% of the businesses throughout the year. He stated the problem is when someone calls when he isn't available and we are bombarded with plan reviews and things like that. He further stated one problem is Safebuilt will get plans, and not pass the information along in a timely matter to the Fire Department for review. He further stated he would rather not hire that position full time and save the money for staff. Councilmember Walton questioned the problem with the fire truck. Chief Vogel stated there are two ways the bucket can move up and down. We can raise it from the turntable but it is safer for the people in the bucket to control it and the communication wires are broken, they are worn out. He has contacted the manufacturer twice to figure out what wires need to be replaced and they are now ordered and he is hoping they will be here this week.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT-

Chief Sovik stated the downtown trick or treat event seems to have grown again and it was very successful. He met with Lieutenant Baaki, City Manager Zelenak and Bob Donohue met to discuss how to make it even safer for the years to come. Chief Sovik stated he had a farewell lunch with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department sub-station Lieutenant Venus. He further stated he retired after 32 years of service. He stated the former Sargent Whitfield will be stepping in and he will be stopping in to get reacquainted and he is looking forward to a seamless transition. Chief Sovik stated our new IT company I.T. Right will be coming in to perform an analysis for our current and future needs will be and they will be assisting with the WatchGuard In Car cameras. Chief Sovik stated we have 12 interviews to replace Officer Wittrock and he is hoping to find someone to do the job and fit in with the department. Chief Sovik stated the Police Department will be out during the polls on Election Day as well as trick or treating. Chief Sovik stated our administrative assistant Brianne Salyers had her baby and we are looking forward to having her back after the first of the year.

MMRMA- Check presentation

Tim McClorey of the MMRMA stated he is here to congratulate the City on their risk management. Mr. McClorey then stated there are some updated rap grants on their website if anyone is interested. Mr. McClorey then presented the City Manager with a check for \$13,441.00 and a check for \$55,756.00. He explained that the MMRMA is not a commercial insurance carrier, we are group of self-insured governmental entities that come together for insurance purposes. He then explained that the money goes back to the members. Last year they gave back 23 million dollars.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Purchase of well house structure pump for Well site #4

City Manager Zelenak stated this is not included in the original budget, we will be asking for a budget amendment when we have the final totals. We will be matching the 2 well houses that are already in that area. Councilmember Kivell asked if the 3 hours for the crane cost included the drive time. Superintendent Varney stated it does include drive time. Councilmember Kivell asked about the roof. Superintendent Varney stated it will be a steel roof. Councilmember Richards stated he has some thoughts on the durability of the building. He stated with the trees that are in that area we will get stains on the building, and kids will be throwing stones on it. He then stated people like to draw graffiti on a steel building as opposed to a brick building. He would like to spend a little more money and get a brick building. He then stated it will not look right with the rest of the park and he will be voting no on this. Superintendent Varney stated a brick building would be significantly more in cost.

CM 10-4-19 MOTION TO PURCHASE STRUCTURE FOR WELL #4

Motion by Kivell, supported by Kennedy

Motion to approve the purchase of a new structure for the new pump at well #4 for the amount of \$5,998.60 plus applicable crane rental fees under line item 592-556-931.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED – 1 OPPOSED

BUDGET

Councilmember Kivell asked when the amendment will come before Council. City Manager Zelenak stated after the we get the totals for the well.

#### MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Zelenak stated between the grants and the checks we just received from MMRMA; we have received over \$100,000 to the City. We will now ensure we will have a line item for grants for each department in the budget.

City Manager Zelenak stated the downtown trick or treating was very successful and it was a great partnership between everyone. He stated we had good conversations about how we can make the event safer, better and with more participation in the future. He stated we will be implementing some of those things during the Cool Yule and the New Years Eve event.

City Manager Zelenak stated everyone is really excited about the Veterans Memorial. There are changes every day at the site. We have received many positive comments. The work by the DPW and volunteers has been outstanding.

City Manger Zelenak stated there will be a change in the closure on Dixboro, it will be at the intersection of 9 Mile Road as they start to install the culvert. That begins on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

City Manager Zelenak thanked Councilmember Parisien for her guidance and assistance and he looks forward to seeing her little one grow in the community.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Lare of 716 Grand Court stated he wanted to congratulate Mary on her baby and thank her for her time on Council. Mr. Lare stated the Veterans Memorial looks phenomenal and thanked Bob Donohue for his work. Mr. Lare stated the new fencing at the water tower looks amazing, it was long overdue. Security on the infrastructure is extremely important. Mr. Lare thanked all the candidates for running for office.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Richards stated he just found out that we have all suffered a loss, we have lost our newspaper from Whitmore Lake. That is a real blow to our area.

Councilmember Richards stated there were a few people that passed away in the last week or two and he sends condolences to the families.

Councilmember Richards stated the Veterans Memorial is a big deal and he thanked our DPW that made it all happen. He stated this is a big victory for our City.

Councilmember Richards stated the tenant moved out of 464 S Lafayette and we should discuss what we want to do with that house. He stated people ask him if they could rent it. It is a 4-star asset to our community. If we leave it vacant, we could end up with vandalism and it is beautiful inside.

Councilmember Richards stated he still thinks we should get an outside attorney and it could be later, but not too much later. Our neighbor in Green Oak township has already sought out an attorney to represent them in a future occurrence with the problem with the underground pollution by the tube mill. He further stated the people that live in Centennial Farms have their own wells and they can use the water, but they can't drink it. He stated he is willing to help our attorney.

Councilmember Richards stated he wants people to write a letter to him. He wants to know how people feel on this sensitive matter.

Councilmember Richards stated our Cemetery is a jewel and if people are interested maybe we can have a Cemetery Commission.

Councilmember Walton stated she enjoyed the downtown trick or treating event.

Councilmember Walton stated the Veterans Memorial looks great and she thanked everyone involved.

Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she has made contact with our legislatures and she has asked if they have thought about reversing the taxing of pensions. That would be a real benefit for the seniors in our community. She stated we need to keep our seniors in our community, they are an incredible element in our community. She stated they are a tremendous benefit to us; they are critical when it comes to volunteering. She further stated we need to keep our seniors in our community.

She stated there is a bill that will be discussed in January and it is regarding the relaxing of the taxing of retirement benefits including pensions. She further stated the hearings will be in January and she hopes some of our seniors can attend and testify at the hearings.

Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she attended the downtown trick or treat and she had an opportunity to meet the owner of Salon 104. It is so classy and beautiful inside and there is a fireplace in the middle of the salon and it is very charming and beautiful. She then thanked the owner Kelly Enfroy for taking the time to meet with her and for making South Lyon look so good.

Councilmember Kurtzweil stated there will be an art walk on November 15<sup>th</sup> and she plans on attending. The Cultural Arts Commission work so hard and they are a phenomenal group of volunteers that do all they can to improve the City. The walk will end at 3<sup>rd</sup> Monk Brewery who is a great proprietor in our town.

Councilmember Kennedy stated about a week ago the Salem-South Lyon District Library held its volunteer award and appreciation gathering. Donna Olson, the Director of the Salem-South Lyon District Library, mentioned they had over 80 volunteers who help with the gardens surrounding the library; help shelve books; help pull items for transfer to other locations; and who help with and manage the book sales and the bookroom. All together those 80+ volunteers logged almost 3,700 hours assisting the library. He then stated during the past year the library added 11,925 new items to its inventory and offered 640 programs and events throughout the year. These types of efforts make the library the jewel that it truly is in our community. Councilmember Kennedy stated there is an event that's coming up on November 3 from 2:00-3:00pm which is a "Beatles Forever" event. It is a fun, sing-a-long, show featuring 28 songs by The Beatles performed by a live band and a funny short story by M.L. Liebler of growing up with the Beatles from the early 60's until they first appeared on The Ed Sullivan Show. He then invited everyone to come out and enjoy the event and it's a drop-in event, no registration is required. Councilmember Kennedy reminded everyone to vote on Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> when you will be asked to vote for Mayor and 3 City Council Members.

Councilmember Kivell stated he hopes that we will have perfect weather on November 10<sup>th</sup> for the event for the Veterans Memorial.

Councilmember Kivell asked everyone to pay attention and take note of past performance and to what everyone has been speaking to and touting themselves to what you want to see in a candidate. He stated the City is moving in a strong positive position and we have a lot of things going in the right direction and we need to make sure the electors select people that have the best intentions for the community at heart, personal stuff isn't what you should worry about. We need people that will move the community forward and he asked everyone to get out and vote.

Councilmember Parisien stated she normally makes her comments short but they won't be tonight. She then thanked the volunteers that listened to her mantra and coming out and volunteering. She stated we have a lot of great things happening in South Lyon. She thanked the individuals that volunteered tonight to the ZBA as well as the Historical and Cultural Arts Commission.

Councilmember Parisien stated she hopes everyone will do their research. Make sure you are paying attention to Facebook pages, the newspaper articles. There is still a lot of information out there. You want to go to the polls educated. If you have extra time, have the council meetings playing in the background while making dinner, do something so you can understand what we need in our community and who the key players are and to what which candidates' values aligns with yours.

Councilmember Parisien then read the following statement:

I wanted to take a few moments and say thank you to the City of South Lyon, serving as a council member for the last four years has been a truly rewarding experience and I could not be more honored to have held the position.

In the last four years I have had the opportunity to expand my knowledge of the City, cultivate some wonderful relationships and watch the City progress forward. Council has not always operated smoothly and in a professional fashion but those are learning experiences too. Now my term has come to an end and I wanted to wrap things up with a few words of gratitude.

First and foremost, Thank you to Glenn. Glenn you were my mentor on Council since day one. I have always greatly valued your opinion and the incredible insight you bring to the table. It's rare to have someone serve their community in your capacity for as long as you have, so the advice and expertise you bring to this position is truly an asset to the City of South Lyon. You have mastered the art of being able to call a situation or an issue as it is in an honest and respectful way. Thank you for all the excellent advice, insight and conversation throughout the last four years. It's been an absolute pleasure serving the City beside you.

Second, I'd like to say thank you to Steve. Steve I was impressed with your credentials when you interviewed for the vacant council position two years ago and during the course of the last two years you have continued to impress with your performance on Council, and I could not be happier with the Council's decision to bring you aboard. I can't imagine anyone else filling the seat as well as you have. You offer astute perspective to this position; you ask poignant questions and you bring civility and professionalism to this side of the table. Thank you and I wish you the best of luck in the election, I believe the residents of South Lyon can see all that you have accomplished in just the two short years you've been a councilman and I hope that reflects accordingly on election day.

Mayor Pelchat. I'd like to thank you for all of our frank conversations, I never leave a conversation with you without a smile on my face. You've done a phenomenal job as mayor especially given the situations you have had to handle with Council. The dynamic of Council can sometimes be difficult and contentious. However, you have exemplified what it means to be a leader and remain composed in the most trying of times. You've done a wonderful job keeping Council focused, seeing the issues, respecting all parties and moving forward with a positive attitude. You can see your passion for this community and I am proud to have served beside you. I also wish you all the best in the upcoming election, South Lyon should be so lucky to have you as Mayor for another two years!

Lastly, I wanted to thank Margaret. Believe it not, it is Margaret that has taught me the most in the last four years on Council. When I took this position four years ago, I was fresh out of law school and new to this side of the table. It is because of Margaret's behavior on this council I have learned to take a different avenue, and I call it the high road. I have learned what composure and patience means, I have learned to

pick my battles and I have learned the importance of being civil and professional in the face of bullying and relentless attacks. Most importantly, I have to thank Margaret for providing me the fuel I needed to pass the bar and accomplish my goal of becoming an attorney. It was Margaret’s constant ridicule and bullying remarks about being a bar exam flunky that gave me the determination I needed to be the attorney that I am today. By watching and enduring Margaret’s conduct on this council I have learned so much and my eyes are open, my skin is thicker and I find that to be the most valuable lesson of all. I too wish you luck in the upcoming election. Although I do believe the residents of this City have seen your true colors over the past four years and I have confidence that the voters will remember that the common denominator to many of the issues that plagued this council and this community the last four years is Margaret Kurtzweil. Thank you, Margaret and Godspeed.

I again want to thank the residents, businesses, Department heads, employees and everyone else. The last four years have been very rewarding and I truly enjoyed my time on Council. I am proud of the accomplishments of this Council has achieve in the last four years. This community is one of a kind and remarkably special. As much as I enjoy politics and the holding this seat, I am embarking on a new adventure as a mother and look forward to seeing the City progress and flourish under the new Council. best of luck to the candidates and again I can’t thank the community enough for this wonderful experience and opportunity. Thank you.

Mayor Pelchat stated he wanted to remind everyone to get out and vote. Mayor Pelchat stated Friday night they had a great turnout for the South Lyon vs South Lyon East and the Lions won that game. The playoff brackets came out yesterday and the Lions will be headed to Fenton High School to take on the Tigers Friday night. He then congratulated both of our South Lyon Football Teams.

ADJOURNMENT

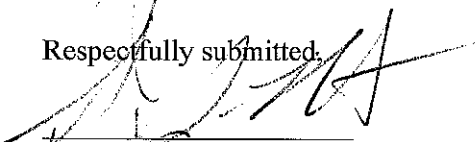
CM 10-5-19 MOTION TO ADJOURN


Motion by Walton, supported by Kivell

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mayor Dan Pelchat

  
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Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Deaton