

City of South Lyon
Regular City Council Meeting
October 9, 2023

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, Councilmembers: Dilg, Kivell, Kurtzweil, Hansen, Mosier and Kennedy

Also present: City Manager Zelenak, Fire Chief Thorington, Police Chief Baaki, Finance and Benefit Administrator Tiernan, DDA Director Mack, and Clerk Deaton

MINUTES- 9/25/23

CM 10-1-23 MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Mosier, supported by Kivell

Motion to approve the minutes as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BILLS

CM 10-2-23 MOTION TO APPROVE BILLS

Motion by Mosier, supported by Dilg

Motion to approve bills as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGENDA

CM 10-3-23 MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Dilg, supported by Hansen

Motion to approve agenda as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Resignation of Judy Keeling from Housing Commission

CM 10-4-23 MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kurtzweil, supported by Mosier

Motion to approve consent agenda

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PRESENTATION- Capital Flag presentation for 150th anniversary of South Lyon.

Katy Michalski who is the field representative for Elissa Slotkin stated celebrating moments like this are great. She then stated Congresswoman Slotkin requested this flag to fly over the Capital in honor the city's 150th Anniversary and she is here to present the flag along with the certificate showing it flew over the Capital.

PUBLIC COMMENT- No public comment was held

DISCUSSION- Downtown

DDA Director Mack stated the Farmers Market over Pumpkinfest was extremely successful, and a number of vendors sold out. He stated he has also spoken with some other business owners in the Social District and they said it went very well and he spoke with the Police Chief and no one was breaking the

10-9-2023

rules. He then stated we were notified last week we didn't get the revitalization grant. He then stated he has completed the Michigan Professional Downtown manager program through the Michigan Downtown Association. The program took about 2 ½ years to complete the 15 different courses and a capstone project. Councilmember Dilg asked if we get a scoring or notice of how we did when we don't receive grants. Mr. Mack stated Mainstreet Oakland County will meet with them to find out where our application was lacking. She then congratulated him on completing the program. She then stated there was a lot of discussion on social media about who is paying for the EV Chargers. Director Mack stated everything is being paid for by the company installing them, no tax dollars are being used, the only thing the city is supplying is the space. Councilmember Kivell stated the success of the Farmers Market during Pumpkinfest shows we should have more festivals in the summer so the vendors can always sell out. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she spoke with two of the businesses from the Social District and they said their sales almost doubled over the weekend, so it shows the Social District is a success and we are on the right track. Councilmember Hansen congratulated him on completing the program and he is sure it will benefit the city and the downtown. He then asked if they have had any discussions on expanding the Farmers Market because it is so successful. Downtown Director Mack stated they have had multiple conversations on how to expand the market and make it better with policy changes as well as improving marketing.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Fire Chief Thorington stated they are currently at 1,004 instances as of today. We have a lot of Firefighters putting in hours at the burn containers with welding, painting, cutting holes in floors and building stairs. He then stated Alta Equipment Company from New Hudson volunteered their equipment and time to put the two boxes on top to make a second floor. He then stated Hadley's Towing brought out two vehicles for extraction training. He then stated we hired Travis Eversale as our new Cadet from South Lyon East and he's currently in the Howell High School Fire Training program. He then stated two Firefighters were promoted to Sergeants, Bob Simmons and Eric Mancha. He further stated unfortunately we are losing a firefighter Eleanor Shipley who was Firefighter of the year last year and she will be missed. We submitted a grant to the state for first responders' jackets. Councilmember Dilg stated she saw some of the firefighters at Pumpkinfest and it was so hot and all the equipment they had to wear and carry around to help the people that needed help. She then thanked them. Councilmember Kivell stated there were a couple people that fell in the driveway and he marked them with red paint, but he was grateful they were so close to help, now we have to get the hole fixed.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Baaki stated there were rumors circulating about someone that drove through the barricades during the parade. He stated, there were no injuries or damage and they were able to get the vehicle to stop and that person is facing failing to obey a police officer's signal charges, with more possible. There was a slight delay. He then stated the events with the South Lyon Live Event and the Social District were doing really well and no issues were had. We received a new Dodge Durango and it will be going to the Patrol Division to replace one that was flooded during the rainstorms. He then stated he spoke with Patricia, and MMRMA and we will be receiving some funds for that vehicle. He further stated we are still waiting on the grants for the leadership training. Mayor Pelchat stated he took his family to the parade, and he met up with Chief Baaki and he got to ride in the parade in the new F150 truck. It was very memorable.

AUDIT PRESENTATION- Plante Moran *Audit can be found on the city's website; video is available online as well*

Timothy St. Andrew and Philip Femminineo of Plante Moran gave a presentation of the city's audit. Mr. St. Andrew stated this was a 6-8-week process and he appreciates everyone's assistance. It was stated the statement of the audit is an unmodified opinion which is the highest form of assurance. General Fund is financially sound and increased to 6.1 million dollars from 5.7 million. They then discussed the capital additions during the year of \$5.1 million due to placing the new firetruck into service as well as city hall building renovation, DPW complex improvements, and utility system improvements. Further discussion was held regarding legacy funds, such as OPEB and Pension. OPEB is funded 42.1% and pension is funded 61.5%. As of 3 years ago OPEB was 0% funded. Further discussion was held regarding GASB and other items that are required to be included in an audit.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Purchase of John Deere Gator with plow

City Manager Zelenak stated the South Lyon Water/Wastewater Department is requesting to purchase a new John Deere Gator with snowplow. This will be replacing the current 2003 John Deere Gator. This UTV is essential to department operations, it is used daily for maintenance, samplings and grounds keeping. This is a budgeted item for the current fiscal year. This purchase will be made under the equipment replacement line item 642-979-910. This item is available through MIDEAL as an itemized quote. He then stated the cost is \$36,281.70. Councilmember Hansen asked if it would be purchased before winter. Superintendent Beason stated they are hoping to have it next week.

CM 10-5-23 MOTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Mosier

Motion to approve the purchase of a John Deere Gator (model XUV835M) with plow at the delivered cost of \$36,281.70 under account number 642-979.910.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Kivell- Yes
Mosier- Yes
Kennedy- Yes
Kurtzweil- Yes
Hansen- Yes
Dilg- Yes
Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Sanitary Sewer Evaluation

City Manager Zelenak stated this is a multi-year plan to inspect our infrastructure, in preparation for road improvements, the city has gone out for bid for sanitary sewer inspection. The areas to be inspected as part of this project are locations that are on our radar for upcoming road paving and potentially sewer improvements, and were not part of the previous evaluations. Councilmember Kivell asked if they were in the bid package last year, a \$10,000 break is helpful. Mr. Darga of HRC stated they both bid on the package several years ago. DVM is working on the railroad bore as well as all the work on Hagadorn.

CM 10-6-23 MOTION TO APPROVE AWARD

Motion by Kivell, supported by Kennedy

Motion to approve the award of sanitary sewer evaluation study to DVM Utilities in the amount of \$33,370.50 water/sewer professional services acct no. 592-557-801.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Dilg- Yes
Hansen- Yes

Kurtzweil- Yes

Kennedy- Yes

Mosier- Yes

Kivell- Yes

Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUDGET- No discussion was held

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Keeling of 62180 Arlington Circle apologized for resigning from the Housing Commission, she felt she isn't knowledgeable enough to do that and the part that there are no lawyers at the meetings, she doesn't want to make a mistake for the city. She then thanked Council. Councilmember Kivell stated you don't have to be an expert about something to be on a commission. Linda Benson of 438 Washington Manor stated she is also on the Housing Commission, she spoke with Judy and we do have someone that will apply, but on the other hand, Premiere Properties have said they have enough attorneys in case something comes up with the new project. She then stated she didn't know if they have to have city attorneys at all of their meetings. City Manager Zelenak stated we can have them when necessary but not at all meetings.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Zelenak stated at an upcoming meeting the Washington Manor PUD will be on the agenda. He stated we will also have information about the sound buffering materials at Columbia Park. He then stated the Hagadorn construction is ongoing and they are beginning to install curbs. We will begin removing pavement on Warren and at McHattie Park beginning October 23rd. He further stated that will be followed up with paving of Hagadorn. He then stated they are working on the boring at the railroad tracks and they will be working on some late night because it is a nonstop bore. He further stated the trail restoration project from Princeton to Volunteer Park has been completed. He then stated there is work that is going to be done near the High School on Pontiac Trail and it will begin on Friday the 13th. Everyone should be careful in that area because there will be some partial closings. He then stated it is a milestone because it is his 5-year anniversary with the city and the Lions are in first place. Councilmember Kennedy asked for an update on the columbarium. City Manager Zelenak stated they have looked at the borings by HRC and have located a better area for them. They will be more to the east of the south portion of the large open area. As you go further west the soil gets worse as the topography changes. He further stated we've had several different companies come in and look at the different kinds, sizes and costs. Councilmember Hansen asked if the removal is happening next month, when do they plan on getting the new bridge in. City Manager Zelenak stated it will be installed next year, it is in fabrication and there is concrete that will need to be installed, so it will be next year after the bridge is finished. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she is surprised the DDA doesn't have their own audit that we can see. City Manager Zelenak stated it is part of the city's audit, and there is a section there, but their particular financial statements are filed annually with the State of Michigan and their records are available. Councilmember Kurtzweil then thanked the City Manager for adding the sidewalk on 9 Mile that was never completed. She further stated when that crossing was added, everyone has noticed and mentioned it on both sides of 9 Mile. They are thankful so now the kids don't have to walk in the road when the grass is snowy.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Mosier thanked Police, Fire, Administration, Water and Sewer and DPW, we couldn't have Pumpkinfest without everyone, including the volunteers. It was a huge success and all the events and festivals depend on volunteers. She then thanked all the board members, especially Kathy Swan, she starts planning this in December and with the larger footprint this year, it turned out well with no bottlenecks. She then stated it was so great, we ran out of tickets. We had a lot of compliments about the kid friendly event it was. South Lyon Live needs to be thanked as well, the entertainment was great and all in all a great event. The Social District was well used. The non profits were paid out over \$22,000 and it includes, school groups, pet rescues, boy scouts and girl scouts.

Councilmember Kivell stated Pumpkinfest was great and thank you to the South Lyon Lacrosse Team for all their help moving all the heavy things and he liked the orchestration of the volunteers. People weren't running around and being burned out afterwards. It was well planned out and it was nice having other people help with things. He did hear that the proceeds from the beverages on Friday went to Active Faith. Councilmember Dilg said a lot of money will be going to Active Faith.

Councilmember Dilg thanked the DPW, Police and Fire for all their work for the Pumpkinfest. She stated we can't go without thanking Phil Weipert who is the hardest working man in South Lyon. He never stopped moving, even when the Lacrosse guys came, they worked like a machine, yet Phil was still working. She then thanked Dave Coulter and Jason Morgan for coming and doing some of the contest judging, it is nice to see our elective officials in downtown South Lyon. She then thanked South Lyon Live for taking over the music and beer tent and they did an amazing job. She thanked all the volunteers again. She then thanked Judy Keeling for her honesty and willingness to help, and she knows we will see here gain helping out around the city. She then thanked Linda Benson for her work with the Housing Commission as well. She then thanked Katy from Congresswoman's Slotkin's office.

Councilmember Hansen stated he wants everyone to think about what has been happening the last couple of days, and there has been about 1200 people that have passed in the middle east. Not to get into the political or religious he hopes everyone will stay aware of that. A lot of people are being impacted by that and there doesn't appear to be an end in sight. He then thanked the Pumpkinfest committee and all the volunteers, he and his daughter spent a lot of time downtown. He looks forward to many more.

Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she agrees with what everyone said about Pumpkinfest, and everyone did a great job and it is wonderful to be a part of our city. Thank you to Kathy Swan, she never stops, she does a lot of work in the city as does her daughters. She then thanked Judy for being on the Housing Commission, and over the years, she sat on different commissions, and you need the dedication that you brought. We would love to have you back on another commission. She then reminded everyone of the Downtown Trick or Treat, and she will be a judge in the paw parade. She then reminded everyone of the Ghost Story Dinner at the Hotel on Monday the 16th. God gives us a reason every day, and we should be thankful to be in this country and being Americans, and we don't have to worry about being dragged out of our beds tonight. We need to pray for peace.

Councilmember Kennedy reminded everyone that this Saturday and Sunday, Furry Friends Rescue will be collecting returnable bottles and cans in the Pet Supplies Plus parking lot from 11am until 3pm each day. So, clean out the basement and garage and drop them off this weekend and help this organization continue its worthwhile efforts. He then reminded everyone this Saturday, October 14th, will be the last Young Entrepreneur Event for the season. These young folks will have their tents set up on the grassy area by

the South Lyon Bigby Coffee so, stop by and see them from 10am until 3pm and help these young entrepreneurs get a start in business, they'll certainly appreciate your support.

Mayor Pelchat stated Pumpkinfest was a great weekend and great weather and it was everything you can always hope for. It was great seeing everyone down there. It also brings in the fall weather and if you haven't had a chance to see any fall sports, they have a few weeks left. This Friday is their Homecoming and next weekend is South Lyon versus South Lyon East at the jungle and keep an eye for everyone out this weekend for homecoming.

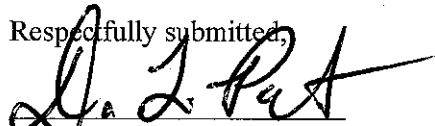
ADJOURNMENT

CM 10-7-23 MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Kurtzweil

Motion to adjourn at 8:42p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Dan Pelchat



Clerk Lisa Deaton