

City of South Lyon  
Regular City Council Meeting  
March 27, 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 and Councilmembers: Kennedy, Dilg, Kivell, Mosier, Kurtzweil and Hansen  
Also present: City Manager Zelenak, Fire Chief Thorington, Chief Baaki, Finance and Benefit Administrator Tiernan and Clerk/Treasurer Deaton

MINUTES

CM 3-1-23 MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES- March 13, 2023

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Kivell

Motion to approve minutes as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BILLS- None

AGENDA

CM 3-2-23 MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA

Motion by Dilg, supported by Mosier

Motion to approve the agenda as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Kiwanis Easter Egg Scramble
2. Memorial Day Parade
3. Lake Street Cruise-in 2023
4. Motorfest 2023

CM 3-3-23 MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kurtzweil, supported by Kennedy

Motion to approve consent agenda as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Pelchat read a proclamation for Norm's Total Automotive. \*see attached proclamation\*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Norm of Norm's Total Automotive thanked everyone and stated he really appreciates this. He stated he grew up here and his family has always been here. His grandfather had a gas station here back in 1956. It is wonderful to get the appreciation. He then stated the service business is long hours and every day there is another emergency but you just have to deal with that, but you couldn't do it without a wonderful family. He stated he has two sons and 5 grand kids, and a great wife. They have to be willing to let you put in those hours to make it all work and it has been a really happy life.

Carl Richards of 390 Lenox stated we are about to lose an important member of our team. Mr. Doug Varney is resigning and will be leaving the end of next month. He then reminded everyone that at the last

meeting, he talked about the 5 major blockages in Yerkes Drain from the previous storm. He further stated the county came in and cleaned it and he didn't call them. He said administration didn't either, it was just the regular rotation. He said they didn't only do that drain, but they also did the others as well. He said it is amazing and they must have had 3 crews to get it all. He further stated on the east side of McMunn Street the where it was really blocked, and they took all the wood with them. He said all the debris on the west side that was cleaned out, they threw it on the bank, and that doubled the debris. He said it needs to be cleaned out. He also said there may need to be a budget amendment because as much as he appreciates and admires our DPW, they will need some help cleaning it up.

#### DISCUSSION- Downtown

Downtown Director Nate Mack congratulated Norm on his 42 years in business and being around that long and fixing that many cars, he's definitely doing something right. He then stated he spoke with the owner of Jodea Bella and they are working on setting up a ribbon cutting and they plan on opening in April. That will be another great addition to the block, along with Dua Vino opening and some movement with the theatre. He then stated the agreement for the electric charging stations contract has gone back and forth a few times and it is currently in their hands. Hopefully the changes that were made are agreeable and we can move on with that. He then stated there will be 3 Winter Farmers Market on the 1st, 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of April. That will take us into the Summer Farmers Market that begins in May. Councilmember Dilg asked where the EV stations will go and do we have a time frame. Mr. Mack stated they will be in the Wells Street parking lot and probably a few weeks after the contract is signed and returned. Councilmember Dilg asked what the charge will be. Mr. Mack stated they were told to charge \$1.00 per hour and it can be paid through an app. Councilmember Hansen asked if there will be a Winter Farmer's Market next year. Mr. Mack stated it has been successful and we normally have about 30 vendors. He then stated since Diana took over as Market Manager last year, it has grown and we have people from out of our area wanting to join. Councilmember Kennedy asked about an update about the trash can lids. Mr. Mack stated he was told there is a delay in us receiving them, but they weren't clear on how long. Councilmember Kennedy asked if there is still a sub committee that will be cleaning up the park between the barber shop and 12 little elves. Mr. Mack stated we do and it will be taken care of. Councilmember Dilg stated she was sad to hear about the jewelry store closing, but asked if Spun Sugar will be going in there. Mr. Mack stated at this time it doesn't appear they are moving there. He stated they would be a great addition to the city.

#### FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Fire Chief Thorington stated we are up to 339 instances as of today, it has been a very busy spring. He stated earlier there was a power line down on Crest Lane, and DTE was very quick to respond. He further stated the ladder truck has made it to Grayling and will be getting all stickers, radios and a few alterations for equipment and it will be here soon.

#### POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Baaki congratulated Norm and he has known him for a long time. He stated the truck should be detailed next week and we should have it by the end of that week. He then stated he is still looking for the explorer that they have ordered twice already.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2023-2024 City Budget

City Manager Zelenak stated Council was presented with the draft 2023-2024 budget this evening and this budget was prepared and based upon City Council recommendations, staff input and review of needs of departments and the community. The preliminary numbers are reflective of expected revenues based upon taxable values provided by Oakland County Equalization and proposed millages. He then reminded Council the budget work session will be Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Councilmember Kurtzweil asked if the bonds have gone to sale yet. Finance and Benefit Administrator Tiernan explained it was completed in February and the funding is sitting in the bank account we set up specifically for that. She stated we have utilized some expenditures for the bond sale, the finance consultant, our bond lawyers, and some fees we had to pay to process the paperwork. She further stated Huntington Securities purchased the bonds, and she just received the schedule showing the payment and interest, which will be provided at the budget meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>. Councilmember Kurtzweil asked the total revenue and what the interest rate was. Ms. Tiernan stated we received 8.8 million and she doesn't recall the interest rate, but will give Council that information at the budget meeting. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she was looking at the City Charter in regards to the banking issue that occurred a week ago. She was wondering if the language would allow us to use a more financially backed bank, and not just the local banks. She stated we may need to look at the Charter to be able to move money if there is trouble. She stated if you follow the trends in banking, and you wonder if some of the local banks will be in business in 5-8 years. Some are going to virtual banking only. It isn't an emergency right now, but we have to watch the trend. Ms. Tiernan stated she and Clerk Deaton have been working on looking at all of our banking options even before the banking crisis hit the news. We are looking at more diversification with our accounts. Council did approve a new investment policy a few years ago, and we are looking at Oakland County's Investment Program. She further stated we are trying to stay ahead of the game.

2. Opioid Settlement Resolution

After several years of negotiation, nationwide settlements relating to the distribution and sale of opioids, have been reached against two national pharmacies, CVS and Walmart, and against two pharmaceutical companies, Teva and AbbVie/Allergan. The two settlements are in addition to the settlements previously approved in 2021 with McKesson, Cardinal Health and AmerisourceBergen and Jansen Pharmaceuticals, INC and its parent company Johnson and Johnson. The settlements require companies to pay up to \$16.5 billion dollars over 13 years. The city is eligible to participate with the settlements. Councilmember Dilg asked if there is any reason to not join. City Manager Zelenak stated we have discussed this and all the municipalities have not found a reason to not join. We just have to wait to see how it must be spent.

CM 3-4-23 MOTION TO APPROVE RESOLUTION

Motion by Hansen, supported by Kennedy

Motion to approve the resolution opt-in-in to the National Opioid Litigation Settlement with CVS, Walmart, Teva and Allergan.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUDGET- No discussion was held

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Carl Richards stated the barn committee has made a commitment to purchase the Roper Barn on Pontiac Trail, and they have signed a contract with a professional service company that is experienced and they will dismantle the barn and it will be stored at the tube mill until such time it can be assembled in McHattie Park and the site has already been marked off in the grass. He stated that will start after the 1<sup>st</sup> of April.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Zelenak stated staff has been working on a more efficient way to handle collecting brush discarded at the curb by residents. He stated this will allow the crew to pick up debris in specific areas at specific times during the month, excluding of course, severe weather-related events. He then reminded Council of the budget meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April at 6pm. He stated the bids for the Hagadorn Road/Sanitary Sewer project will be opened on March 29<sup>th</sup>, and the bids for the trailway project will be opened on March 30<sup>th</sup>. The Oakland County administrators in the SW part of the county continue to meet to discuss creating a consortium for the purpose of providing and maintaining safe transportation for our residents and members of the consortium. We have a preliminary agreement for joining the consortium and it will be discussed at a future council meeting. He then stated we continue to review opportunities for the city's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We have received 150<sup>th</sup> logo stickers that will be placed on various buildings and city vehicles. The logo will also be on all city letterhead and possibly the city banner poles. He then stated we continue to submit grants for funds through Representative Slotkin's office for Fire Department equipment and for Lafayette Park. We have been informed that our submittals have passed the first approval. We are now submitting follow up material as part of the review process, and will await the final approval of the committee to see if we receive the funds. City Manager Zelenak stated the city has received notice that there is \$600,000 worth of street lighting improvements that will be done in the year 2025. The locations will be at Pontiac Trail, 10 Mile, Reynold Sweet and McHattie. He further stated that will be coordinated with the road plan for the following year. He then stated Councilmember Kennedy helped with us getting the updates through SEMCOG. Councilmember Kurtzweil asked about the rebuilding of the bridge at Oak Creek. City Manager Zelenak stated that went out for review for our engineers, as well as the permits from the State of Michigan. It was discussed at a prior meeting we would pay for that with ARPA funds this year and it will be in the upcoming budget, as well as the wooden bridge. Councilmember Kurtzweil asked why are we waiting for the ARPA funds while we have money in the budget that could be used now. City Manager Zelenak stated we already have the ARPA funds, but we are waiting for the design and the permits from the State. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated Redford Township is putting in a 19 million dollar health and wellness center and it was interesting how they got the funding together and a lot of it came from ARPA funds.

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Kennedy recognized four individuals from the South Lyon Fire Department who recently separated from the department. He then recognized Firefighter Stephanie Shippe who joined the department when Chief Kennedy was in charge, left for a while and returned for about a year and then left this month. He then recognized Firefighter Will Madsen who spent almost six years with the department as a paid-on-call firefighter and departed earlier this year. He then recognized Lieutenant Tim Wilson. Tim was with the department for almost 22 years. He began his career as a firefighter and rose through the ranks to Sergeant and then to Lieutenant. He was named Firefighter of the Year in 2005 and he served as the Project Manager for station improvements and Oakland County radio upgrades.

He then recognized Deputy Chief, Mike Weir. Mike was with the South Lyon Fire Department for almost twenty years. He began his career as a firefighter and rose through the ranks to serve as the Fire Inspector, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, Deputy Chief and also served as the Interim Fire Chief. Throughout his career Mike received numerous lifesaving awards and letters of recognition including ten special recognition awards and unit citations. He was instrumental in writing and securing numerous grants for the department during his years of service and he managed several projects for the department as well. He stated he also instituted the smoke alarm and carbon monoxide alarm program in which the SLFD provides and installs the units free of charge for City residents. He managed taking over the City hydrants for inspection, testing and maintenance; and he served on the design committees for Engine 7-2 and Engine 7-1. He further stated Mike was the Project Manager for the new ladder truck, Ladder 7-1, that we have heard so much about over the past year as we await its arrival next month. He stated he wanted to recognize these four individuals for their years of service, and in some cases, decades of service, protecting the residents and businesses of our city and the surrounding community. Their knowledge, experience, dedication and love of our city will be deeply missed. He then thanked them for their service and wish each of them, the very best for their futures.

Councilmember Kivell stated he is at a loss how Council didn't receive notice of Weir being fired. He said it was made to seem like he stepped away, but Mike told him he did not. Mayor Pelchat asked the City Attorney if this should be discussed in an open meeting. Attorney Hamameh stated she was not part of those discussions, but normally employee information isn't discussed during a council meeting. Councilmember Kivell stated the idea that Council wasn't notified is bizarre to him. This is someone that has given over 20 years of his career to the city and he was released is crazy. He then stated we routinely hear how hard it is to retain and recruit people to be in the fire department and this is the kind of thing to make it difficult for him to see we'll be successful in trying to draw people in. He further stated Tim Wilson is gone because of what happened to Mike and that is problematic. He looks forward to finding out the real story and this is very disappointing.

Councilmember Kurtzweil thanked Fire Chief Thorington for the great job he is doing. He stated any vacancies have been filled and he is well respected and she thanked him for his incredible commitment he makes to the city and residents. She then thanked everyone that attended the opening night of the Cultural Arts Commissions first show of the year, Quilts and Fiber Arts Exhibition. She stated that an individual donated 10 quilts and asked that they be sold and the proceeds donated to Safe House in Ann Arbor. She further stated as of tonight, over \$1,100 has been raised for the Safe House in Ann Arbor and she thanked all the people that donated, particularly a contractor here in the city that very generously gave an incredible donation last Friday. She then thanked everyone that donated money. She further stated we have a great Cultural Arts Commission and this is something they weren't looking for. She then stated Linda Ross has a great needlepoint work that is being shown and she is very proud of it. Councilmember Kurtzweil then reminded everyone of the Fish Frys on Friday nights, and St Joes Church is still selling out every week. There are a few more Fridays to go so everyone should stop by. She then stated the Knights of Columbus will be out this weekend for their annual Tootsie Roll Drive, which really gives them an opportunity to go out in the community and collect money that is then given to a charity that deals with mentally challenged children. She then thanked our friend Charles Duty from Aubree's that is going to donate 20% of all proceeds on April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 11am to 9pm and the money will go to the Knights of Columbus. She then reminded everyone of the egg scrambles in the area, and she hopes everyone will make it to the egg scramble on April 8<sup>th</sup> at Volunteer Park at noon.

Councilmember Hansen reminded everyone of the Creek Clean up on April 23<sup>rd</sup> which is sponsored by Boy Scout Troop 228, Michigan Seamless Tube and Vibe Credit Union, as well as south Lyon utilities department. He then reminded everyone on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Salem South Lyon Library there will be a smart money kids reading program. It is a great event for kids to hear some great stories about fiscal responsibility. He then reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Parade on May 30<sup>th</sup> at 9am. He stated the people participating in the parade will start lining up at 8am at Bartlett Elementary and they are still looking for people to participate. He then reminded everyone on June 14<sup>th</sup> at 11am the Salem South Lyon Library there is a touch a truck event with hopefully our new fire truck. Kids have a great time and they normally have a good turnout.

Councilmember Dilg congratulated Norm and thanked him for all his support for the city and everything he does for us. She then stated Blessings in a Backpack are a group that do weekend food delivery and in the summer deliver food to kids that are on the free lunch program and families in need. They are having their golf outing on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and they are in need of sponsors and golfers. They are also looking for drivers, especially for the summer.

Mayor Pelchat stated this is spring break so he hopes people will watch out for kids while they're out playing. He stated he's been visiting with the elementary children and he has a few more to get to because of the snow days. He hopes everyone comes out and celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the city. He then thanked Norm and the Fultz family for being here. He has to imagine at some point in time, he has worked on everyone's cars. He then thanked the city staff for helping us be able to honor him.

ADJOURNMENT

CM 3-5-23 MOTION TO ADJOURN

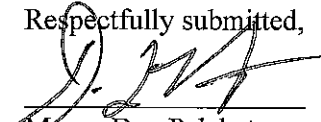
Motion by Kurtzweil

Motion to adjourn meeting at 8:14 p.m.

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Dan Pelchat

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Deaton

# CITY OF SOUTH LYON



Mayor

Daniel L. Pelchat

Council Members

Glenn Kivell

Lisa Dilg

Stephen Kennedy

Margaret J. Kurtzweil

Alex Hansen

Lori Mosier

City Manager

Paul Zelenak

Clerk/Treasurer

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## Office of the Mayor

### PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, 2023 marks a milestone for Norm's Total Automotive celebrating their 42<sup>nd</sup> year in the City of South Lyon; and

WHEREAS, Norm's Total Automotive was incorporated in 1981; and

WHEREAS, Norm's Total Automotive has been rated one of the best auto repair shops in the area and has been meeting the needs of car owners in the South Lyon community; and

WHEREAS, Norm's Total Automotive has been an important, caring part of the community contributing to many causes and needs without hesitation; and

WHEREAS, the owner of Norm's Total Automotive, Norm Fultz, has served on the South Lyon DDA Board; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Daniel L. Pelchat, Mayor of the City of South Lyon on behalf of the City Council and the entire community offer congratulations to Norm's Total Automotive as they celebrate 42 years in business and wish them many more years of success.

Daniel L. Pelchat, Mayor

3/27/23

Date