

City of South Lyon  
Regular City Council Meeting  
April 22, 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, Attorney Wilhelm, Chief Vogel and Clerk/Treasurer Deaton

MINUTES- April 8, 2019

Councilmember Kivell stated on page 3, the word replace, should be place.

CM 4-1-19 MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Parisien, supported by Kennedy  
Motion to approve the minutes as amended

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES- BUDGET SESSION

CM 4-2-19 MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Kivell, supported by Kennedy  
Motion to approve minutes as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BILLS- None

AGENDA

CM 4-3-19 MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Walton, supported by Kurtzweil  
Motion to approve agenda as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Lake Street Cruise-in 2019
- 2. Motorfest 2019

CM 4-4-19 MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kivell, supported by Walton  
Motion to approve consent agenda

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

## PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Pelchat read the attached proclamation for Gary and Mark Childs of South Lyon Cycle and congratulated them on their 25 years of successful business in the City of South Lyon. Mark Childs of South Lyon Cycle stated they appreciate the support of the Mayor, Council and Bob Donohue as well as the community and Southeastern Michigan. Mark Childs also introduced his employee Austin who he said is a very dedicated employee.

Mayor Pelchat read the attached proclamation stating April is Fair Housing Month.

## PUBLIC COMMENT- None

## DISCUSSION- Downtown

Bob Donohue stated the Farmers Market sponsorship is doing well and they will have the sign with the sponsors listed by May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Donohue stated they had a good meeting regarding the CoolYule and it will now be a 2-day event. Friday evening will be devoted to special activities with Santa and the lighting in the Historic Village. Saturday will be the parade and the tree lighting at the Heinanen tree. He stated the parade will begin at Whipple and end at McHattie. Mr. Donohue stated the architect for 111 and 113 N Lafayette stated the façade will be returned to the original façade. Councilmember Parisien asked if the DDA or the City fund the Ladies Night Out. Mr. Donohue stated there is some money in the proposed budget for next year. It is a DDA event and even though the City isn't putting cash into it, there is a lot of in-kind time and effort the DDA and the City puts into it. He stated it is coordinated by the DDA, and there are two chairs of the event. Councilmember Parisien asked if there is communication between the City and businesses such as a survey. Mr. Donohue stated there isn't one currently, but we can always come up with one. He stated there is always open communication, we publicize when we have meetings and everyone is welcome to come. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she was asked about the proposed kitchen store. Mr. Donohue stated they had a problem getting their DBA, but they will be in this week for their sign permit. There will be 2 aspects to the store. One will be the twelve kitchen elves which will be cooking classes for the youth, the other will be where they have cooking classes for adults. Councilmember Kurtzweil asked if he ever visits the businesses on the south side of town. She was asked by some of the businesses on the south side of town asked her if they could meet with the economic director. Mr. Donohue stated he is always open to talk with any of the business owners. He further stated he will be going business to business again soon. Discussion was held regarding the photograph of 111/113 Lafayette. Councilmember Kennedy asked what time frame will the survey be ready for the local businesses. Mr. Donohue stated probably 2-4 weeks. Councilmember Kivell stated he would like everyone to know that Bob's door is always open for anyone that wants to come in to talk with him.

## NEW BUSINESS

### 1. HRC Water CIP proposal

Mayor Pelchat stated there have been discussions with HRC regarding the Capital Improvement Plan for our utility systems. He stated there are recommendations for the 2019-2020 budget, but part of that is to first investigate the extent of the deficiencies in our systems. Jesse VanDeCreek and Roland Alix of HRC were present to discuss this topic and answer questions. Mr. VanDeCreek stated there are 4 elements in the CIP plan for the water treatment plant. He stated the last time the City undertook a major project at 4/22/19

the water plant was in 2000. He stated one of the elements is increasing water storage capacity. They noticed during peak periods in spring and summer, they are losing ground. They would like to maintain during peak times, and be prepared for such things as breaks, and fire responses. The concrete holding tank was constructed in 1980. In 2015 a leak was found near the lower ring of the concrete tank. A diver went into the tank to inspect the integrity of the tank and video-taped it. There was some fissuring in the tank, and the water was going into the wall. Afterwards, the fissures were then filled with epoxy from the outside. He stated the only way to really repair a tank is to take it out of service and repair it from the inside. We can salvage it and it can be in service for another 40 years. Mr. VanDeCreek stated it cannot be taken out of service for repairs without first installing a new one. The media inside of the horizontal pressure filter have not been replaced since 2001. They have not been inspected, that has to be done by the manufacturer or a 3<sup>rd</sup> party, it isn't something the City staff can do. They only last about 20 years, and we are coming up on that. The exterior of the tanks is not in good shape, over the years they have been painted with latex paint which is not the proper material. The materials are deteriorating. The condition of the nozzles and the trough systems need to be evaluated. When the plant was expanded in 2001, we had 2 of the induced draft aerators and bought a larger one. For budget reasons, we are only using 2. We now need to use it. We need to have the manufacturer come out and inspect them. The ground water in South Lyon passes over limestone and that makes for hard water. The induced draft aerators are the first defense of the hard water. Everything is there, but the equipment needs to be inspected. Mr. VanDeCreek stated based on the history and the condition to continue to give the residents of South Lyon with high quality water, we are asking to begin phase 1 of the CIP.

Councilmember Kennedy stated this is long overdue. He asked if the maintenance was done on the media in the pressure filters to extend the life of it. Ron Beason of the Water/Waste Water Plant stated the only maintenance that can be done is the backwashing and they do that every day. Mr. VanDeCreek stated when they do the backwash, they can see as it starts out as red, and after the back washing it comes out clear. There are controls to allow it to backwash automatically, but the City is being pro-active and doing it manually. Councilmember Kennedy stated if we are going out on a time-based frequency, we are overusing the equipment, rather than reacting to it on a condition basis. He further stated we could set the trip point lower before it gets clogged, but it seems we are using extra man power doing this, when it isn't necessary. Mr. VanDeCreek stated they are required to check them every day and that is part of their rounds. Councilmember Kennedy stated HRC has been involved with the plant for a long time. He further stated we have money in the budget for some Keiser blowers, which is manufactured in Germany. We bought 3 in 2015, and we keep buying them periodically. We have to buy them from the supplier because that is what fits in the footprint, because we didn't want to incur the cost of re-engineering for something that may be more cost effective. He asked if that is part of the evaluation. The cost of the blowers has gone up 40% since 2015. Mr. VanDeCreek stated they would look at that if Council authorized to do so. He stated the plant is 100% reliable on air, the blowers are the most heavy, high duty pieces of equipment. There will be significant challenges, but they could absolutely look at alternative equipment. Councilmember Kennedy stated the statement was made in 2015 that it would be very expensive to change the footprint, but at some point, the replacement cost of the fans will be higher than that cost of changing the footprint.

Councilmember Kivell asked if it is likely for the media to be changed. Mr. VanDeCreek stated the media has reached its useful life. Councilmember Kivell asked if the company that will be coming out is local. Mr. VanDeCreek stated the company is from Minnesota and they will have it completed in 2 days. Councilmember Kivell stated he likes the idea of checking the structural integrity, but it seems it would make sense to expect to change the media. Mr. VanDeCreek stated we most likely will. Councilmember Kurtzweil thanked HRC for being a consultant to the City. It is clear the City has not been vigilant in maintaining some issues with the water system. She further stated the issue with the horizontal pressure

filter system, the media is used in the filters and you don't repair the media, you replace it. Mr. VanDeCreek stated that is correct. He stated some media can be recharged. That is manganese green sand, when removing arsenic. South Lyon doesn't have arsenic. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated you will find arsenic around crops and apple trees. She asked if the filters were replaced in 2001, 10 years in would have been 2011, what is the time period when the filters should be examined, when do you become proactive instead of waiting so long in between. Mr. VanDeCreek stated the City is watching the backwashing on a daily basis. He stated they are watching the discharge to ensure it is clean. He further stated the media hasn't failed, but it expected to last 18-20 years. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she was not pleased to see the paint on the exterior of the tanks were compromised. She stated someone did not know what they were doing when they were asked to paint them. This has been a weakness in the management of the City. We need top rate professionals so we can get these things on a schedule. She is disturbed the letter was issued to the City in 2015, and we are just now discussing this. The City needs to take a pro-active approach for the water plant. If the water rates need to be raised, then we have to raise them. The expenses will be in the millions of dollars. Councilmember Kennedy asked about the time frame for getting this plan going. Mr. VanDeCreek stated within the next 2 weeks. Councilmember Richards stated comparatively; South Lyon probably isn't the worst in hardness as other communities. He then asked them to look into where we fall with the range of feasibility with a price range. Mr. VanDeCreek stated they will be giving the City an engineering estimate for the cost of each element. He further stated they can also do an evaluation of the raw water that is brought in. He further stated this is a regional issue. All the groundwater heads south toward Ann Arbor, the surrounding communities will also have hard water. He further stated the system we have in South Lyon is the leanest, meanest most effective way of getting the iron out. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated the sooner we get the numbers, the better off we will be. We are just about to approve the budget, and she would like to know where the money will come from to pay for this. City Manager Zelenak stated we have already accounted for money in the 2019-2020 budget for the horizontal pressure filters, the potential of the new water storage tank, and other items as well. He stated we have money in the current years budget for a water & sewer rate analysis, so we can move forward identifying what our needs are short term and long term. He further stated the fee for the CIP will be paid for in the current years budget. Councilmember Walton stated she ran for Council because of the water plant and the water leaking into the park, and not being able to resurface the parking lot next to it. She would like to see this move quickly.

CM 4-5-19 MOTION TO APPROVE CIP

Motion by Walton, supported by Kurtzweil

Motion to approve the completion of the first four elements of the CIP in an amount not to exceed \$30,120.00

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUDGET

Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she was asked by many people what the vacation payout was for Lloyd Collins, and she believes it was approximately \$30,000. She then stated this is the reason why Council changed the use it or lose it rule. She stated that money could have gone towards the parks and recreation or the DDA. It is unfortunate South Lyon was behind the eight ball on that. Many communities around us made that change years ago. She further stated that she spoke with MERS and that money was included with his pension calculation which is called pension spiking. She further stated the taxpayers lost \$30,000 on a vacation buyout and they will also get hit on the enhanced pension when he begins

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collecting it. She is glad Council finally made that change so that will not happen again. Lloyd Collins did nothing wrong, he played by the rules, the City had this formula in place for decades. It should have been changed years ago. She further stated she hopes the new use it or lose it will generate revenue for the City because she believes the buyouts are over with.

### MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Zelenak stated we are partnering with the library to bring photos in to display around town. We will have 30 photos that will be placed around town. The library is partnering with NASA for the pictures. They will be displayed throughout the summer.

City Manager Zelenak stated we will have additional discussion at the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting for the budget. He further stated it will then be on the second meeting in May for it to be adopted.

City Manager Zelenak stated he is working on a development process so the public and businesses can look at a flow chart to reflect what needs to be done in the process.

City Manager Zelenak stated the SLARA and the Witch's Hat Summer Harvest Festival will be moved to next year. He will have more information on that at a later time.

City Manager Zelenak stated we applied for a grant for the purpose of installing a wheel chair swing at McHattie Park through the McLaren Brooksie Way Mini Grant, which we were granted and he is picking up the check tomorrow morning.

City Manager Zelenak reminded everyone of Ladies Night which is May 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. City Manager Zelenak stated in the current years budget there was \$25,000 to be paid to the schools for a school resource officer through the Oakland County Sheriff. He stated Council will have to decide if they want to continue that in next years budget.

Councilmember Parisien asked if we are keeping track of grants we are searching for and which ones we are obtaining. City Manager Zelenak stated we will be researching more grants. We sent a staff member to a two-day grant training through SEMCOG. He stated we can prepare how we are doing each year. Councilmember Walton congratulated the City Manager on the grant for the wheel chair swing. She stated she mentioned it over a year ago, and she is very happy he moved forward with it. City Manager Zelenak stated he worked with the Parks and Recreation Commission as well as a resident on that grant. He further stated no matter the amount of the grants, helps us move forward with our long-range plans.

Councilmember Kivell asked if maybe we can get a tote board, it is important to show we are trying to get grants and which grants we are receiving.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Judy Keeling of 62180 Arlington Circle stated she is happy about the handicapped swing, that is a wonderful thing. Ms. Keeling stated Thomasville was supposed to have been finalized but it hasn't been on the agenda of the last 2 meetings. City Manager Zelenak stated it was removed from the agenda tonight and from the last agenda because they are working on specific details and they still haven't worked them out. They are attempting to make changes that will cause them to go before Planning and City Council again. The applicant is now looking at changing to Pulte as the developer.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Kennedy stated this past weekend was the 15<sup>th</sup> annual South Lyon Creek clean-up. Volunteers from the area Boy Scouts, Michigan Seamless Tube, the South Lyon DPW and Storm Water Planning Program as well as the South Lyon Water/Wastewater Department and Wellhead Protection Program. During the course of the day they retrieved 55-60 yards of debris from the various South Lyon waterways. This included 25 car and tractor tires, a 1980's console television, a 1950's style washing machine, three grocery carts and other items. Michigan Seamless Tube helped dispose of the debris and Belle Tire in New Hudson disposed of the tires with a generous discount. These items should not have been in the waterways so he encouraged everyone to dispose of their trash properly.

Councilmember Kennedy stated he on a related note, as the City's SEMCOG representative he attended a seminar at SEMCOG's headquarters last week that dealt with the interrelationship between storm water, wastewater and drinking water. One of the biggest issues facing many cities in the 7 county area in southeast Michigan deals with wastewater and the items that end up in the city drains. He emphasized that residents should never flush personal and baby wipes, facial tissue, condoms, tampons and sanitary products, cleaning wipes, dental floss, prescription and non-prescription drugs, cotton balls and swabs or cigarette butts. These items can collect in the sewers and clog pipes. In addition, all fats, oils and greases from cooking should be disposed of in the trash and not put down the drain. When they are put down the drain they tend to settle and solidify and reduce the flow in our city's waste system which can lead to backups in our resident's homes.

Councilmember Richards stated the creek clean-up was on the 13<sup>th</sup>. He stated he was the oldest, and the youngest was a 5 year-old girl. They had a total of 74 volunteers. There were 22 pizzas and 18 2 liters of pop consumed. The tube mill disposed of everything in their dumpsters. Nine Mile and Dixboro is normally the worst area, along with the Yerkes drain, Cemetery and Biggby Coffee. He stated the tube mill supplied colored vests and gloves. Suzan Martin gave all the information to WHMI radio as well as the newspapers. He stated he spoke with Dave Hall, the president of the union at the tube mill, and on the 20<sup>th</sup>, was their clean up. They go outside of the City, to places such as Lyon Township and Green Oak Township. They cleaned the Kroger lot by 8 Mile. He then thanked the tube mill for all their help. Councilmember Richards stated the next big clean-up day is May 5<sup>th</sup>. We will have gardening and historical clean up at the depot. He stated that will be organized by Larry Ledbetter.

Councilmember Richards stated 234 W Liberty was sold and closed on 3 weeks ago.

Councilmember Richards thanked everyone that helped him out while he was having health issues.

Councilmember Parisien stated the kick off meeting for the Wreaths Across America is on April 24 at 7:00 at the First Presbyterian Church and the event will be on December 14, 2019 at South Lyon Cemetery. She stated the goal for this year is to raise more funds to cover more servicemembers graves with wreaths. This is an important thing to have in our community, we need to honor our veterans both alive and passed.

Councilmember Parisien stated Ladies Night out is May 10 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. There are 10 businesses participating and the first 250 customers will get swag bags.

Councilmember Walton stated she wanted to remind everyone of the weekend of May 4<sup>th</sup> is the City-Wide Yard Sales. She stated the Salem South Lyon Library on that same weekend will have a shred event on Saturday from 10:00 to 2:00 p.m. There is a 4-box limit. Councilmember Walton reminded everyone of the Empty the Shelter weekend which is also the weekend of May 4<sup>th</sup>. It is sponsored by This Little Pet Foundation, and they will help with adoption fees. She further reminded everyone on Saturday

May 4<sup>th</sup> is the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Pint-Sized Marathon in McHattie Park. Councilmember Walton stated she has a comment to make regarding Senator Maureen Walsh's comment about nurses playing cards while working. Nurses are not sitting around playing cards, it was very disheartening for many people. That was a grossly inappropriate comment. She wants her to know nurses are taking care of your neighbors, your family and your community. They are there around the clock, through days, nights and holidays. That was the most offensive comment she has heard this year. Councilmember Walton stated she hopes that she will take some time and do her research, or volunteer at a hospital and see what actually happens.

Councilmember Kivell stated one of the consequences of having a consent agenda is some things get overlooked. He was hoping Deb and Doug Cook would have spoke during public comment. He stated the Lake Street Cruise-in 2019 will be on May 22, June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 24<sup>th</sup>, August 28<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup>. They are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. Also, the Motorfest will be on Saturday July 27<sup>th</sup>. That will be a whole day event.

Councilmember Kurtzweil thanked everyone that volunteered for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual creek clean up. They removed trash from local creeks and streams. She thanked Larry Ledbetter and the employees at Michigan Seamless Tube, and as many people know, this event is a signature event for Carl Richards and he participates in it every year. She then thanked Ron Beason, the South Lyon area Boys Scouts, Cub Scouts and Ryan Lare.

Councilmember Kurtzweil thanked everyone that helped with the Kiwanis Easter Egg Scramble in Volunteer Park. It was a great event. She thanked Lyon Township Fire Department, as well as Oakland County Sheriff Department. She also thanked our Fire Department. She then thanked the South Lyon Police Department for attending and handing out badges, greeting parents and giving out things for bikes. The children and the parents definitely love our Police Department.

Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she has received complaints from senior communities that have signs up stating that they do not allow soliciting, and there are still people knocking on their doors, politicians and people selling windows. She asks that people respect their private property. Our senior community need to be cared for and strangers knocking on their doors is not welcoming. She will be speaking with our Police Department to check in with our senior communities to ensure people are not soliciting there.

Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she received a thank you letter from the Department of Veteran Affairs regarding a compliment she extended to one of their employees. The letter begins with "we are dealing with veterans, not dealing with procedures, we are dealing with their problems, not ours." She then thanked V.A employee Ronnie Fleming. She stated will never meet her, or shake her hand or give her a hug, but she stated Ms. Fleming is a dedicated public servant who knows her job extremely well and she is proud she is in Philadelphia and taking care of our veterans and their families.

Councilmember Kurtzweil stated last Christmas she and many of her friends donated money for the purchase of wreaths for the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington D.C She stated she thinks she will be going down to Arlington in December to help place the wreaths on the graves. She stated she has visited Arlington National Cemetery in the past and it is an incredible site. She then thanked all veterans that have ever served in any war.

Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she hopes everyone had a joyful Easter and a peaceful Passover.

Mayor Pelchat stated it will be a great year to have the NASA photos in town considering this year will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

ADJOURNMENT

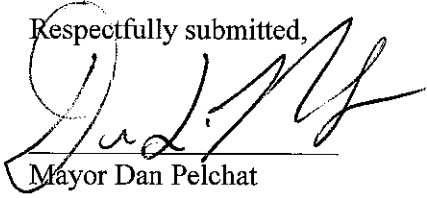
CM 4-5-19 MOTION TO ADJOURN

Motion by Kurtzweil, supported by Walton

Motion to adjourn at 9:00 p.m.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Mayor Dan Pelchat

  
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City Clerk Lisa Deaton