

City of South Lyon
Regular City Council Meeting
July 10, 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, Kennedy, and Kurtzweil

Also present: City Manager Zelenak, Lieutenant Conrad, Sergeant Sederlund, DDA Director Mack and Clerk/Treasurer Deaton

Absent: Councilmember Hansen

CM 7-1-23 MOTION TO EXCUSE ABSENCE

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Dilg

Motion to excuse absence of Councilmember Hansen

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES

CM 7-2-23 MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Kivell, supported by Kennedy

Motion to approve the minutes as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BILLS

CM 7-3-23 MOTION TO APPROVE BILLS

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Mosier

Motion to approve the bills as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGENDA

CM 7-4-23 MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Dilg, supported by Kennedy

Motion to approve agenda as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA- None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Carl Richards of 390 Lenox stated he has noticed some activity in the Noble Appliance building and the permits say it will be a doctor's Office, and yes, we are all glad to see something go in there. He then stated he thinks that is the wrong fit for the vitality and recovery of our downtown.

Sharon Sower of 585 Covington and Active Faith stated today is an exciting day for her because she has been working on a dream to have a better community services agency to help people that have fallen on hard times, to lift them up and have a better life. As simple as those sound, it is major. And hardships that have fallen onto people that are our neighbors and taking that and recreating a different world for them. She stated that is what they do at Active Faith. She then stated they see that every week that they are open. Today was no different. She stated they had 119 families come in today and a lot of them were

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children. She further stated they recently started their back-to-school program where each one of their food pantry children will receive a brand new back pack and school supplies for when the school season starts. She stated the goal of Active Faith is that kids don't feel like a food pantry child or family, you just feel like family, and families help one another. She then stated their long-awaited dream of having a building in a location that represents our heart and soul of lifting others up in this community has happened. She then stated they are the new owners of 553 S Lafayette. She further stated she has 2 board members with her today, Ken and Pat, because they are happy and excited as well, and they have had the same dream we all had. She then stated moving forward, they are hoping to work with the city to increase the involvement in city government and what they do. She further stated they are 30+ years in and still going strong and that's not going to end. As long as there are people in need, Active Faith will be there.

DISCUSSION- Downtown

DDA Director Mack stated they submitted the grant for the MEDC was submitted on June 29th, and the total request was over \$600,000 to build a park downtown. We already have some funding and we will find out in September if we were successful. He stated our application was competitive and hopes for the best. He then stated the weather wasn't the best for the Farmers Market, but it still went well. He also stated the economic vitality committee met last week and they worked on an activity called asset mapping, which highlights things that are in our downtown to focus on to progress the downtown and flushing that out and turning it into an economic strategy for the downtown. Mr. Mack stated he is still working on the Social District implementation and the application has been submitted to the State of Michigan. He further stated they are looking at a number of different things we can put in the gathering area by the Farmers Market which includes tables, chairs, umbrellas, faux grass and ivy, and twinkle lights, garbage cans, games, and he thinks it will look very nice when it is set up. He further stated he met with DPW in regards to the layout of the space. He then stated we haven't heard back from the State of Michigan regarding the city's application and we can't implement the Social District until we get approval from the state as well as the ordinance being amended. He then stated they are still working on the stories for the 150th anniversary, and they have it narrowed down to about 20 stories, and it will debut around Pumpkinfest. He then reminded everyone of the social media training dates for the local businesses, which will be August 9th, and August 30th, both at 10:00 a.m. He further stated that was taken from the business survey that was sent out earlier in the year. Councilmember Dilg asked if he has heard anything about the Noble Appliance building. Mr. Mack stated he has only heard rumors that he can't discuss at this time. Councilmember Dilg then thanked him for setting up the social media training and for following up on the survey. She then asked if he had a time frame for the social district approval from the State. Mr. Mack stated he did check with them again, and they said they could not give him a date. Councilmember Kivell asked if he has a parallel for what's happening in the DDA, and the groups that are doing things to spark the new adventures in the DDA, and have you considered doing something like that on a grander scale throughout the city based on the Economic Development side of your job. Mr. Mack stated part of the DDA training will be offered to everyone. A lot of the groups are with Main Street Oakland County and is based on the downtowns. He stated he is still working on the overall economic development for the city. Councilmember Kivell stated he encourages Mr. Mack to make relationships with people that are outside of the DDA so that you'll have people that have a genuine interest, and you'll know whether or not they are going to bring something to the table in that you put together some kind of package together. He then stated he was at the Concert in the Park and he was asked if there is a chance to get a social district sanctioned so you could have a beer while watching the concert. Mr. Mack stated he has thought about that, but to do so, you would have to extend the commons area all the way to the park because you are only allowed to have one social district. There would be a lot more enforcement, and issues with people walking that distance with alcoholic beverages. The intent of

the Social District Law is really based on downtowns because you have to have the licensed businesses that are contiguous to the social district. Mr. Mack stated another option would be for a non-profit to pull a permit through the MLCC for events and they could get 10-12 one day licenses and you can designate a drinking area and they would be able to serve alcohol.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Lieutenant Conrad stated as of today, they have had 692 calls, and a mutual assist with Salem Township on a structure fire. We were able to send a 5-person crew, and they got wonderful experience by doing that. She then stated they have great relationships with the mutual aid communities we work with and they all work really well together. She then stated Wednesday was supposed to be the spray park, but due to the upcoming weather, it has been changed to Friday between 1:00 and 2:00.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Lieutenant Sederlund stated they received the Chevy Tahoe on July 5th, after waiting 2 years and it will be put into use once we strip out one of the other cars and we order the other equipment. He then stated they received 5 fireworks complaints between July 5th and the 9th. There were no citations issued, or reports of injuries. He then stated they attended a 3-day training session at the Oakland Police Academy for red dot training. He further stated they are hoping to have those firearms in the next few months. Lieutenant Sederlund then stated they responded to a complaint of trucks speeding in the construction zone on Hagadorn Street and they now have added a speed radar. He then stated he spoke with the officers that were at the Pride Event, and they said it was a great event with no issues. They also did not receive any reports or concerns regarding the event. He then stated we are looking for a new Police Officer, Cadet, and crossing guard. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she had many questions over the weekend regarding the new law about no cell phones in hand, she then asked him if he could explain it in detail, what if you're using for directions. Lieutenant Sederlund stated your phone cannot be in your hand. You can use the GPS, you can have it sitting down, but listen to it, you just cannot have it in your hand and looking at it. He stated when they are pulling people over right now, they are just giving a warning along with a flyer explaining the new law. They also put it on their website. Councilmember Dilg stated there were 1-3 officers at the Pride event, and they were wonderful. They were talking with the organizers and she thinks they had a good time. She stated she appreciates seeing that kind of support. Councilmember Kivell stated people have concerns about when the Police Officer is parked looking for large truck turns, but they are more concerned about the pedestrian traffic and they feel they are putting themselves in jeopardy. There are people with a car load of kids that are scrambling to get from the school to another event and they have to run across the street. Or when you're walking a dog or child across the road and the idea you may have to scoop them up and run across the road is farfetched. They are hoping you can have a stronger presence just to try to quell some of the people that just doesn't seem to understand the crosswalks. Lieutenant Sederlund stated he sent an email last week about watching that better.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. DDA Social District- Second reading of an ordinance to amend the City of South Lyon Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8, "Alcoholic Liquor" of the City of South Lyon Code of Ordinances to Article III, "Social Districts"

Downtown Development Director Mack stated on July 1, 2021 Governor Whitmer signed HB5781 creating the social district permit which allows a local government to designate a social district within their jurisdiction. Businesses that are granted the permit may sell alcohol on their licensed premises who may then consume within the commons area of the social district. During the June 26th Council meeting, Council voted to approve a resolution establishing the social district and the

management and maintenance plans, additionally the Council approved the first reading of the ordinance amendment to the alcoholic liquor chapter of the code of ordinances to allow the consumption of alcohol in the sidecar social district. Therefore, the social district to go into effect the second reading of the amendment needs to be passed by Council.

CM 7-5-23 MOTION TO APPROVE SECOND READING

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Mosier

Motion to approve the second reading of an ordinance to amend the City of South Lyon Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8, "Alcoholic Liquor" of the City of South Lyon Code of Ordinances to Article III, "Social Districts"

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Mosier- Yes

Kurtzweil- Yes

Dilg- Yes

Kennedy- Yes

Kivell- Yes

Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS- None

BUDGET- No discussion was held

PUBLIC COMMENT- No public comment was made

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Zelenak stated on a future agenda we will have the award of the sanitary sewer project under CSX Railroad, and the intergovernmental agreement with South Lyon Schools/Senior Activity Center, Green Oak Township and Lyon Township. He then informed Council that the Hagadorn Sanitary Sewer and Road Paving project still continues. They will begin removing and installing a new sanitary sewer on Hagadorn the week of July 10th, and continue lining additional sewer within the subdivision. Road rebuilding work will begin in early August after the completion of the sewer work. He then stated the trail improvement from Volunteer Park to Princeton continues. The new pathway was completed last week. They are now installing minor asphalt sections and the concrete sidewalk and approaches. He then stated there was another meeting with Oakland County officials and community leaders today to discuss increasing our transit services within South Lyon and Oakland County. We are working with county officials to lower our transit fare for residents within the service area, and to also increase our options by partnering with other agencies such as SMART and WOTA with the assistance of Peoples Express. He then stated the new fares that are being discussed will be going before the Oakland County Commissioners this coming month.

Councilmember Kurtzweil stated the project flyer that was handed out is very much appreciated by the residents on Hagadorn. She stated this is a very good way to communicate and she commends him and his staff for getting this out. She further stated the 3 most important pieces of information what is on the flyer and much appreciated is the names and phone numbers of who to contact for questions. This was a good move and hopefully this will be part of the model that will be used as we move through the city providing this kind of information. Councilmember Kennedy asked if there is a tentative date for the company to come and reposition the lights downtown. City Manager Zelenak stated he and Nate has discussed it, but they don't have a date yet, they are going to have someone come in and do tree trimming and it is all part of the project, but we don't have a date yet. Councilmember Kennedy then asked if there

is a date for the dead tree in front of the post office is coming down and the hole can be filled in with gravel. City Manager Zelenak stated they have had discussions regarding the different kinds of tree that we be installing downtown, but the removal is on the DPW's list, but he doesn't have a date.

Councilmember Kennedy then asked about the tree just to the north of Heritage on the west side of Pontiac Trail because that tree is dead too. It is probably in the Oakland County right-of-way and if that is the case, will someone contact Oakland County to take the tree down. City Manager Zelenak stated we will report the tree to them. Councilmember Kennedy stated the gazebo that is in the downtown next to the Creative Hair Salon is full of weeds and vines, and he knows we took care of it last year, but he knows it hasn't been touched since. Councilmember Kivell stated the person that was trimming the trees today at City Hall was actually cutting the branches so it wasn't covering the sidewalk and people could get by. He thanked him for doing so, he worked all day out there and it was very warm. He would like to see that a lot more where people have to stoop down when they are clearing a tree. He then stated he likes the angle that is being played to coordinate with other elements other than us leaning too hard and possibly failing a lot by not having enough scale to do anything with substance. This is a great way to get people from A to B a lot farther and a lot easier. City Manager Zelenak stated they have all been great to work with, Wolverine Lake, Wixom, Commerce, Lyon Township and Milford. He further stated the residents may see an increase in actual fares, but the distance they can travel will be 10 times further. And now working with the County and being able to connect to a location in Novi, and be able to get to Southfield, or whatever it may be. The County has been very good to work with. At first, they didn't understand what our needs were because we are working with a private company. He stated WOTA, NOTA are entities that are providing services but they are already tied into several jurisdictions and some are non-profits, and we've been able to show how Peoples Express works for our area. He thinks it will work out. Councilmember Kivell stated we are fortunate there are other communities that share our mindset.

COUNCL COMMENTS

Councilmember Dilg stated she is proud of Sharon and the Active Faith Board for having this come to fruition. And when you are making this move, let people know what you need and people will help. Put out a volunteer sign up. People will help. She stated she definitely will. She further stated she was thrilled the weather cooperated with the weekend, with the baseball event, the Pride event, the food truck rally at the Farmers Market and she appreciates everyone coming out and having a great time.

Councilmember Kurtzweil congratulated Sharon and the board members that are here tonight, Lynn Kneisel and Pat Peruski who have given so much to Active Faith over the years, or decades. She then asked them to send her thanks to all the board of directors. She then stated the Cultural Arts Commission is getting ready to roll out their "Did you Know" series. It's a very interesting series that will be published throughout the city in the frames that deal with did you know about certain historical places in the city and this is conjunction with the city's 150th anniversary. She then thanked the Cultural Arts Commission and Linda Ross from the Historical Society for putting this program together. Doug from Lake Street Cruise In gave her the list of sponsors. She then thanked all the sponsors, Advanced Capital Management, Ulta Equipment Company, Bells Landscape Services, Bullett Distributors, Detroit Hot Rod and Sport and Custom, Dream Maker Bath and Kitchen, East Lake Dental, and Gibson Tool and Brooch. She then thanked them all again for supporting the Lake Street Cruise In. She then reminded everyone that July 29th will be very busy in town the entire day.

Councilmember Kennedy reminded everyone about Friday's Concert in the Park. It starts at 7pm and this week will be featuring One Love Reggae, as they return to South Lyon for this year. So, make a point to come out and enjoy some soul, jazz, rock and funk. He then stated on Saturday, July 15th RRRASOC

will be holding a household hazardous waste collection event at the Wixom DPW located at 2041 Charms Rd. So everyone can gather up all those leftover hazardous waste items and drop them off the yard between 9am and 2pm. He then stated while you're marking events in your calendar, don't forget the all-day Lake Street Motorfest will be held on Saturday, July 29th from 11am until 5pm with Magic Bus providing the entertainment. He then stated later that same day, it'll be Christmas in July presented by the Carl & Joanne Foundation starting at 4pm. There will be several food trucks and entertainment will be provided by the Williamsburg Band and the Phoenix Theory Band. Those will be some great events so make your plans now to attend.

Councilmember Mosier also congratulated Active Faith and she thanked them for everything they do in our community. She then stated they have been around for years and we don't know what we would have done without them.

Councilmember Kivell enjoyed the origin story, he and his wife moved in 1987 and he didn't know and he didn't know it was 10 churches that ended up kind of holding hands and trying to figure out how to help people that needed some help. He stated that was a great start and it was mentioned to lean on the city for some help on things and he is really looking forward to hear about that and he hopes we can comply with that. He thinks the city may be able to help with some, but maybe not all, but he looks forward to it.

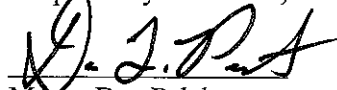
Mayor Pelchat congratulated Active Faith and they have done an awesome job. He then stated he is looking forward to the American Legion's golf outing at Rolling Meadows and they always do a great job making sure the money goes to the kids.

ADJOURNMENT

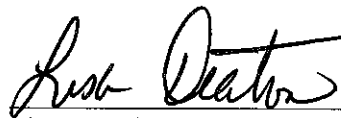
Motion by Kurtzweil,

Motion to adjourn at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Mayor Dan Pelchat



City Clerk/Treasurer Lisa Deaton