

City of South Lyon
Regular City Council Meeting
July 12, 2021

Mayor Pelchat called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Pelchat led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Councilmembers: Dilg joined the meeting from South Lyon MI, Kurtzweil joined the meeting from South Lyon MI, and Kennedy joined the meeting from South Lyon MI, Richards joined the meeting from South Lyon MI, Walton joined the meeting from South Lyon MI, and Kivell joined the meeting from South Lyon MI

Also, present: City Manager Zelenak, Attorney Hamameh, Chief Sovik, Chief Vogel, Finance and Benefit Administrator Tiernan, DDA Director Mack, Superintendent Varney and Clerk/Treasurer Deaton

MINUTES

Councilmember Kivell stated on page 7 the word ration should be changed to ratio. Councilmember Richards stated on page 7, it should say it will save hundreds of thousands of dollars.

CM 7-1-21 MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Kivell

Motion to approve the minutes as amended

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BILLS

Councilmember Richards asked if we know how much in unused funds will be rolled over. Finance and Benefit Administrator stated she doesn't know yet because the books aren't closed yet.

CM 7-2-21 MOTION TO APPROVE THE BILLS

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Dilg

Motion to approve the bills as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGENDA

CM 7-3-21 MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Dilg, supported by Kennedy

Motion to approve the agenda as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

DISCUSSION- Downtown

Nate Mack the Downtown Development Director stated the Farmers Market was at full capacity for vendors this past weekend. He then stated there will be music at the next Farmers Market and an art vendor as well. The DDA Board discussed the mural ordinance and approved the guidelines that were provided to them. He then stated they proposed some ideas for 390 S Lafayette. He then stated there was a suggestion for a simple park design with trees and picnic tables and maybe some twinkle lighting, and bike racks. He then stated Curvins Creamery is hopefully opening in a couple of weeks and the winery that is going in should be open sometime in August. The question was asked who will make the final approval for the murals. Mr. Mack stated the only discussion the DDA has had about that is it can't be advertising for a business. He then stated the art must be high quality.

FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Vogel stated they have been very busy with handing out the smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors. He further stated they are only using the ladder truck for emergency purposes; we are going to have someone come and look at it. The ladder goes up, but it won't come back down. We now have the contract for the new ladder truck and he will have all the information for Council at the next meeting. He then stated someone complained about a fire hazard for 110 Detroit Street and it is a concern, but he doesn't have the authority to handle that, so he will pass it along to the Ordinance Officer.

POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Sovik stated it was a busy weekend, there was an all-star game at the high school, and we monitored the pride event in McHattie Park as well as the Farmers Market. He stated we attended all the events and everything went well. He then stated the PD came in under budget by about 6.1%. He then stated we monitored everyone's overtime.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Road Improvement Plan

City Manager Zelenak stated this will be the 6th discussion regarding the long-term repair of our roads. He stated our bond counsel will attend a meeting in the future to discuss the different options for bonds. Mike Darga of HRC stated we have 3 different types of repairs, a total replacement, major repair or minor rehab. He further stated doing some repairs earlier is better than later. He then discussed the Headlee Override and bonds. Mr. Darga explained the difference in cost between the Headlee Override and using bonds. He further explained if you use the bond funding, you could fix almost 38% of the roads. Mr. Alix of HRC stated if you use the Headlee Override, you would fix 34%. Mr. Darga explained the overview of the subdivision roads and the longer we wait, the worse shape the roads will get. Councilmember Kurtzweil asked if the gas prices continue to go up, will the gas tax go up as well. She further stated theoretically there will be more Act 51 money. Mr. Alix stated eventually most cars will be electric so they won't be paying gas tax. It is difficult to forecast. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated that is a long-term issue. In the next 3-5 years while we are working on the roads, there should be at least a small increase in the Act 51 money. She then stated she spoke with some people from Brighton regarding how they worked on their road problems. She then stated they tried the Headlee Override and the first time it didn't pass, but it did the second time. It passed with a lower millage rate. She then said the voters in Howell turned it down. She then stated you are still required to meet the formula and if you think your getting the 2.5 mills, you may still not get that because of the Headlee roll back. She then stated we need to get the PASER report on our website so people can see and understand the condition our roads are in. She then stated if the city goes the bond route, there is a pretty steady stream of money that the city can start working with. She stated another advantage is that inflation will be here for a while, so we should beat any additional rise in rates by moving quickly. She then asked what fees do HRC charge, is there a formula or a percentage. Mr. Darga stated it is just like we do any other projects with the city. The preliminary stage, they would scope out the project, and then provide the city with a proposal for each job as it comes up, there isn't a flat fee. Further discussion was held regarding their rates. Councilmember Kivell stated this would accommodate about a third of the work we need to do, after 10 years, will we reassess what the PASER study said we should do. He further stated we are hoping to be able to start over to get through the entire study. City Manager Zelenak stated Council will decide what direction we go, part of it is the view by the residence of the community and if we did what we said we would do. We could potentially add funds and look at major streets such as Pontiac Trail, and if we want to help with that. He further stated if you look at the Headlee override, and if we decide to go with that method, it can go up to 7 mills. Brighton went for 4 mills for 10 years, then brought it back at 2.5 mills and that was passed. If you look at the 2 mills for the first few years, it is a way to show the

public we are working on the roads with Act 51 funds, and after the water and sewer fall off, Council could vote on those 3 mills to be added and the residents wouldn't see a large increase. Councilmember Kennedy stated this isn't a straight-line effort, if we go the bond route, we would have 38% of roads taken care of, and then if we renewed it for 10 years, and if we don't get another 38% taken care of, the first 38% we fixed will already begin deteriorating, and the life expectancy is 10 years, but we'll be trying to do preventative maintenance. Is there a prediction on what the next 10 years could show? Mr. Darga stated he only went through the first 10 years. The sooner you take care of the roads will help to prolong their life. You can use some funds for crack sealing and things like that. City Manager Zelenak stated some of those numbers will come out when we meet with our financial advisor and bond counsel. This 10-year scenario is still a guestimate. We don't know what the different funding scenarios could be. The city hasn't had a road plan in 10 years and this is the first step and if we don't begin to do something, the repairs will continually get more expensive as the years go on. Councilmember Kivell asked how we get a reflection of what the public's tolerance would be. City Manager Zelenak stated we may need to get a group to talk about some of those things, and we need to get the information out there for the public to see what the costs will be. Further discussion was held regarding educating the public on what is needed. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated we are now 6 months away from Christmas, the earliest shovel to the ground would be spring 2024. City Manager Zelenak stated it would have to go to the voters in 2022, but we can start construction in 2023. We can start the design work; it won't be wasted dollars. We can also do major rehabilitation work in subdivisions immediately if the vote passes. His opinion is if we add it to the August ballot, we can get some work done in the 2023 year. Discussion was held regarding adding the information to our website as well as the Police and Fire Departments website to begin showing the residents the PASER study as well as our options for funding. Council also discussed everyone agreeing on some talking points so that everyone is on the same page. Council agrees that we should try to have the ballot question on the August ballot on 2022.

2. Charter amendments

City Manager Zelenak stated Council previously discussed the potential to make charter amendments to address issues pertaining to quorum, notices of special meetings, nomination and potential conflicts of interest between state law and charter. The amendments that Council agreed on were sent to the Governors office for approval. Council now needs to decide which ballot the amendments will be added to November 2021, August 2022 or November 2022.

CM 7-4-21 MOTION TO APPROVE CHARTER AMENDMENTS

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Walton

Motion to approve the Charter Amendments to be placed on the November 2021 ballot

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Kurtzweil- Yes

Dilg- Yes

Walton – Yes

Kivell- Yes

Kennedy- Yes

Richards- Yes

Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS

1. Pumpkinfest event and road closures

Chief Sovik stated Pumpkinfest is coming back to South Lyon, and it will be September 24th to the 26th. It will be a scaled down version, no beer tent, parade, hay pyramid and no Pumpkinfest run. The road closures will be Lafayette between Liberty and Whipple, and Lake Street between Wells and Washington. He stated this will make the city proud and we all hope it will be back to its original version next year.

He then stated the Farmers Market will remain at the same lot on that Saturday. Kathy Swan of the Pumpkinfest Committee stated there is miscommunication regarding why some events aren't happening and in May when we decided to move forward with the event, we had to make decisions based on COVID and many key board members aren't available and there is a lack of volunteers, but we had to make some hard decisions, this is still a community festival and that is no reflection on the vendors. We will have music on the street, the air dogs will be there and we have all the big components that the families will come to see. This was a hard decision and it takes many months to plan a festival. She stated she is concerned about losing the Farmers Market parking lot, and when the kids are use to seeing the climbing wall and the swings and she is concerned. She then stated the Fire Department has put on different restrictions on generators that we count on and that is concerning. She appreciates the support of the city and the Fire and Police Chief.

CM 7-5-21 MOTION TO APPROVE PERMIT FOR PUMPKINFEST AND ROAD CLOSURES

Motion by Kurtzweil, supported by Walton

Motion to approve permit for Pumpkinfest and road closures

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Dilg- Yes

Walton- Yes

Kivell- Yes

Kennedy- Yes

Kurtzweil- Yes

Richards- Yes

Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Purchase of five (5) Motorola portable radios, accessories and program fees
Chief Vogel stated this radio project has been in the works since he has been here. He stated Oakland County has approved 40-60 million dollars in radios to Police and Fire Departments for the public safety and they have an aging system. They opened up for bid and Motorola won the bid, and Police Departments got all the portables and the Fire Departments didn't. He stated they requested 17, but we are only receiving 12. We were able to get a grant for all the accessories, but we still need to buy 5 radios. He further stated, we don't have a choice to shop price, if we want more radios, we have to buy through the county. The advantage is we don't have to worry about parts, batteries, they are guaranteed for the life of the radios. Councilmember Kivell asked what the expected lifespan is. Chief Vogel stated they are promising a 20-year battery life. He stated other communities use Motorola and he is happy we are switching, currently he can't speak to Livingston or Washtenaw County, with the new radios we can communicate with everyone around us.

CM 7-6-21 MOTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE

Motion by Kivell, supported by Kennedy

Motion to approve the purchase of five (5) Motorola radios, accessories, and programming fees for \$33,628.00 for 101-335-977 Equipment Purchases from Motorola

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Walton- Yes

Dilg- Yes

Kurtzweil- Yes

Kivell- Yes

Kennedy- Yes

Richards- Yes

Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Purchase of 2021 Ford F150

Chief Vogel stated when he arrived her a few years ago, everyone said we need a pick-up truck, for things such as training, moving things for Pumpkinfest fire scene transportation and equipment. He said he is very happy with the cost he was able to get quoted, we have a good salesman we are working with.

CM 7-7-21 APPROVAL OF PURCHASE

Motion by Kurtzweil, supported by Dilg

Motion to approve a 2021 Ford F150 from Signature Ford for \$28,833.00 from 101-335-978

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Dilg- Yes

Walton- Yes

Kivell- Yes

Kennedy- Yes

Kurtzweil- Yes

Richards- Yes

Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUDGET- No conversation was held

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ryan Lare of 716 Grand Court thanked Chief Vogel for his work on getting the radios, and he then thanked Kathy Swann for all her work on Pumpkinfest. He then stated he had several residents mention the beer tent and the pyramid, and as he explained to them, they weren't easy decisions for her to make and we need to be thankful for what we will have now that we are moving in the right direction. He encourages everyone to attend Pumpkinfest and have a great time. He stated he agrees with Mayor Pelchat about the roads. He then stated the South Lyon Police and Fire Department joined his webpage. He stated he does a weekly address and he will be happy to share the information on the roads. We have a great team and he hopes Council stays as they are during the Election.

MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Zelenak stated at a future meeting we will be bringing before Council the purchase of new broadcasting equipment in the council chambers. Also, at another meeting we will be bringing the approval of CIB Planning and Marc Russell to prepare the updated parks and recreation master plan. We will be having movie nights in the park and we are working with SLARA to discuss having some kind of concessions during the concerts in the park as well as the movies in the park. He then stated we will be publicizing the RFQ on our website as well as social media for 318 W Lake Street and they will be ready by August 1st. City Manager Zelenak stated as long as the artists and building owners follow the mural ordinance, the city will not be approving the art. If they get a grant through the DDA, or the Cultural Arts Commission, they will also follow the guidelines. There won't be one person deciding what murals go up. Councilmember Walton asked who is in charge of the monument committee. City Manager Zelenak stated we have a Veteran's Committee which is a group of people that have been involved. Councilmember Walton stated we want the First Responders Bell updated and she thought that was discussed before. Chief Sovik stated he is meeting with them this Thursday at 10:00.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Richards stated the historical depot had 14 visitors the other day and some were children. He then stated the historical society meeting is this Wednesday and that will be a permanent change to 10:30 a.m. this is a major change in time. He said the first concert in the park will be the 16th of July and the gazebo is ready. He then said they need volunteers for Depot Day and the theme will be honoring first responders. He then said tube mill business lookout has stabilized and their fiscal year ends in October, and they are looking to hire 35 more individuals. Other labor details have been worked out. The shorter than normal shut down they had was a success. Instead of 2 weeks it was 6 days. The most important items were completed. There will be work being done by the bike path down to Dixboro. He then stated they will remove brush and identify trees. This is not the drain clean up, this is along the bike path. He then stated the DPW scored a victory, he was paying attention to the bike path from Lake Street to the Knolls, there were potential hazards that he spoke with administration and they got it. They eliminated the hazard and did a better job than he could have done himself. It is much safer.

Councilmember Kennedy reminded everyone that the Concerts at the Historical Village will resume on Friday, July 16th from 7:00pm until 8:30pm. This Friday will feature Gemini, a group that has performed for many years at that event in South Lyon. In addition, on Friday, July 23rd, the concert will feature Bill Bynum & Co., another long-time performer for the South Lyon Concert series. So, make plans to attend the concerts on the upcoming Friday nights at 7:00pm and have a great time.

Councilmember Walton stated the free summer lunch program served on Tuesdays and Thursdays is back from noon to 1:00 and it resumed June 22nd. It is put on by the First United Methodist Church and we have Inkwell Tattoo will be opening on July 20th. She then applauded Brownie Troup 769894; the girls worked hard to put together baskets for Active Faith to give out to the local residents. Dayna Johnston did some face painting at that event, then gave her donations to Active Faith.

Councilmember Dilg stated she has been on vacation, but she thanked the South Lyon Proud Campaign for putting on a safe and great event at McHattie Park over the weekend and it went very well. She then thanked the Police for monitoring the event and it all went off very well. She then gave Councilmember Kennedy a shout out for his 50th wedding anniversary.

Councilmember Kivell stated he went to the tavern and had a normal night and it was nice seeing the neighbors out and it is nice to see we are getting back to some normalcy. He hopes we can get more people coming downtown and not to be afraid to get out in downtown. Obviously if you're not vaccinated, you may want to wear a mask, but everyone should use their common sense.

Councilmember Kurtzweil thanked everyone that supported the Operation Injured Soldier event in Lyon Township, which is a yearly event and thanks to everyone that fought for our freedom and that maybe came back with some debilitating injuries. She then said she printed off 250 flyers for the big Cruise-In event on July 31st and she found an art fair in Plymouth and it was packed and she left some there as well as the Wyandotte Street fair which was packed. She said there were people everywhere and she ran into people from all over the state of Michigan. She then thanked everyone for supporting the arts. She then thanked the South Lyon Hotel for the new employees and she thanked them for entering the job market in our city. She then stated she met with some people at Peter's True Value and they have some new employees as well. She asked everyone to stop using Amazon and use local small businesses.

Mayor Pelchat reminded everyone of the American Legion Golf Outing on July 24th and the deadline has passed, but if you reach out to him or to the American Legion, they will help you get involved. Proceeds are used to support members of the families. Mayor Pelchat stated he had a lot of families ask about the South Lyon Veterans Memorial rock foundation, and they will start that up again. If anyone interested,

you can contact the South Lyon VFW. He then stated everyone should get out and enjoy the weather and enjoy the farmers market as well as the upcoming events in our town.

CLOSED SESSION- closed session under MCL15.268© of the OMA for strategy and negotiation discussion connected with the negotiations of a collective bargaining agreement.

CM 7-8-21 MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Kurtzweil, supported by Kennedy

Motion to enter into closed session under MCL15.268© of the OMA for strategy and negotiation discussion connected with the negotiations of a collective bargaining agreement at 9:28 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Kurtzweil- Yes

Dilg- Yes

Walton- Yes

Kivell- Yes

Kennedy- Yes

Richards- Yes

Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council reconvened the regular Council meeting at 9:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

CM 7-9-21 MOTION TO ADJOURN

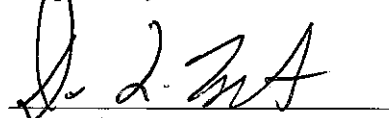
Motion by Kurtzweil, supported by Walton

Motion to adjourn at 9:55 p.m.

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,



Dan Pelchat, Mayor



Lisa Deaton, Clerk/Treasurer