

City of South Lyon  
Regular City Council Meeting  
September 13, 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 Gregory MI, and Kivell joined the meeting from South Lyon MI

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

MINUTES

Councilmember Kivell stated the words “especially for seniors and those crossing with children” should be added to the last sentence in the first paragraph on page 3. Councilmember Kennedy stated on page 2, the word “not” needs to be added in the sentence when Mr. Mack stated there would be a huge Christmas tree this year.

9-1-21- MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Kivell

Motion to approve the minutes as amended

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BILLS

Councilmember Kivell questioned the check for \$4,680 for new computers. Finance and Benefit Administrator Tiernan stated that was for replacement of multiple computers and software.

CM 9-2-21 MOTION TO APPROVE BILLS

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Kivell

Motion to approve the bills as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

AGENDA

CM 9-3-21 MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA

Motion by Walton, supported by Kivell

Motion to approve the agenda as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Resignation of Amelia Yunker from Cultural Arts Commission

CM 9-4-21 MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kurtzweil, supported by Walton

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PUBLIC COMMENT- None

DISCUSSION- Downtown

9-13-2021

Downtown Development Director Mack stated the food truck event was a success and there was about 400-500 people that attended and the vendors are interested in returning if we have another event. He stated there were no issues with people taking alcohol outside of the area. He then thanked the DPW for their help with moving all the picnic tables to the area and thanked the Police Department as well. He then stated the DDA met on Wednesday last week and discussed the Cool Yule, Downtown Trick or Treating and Ladies night events. They also discussed the Farmers Market Manager position and a potential partnership with SLARA, but he is hopeful we can come to an agreement that will benefit both parties. Mr. Mack stated the propane heaters and potentially the green houses will be used for Cool Yule. Councilmember Dilg stated she enjoyed the food truck rally and if we have it again on a non-holiday weekend, more people would attend. She then asked for details about Downtown Trick or Treating and Ladies Night Out. Mr. Mack stated he is making application to have the roads closed for Ladies Night from Whipple to Lake Street, and maybe some picnic tables and heaters. He said the Downtown Trick or Treating will be similar in the past and will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October.

### FIRE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Vogel stated we had a busy weekend and provided football coverage at the high school and the team won again. We participated in Depot Day and were honored to receive a plaque from Larry Ledbetter in the Historical Society. He also did a wonderful prayer for the troops and it was very well received. He then stated on Sunday they participated in a motorcycle rally at the VFW which was well received. Chief Vogel stated we received some wonderful news last week; we received the FEMA grant for the SCBA's that we applied for in January for over \$200,000 is really exciting. We also received the grant for the turnout gear and hopefully we will have enough gear that we shouldn't have to ask for a couple of years. Chief Vogel thanked all the Councilmembers and Mayor for the support given to himself and the Fire Department. He enjoyed working with everyone in trying to keep our citizens and firefighters safe and he is proud of our work. We have worked as an excellent team and he will miss everyone and their support. He thanked the city hall employees, DPW and the Police Department. Chief Sovik has been so helpful. He thanked Patricia, Judy, Lisa and Carol and said he is grateful and thankful and he has enjoyed his time at the city. Mayor Pelchat thanked Chief Vogel for his commitment to our city. He further stated on Saturday he spent some time with some veterans and he wanted to let Chief know how appreciative they were for the flag in town in honor of September 11<sup>th</sup> every year. Chief Vogel said the crew did a really good job but unfortunately the ladder came down and put a hole in the parking lot. He let Varney know and it will be fixed. Councilmember Kivell thanked Chief Vogel for always searching out grants. Everyone is very grateful to you for keeping us from having to pull money from our own resources as much as possible. He further stated he will be missed and it will be hard to find someone of his caliber to replace him and he wished him the best. Chief Vogel thanked him and stated in 3 ½ years, it puts us at about \$500,000 in grant money. Councilmember Kurtzweil thanked him for transitioning the city from the old city to the new city. His role in moving the fire department forward with professional management and strategies is something the city had been lacking. She further stated the commitment he made reflects the top-notch department that we have today, and we have a ladder truck coming soon, and other programs he put in place have been great. Chief Vogel thanked her for all their actions with the welcoming letters to the new staff. Councilmember Walton thanked him for all the support he has given to his female staff and he has done wonders bringing the female staff up in their roles and keeping them going and helping them move forward. Chief Vogel stated it is wonderful and Chief Kennedy laid the ground work for this department to being a very open department and we have 3% minorities and 8 females and she is proud of our staff. Councilmember Kennedy stated he will miss working with him on the different programs they worked on together and he is thankful he reached out to get us involved in the programs such as the smoke detectors and LUKAS devices. He stated he enjoyed working with him and he is thankful he was able to work on the oral review board. That was a great

learning experience for him and he wished Chief Vogel and his family well. Chief Vogel will always miss their conversations and he again thanked everyone for their support.

#### POLICE CHIEF REPORT

Chief Sovik stated it has been great to work with Chief Vogel and the working relationship between Police and Fire have never been better or solid. He stated he will miss him. Chief Vogel stated the last 18 months were very challenging and he will always miss his talks with Chief Sovik.

Chief Sovik stated the in-house camera and the outside surveillance cameras work great, there is a total of 12. The Comcast phone system and internet is working great even during the power outage. He thanked Briann for all her work on the project. He then stated he submitted two grants, one is 50% reimbursement for the accreditation software and the leadership training. He then stated we are looking at \$3,500 reimbursement for the Tasers as well. He further stated we are looking at approximately \$13,000 in grants for reimbursements. The generator has been ordered. He then thanked Daryl Dix from Healy Homes and Rose Excavation for donating their resources and time for sprucing up the Police Department and they got it done in a couple of hours and it looks great. He also thanked Larry Ledbetter and the Historical Society for the plaque that was given to the Police and Fire Departments. It was amazing they took the time during Depot Day to recognize the first responders and we are very thankful, and we thank Larry Ledbetter for all he does for the city.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS- None

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### 1. First responders' memorial presentation

Chief Sovik stated it is going to be a heavy-duty steel structure tower and it appears it will cost about \$30,000 but the cost could be lower if prices begin to go down. He stated Chief Vogel was able to get \$5,000 pledged to the memorial and we are hoping to continue that. We are hoping not to take anything out of general fund. The first responders were very happy this was going to be upgraded and be recognized for what we do. The Veteran's Memorial is top notch and amazing, he has seen others but ours is absolutely beautiful. It is going to be a lengthy process. Mayor Pelchat stated it is going to be beautiful. Councilmember Kivell stated he really likes the homage to the old city hall and that's a nice connection with our past and anything that augments the recognition that all the first responders have done through the course of this city's history will always be met with open arms. He further stated this is a nice design. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated keeping the historical look is very important especially since it will be in the historical village. She then asked if there will be corbels under the roof as there is in the original one. City Manager Zelenak stated it will be carried over. He further stated this is the conceptual plan they have come up with because it has been talked about, but we needed to get Council's approval before it becomes the final plan. We are hoping to have all this together so we can get the funds raised and have it built for next year. Mayor Pelchat stated it will look great. Councilmember Richards asked if there will be a separate committee. Chief Sovik stated it will be the same ad hoc committee that is already meeting. Councilmember Kivell asked if the committee has checked with other departments. Chief Vogel stated he has spoken with them and he has full support from Salem, Lyon and Green Oak Township.

#### CM 9-5-21 MOTION TO APPROVE FIRST RESPONDERS' MEMORIAL

Motion by Kivell, supported by Walton

Motion to support and approve the concept for the Veteran's Memorial including the first responder's bell

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Kivell- Yes

Dilg- Yes

Walton- Yes

Kurtzweil- Yes

Kennedy- Yes

Richards- Yes

Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Purchase of seven (7) X26 tasers, batteries, holsters, and cartridges

Chief Sovik stated we have to have tasers either locked up or on our person at all times. We don't have enough for each officer and many times when we are working parades or special events, as of right now, everyone doesn't have their own. He stated he is asking Council to approve the purchase of these using funds from the drug forfeiture funds. With this purchase, each officer will have their own, and they will be yellow as opposed to the black ones. There have been recent events where an officer has used their weapon as opposed to the taser after yelling taser. We just want to make sure officers are aware of that. We also want everyone to be responsible for their own taser and at the end of their shift, they will have to make sure it is secured. The money will be used from the drug forfeiture funds and he is preparing a grant to try to get \$500 back per taser.

CM 9-6-21 MOTION TO WAIVE THE BID PROCESS

Motion by Walton, supported by Kennedy

Motion to waive the bid process for the tasers and accessories

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Richards- Yes

Kennedy- Yes

Kurtzweil- Yes

Walton- Yes

Dilg- Yes

Kivell- Yes

Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CM 9-7-21 MOTION TO PURCHASE TASERS

Motion by Walton, supported by Kennedy

Motion to purchase the tasers and accessories from line item 265-000-000-964-000 in the amount of \$9,482.75

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Dilg- Yes

Kivell- Yes

Kurtzweil- Yes

Walton- Yes

Kennedy- Yes

Richards- Yes

Pelchat- Yes

3. Purchase of a new viper stryke vCam-6 HD push camera sewer inspection system

Superintendent Varney stated our current camera has reached the end of its useful life and we are asking for this purchase to be approved. It is a budgeted item. We have tested several different ones and the one from Doheny seems to be the best. Councilmember Kivell asked if we have a tv truck set up for this. Mr. Varney stated we do not and they are very expensive and we have talked about it, but this has been practical and it has worked for the city. Councilmember Richards asked if this will take some of our dependency off of HRC. Superintendent Varney stated it will not, we don't have the equipment that they do.

CM 9-8-21 MOTION TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF CAMERA

Motion by Kennedy, supported by Kurtzweil

Motion to approve the purchase of a new sewer inspection push camera system for the DPW for the amount of \$10,650.00 under line item 101-440-977

ROLL CALL VOTE:

- Kurtzweil- Yes
- Dilg- Yes
- Walton- Yes
- Richards- Yes
- Kennedy- Yes
- Kivell- Yes
- Pelchat- Yes

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

\*Councilmember Dilg left the meeting at 8:15 p.m.\*

CM 9-8-21 MOTION TO APPROVE COUNCILMEMBER DILG TO LEAVE MEETING EARLY

Motion by Kivell, supported by Walton

Motion to approve Councilmember Dilg to leave meeting early

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUDGET- No discussion was held

PUBLIC COMMENT- There was no public comment

MANAGER’S REPORT

City Manager Zelenak stated we will be bringing to Council the negotiated contract for the IUOE union. We will be setting up the upcoming meetings for the audit as well as our annual MERS presentation. He stated he provided Council with information from the Pontiac Trail drainage study along with proposals for professional services that discussed the 25 plus years of flooding along Pontiac Trail. The MML convention is coming if anyone interested let us know. He stated he is waiting for a change order from the contractor that did the work on Liberty Street so we can get the rest of the work done. This will be paid partly with a grant for \$25,000 from the local road improvement program from Oakland County. He stated we continue to be aware of the local state of emergency regarding the pandemic and we continue to meet with staff and county and state officials regarding any potential items that may be changing that affects the resident as well as everyone else in the community. He then stated we have interviews next week for the Deputy Director position and he will update Council after we go through the interview process. City Manager Zelenak stated toward the end of next week we will have all the data from the old website to the new website and the only additional information that will need to be added since August 31<sup>st</sup> and we will have a fully functional website by the end of the month. He then updated Council on the road improvement committee. He is asking if anyone has anything to bring to the committee. This committee will be informed on the road improvement plan and be a bridge between the city and its residents by communicating the program and the initiative. Councilmember Kurtzweil thanked him for being generous with his time when she has met with him to discuss some issues in the city. She then asked him to tell everyone about his past experience with road improvements. City Manager Zelenak stated he started in 1987 and he was lucky to be part of the engineering department in Rochester Hills where there was a road improvement program as well as a capital improvement plan where you got the opportunity to work with residents in developing programs whether it was through a special assessment district process or when they put a millage on the ballot. He gained a lot of experience working with the residents when it came to problems associated with the roads when they were installed. He tried to emphasize to people that there are potential worst-case scenarios and with anything from drainage problems, mail boxes being knocked down, there were constant calls because people want to know their lives won't be disrupted. He hopes that experience will help with moving this along and with the staff that we have and the potential new hire we will have, we can make this a successful program

because the residents are definitely ready for a road improvement program. That is a question that is always asked. He is looking forward to moving this project through within the upcoming years. Councilmember Kennedy asked if he has discussed with the city attorney the problems with people receiving newspapers that they didn't request. Other communities have been able to stop that from happening. City Manager Zelenak stated he has discussed this with our attorney and she mentioned there are several communities that have an ordinance in place where the individuals who are passing out the papers have to place them on their front porch so it doesn't gather as garbage in the streets. It is up to the consensus of Council if we want to move forward with an expenditure for that. He stated he hasn't received a lot of calls about this. Other communities have tried to limit it and some people that wanted it to stop was in the minority because the majority of people wanted them. City Attorney Hamameh stated Carol Rosati drafted something for the City of Wixom in which you have to sign up to get the paper and it has to be delivered to a designated area, not just tossed on the lawn. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated that is a litter ordinance, so we may have something in place. She doesn't know of many situations where that is occurring. She doesn't see that stacked up in people's driveway. You could encourage people to put up mail boxes with a separate area for the paper, rather than it being tossed in the yard. Councilmember Kennedy stated there has been a lull, but it was pretty hot and heavy this past Sunday in Oak Creek, Hunters Ridge and the residents were complaining about it. He just thinks there should be some restrictions on it. Councilmember Kivell asked if the City Manager has any concerns about finishing Liberty Street before we run out of grant money. City Manager Zelenak stated he is not concerned; it will be completed. Councilmember Kivell asked if there hasn't been updated studies on Pontiac Trail. City Manager Zelenak stated there was no other study that he could find. He stated that is why we are looking at this, and there have been some improvements on that section of road over the years, and it is important to get something up to date. He is happy we were able to convince the road commission to partake in the study. Hopefully if it is what we think it is, we can get the water resource committee involved as well. Councilmember Kivell asked if we can get the drain commission involved and if so, will it be the people receiving the benefit of this project be funding it. City Manager Zelenak stated it is premature to decide who would be funding it. We will have to meet with the drain commission to see if they will be involved. It's been there for too long and he is glad the road commission agreed to meet about this. They are the ones that will hire HRC for the new study. Councilmember Kivell stated he was upset that there might be a corridor in McMunn. The obstacle of Pontiac Trail with all the infrastructure that may have to be recreated if we made a trench in the middle of Pontiac Trail. If we were able to create something of a larger scale that could circumvent Pontiac Trail and still get from the north and south to the Yerkes Drain seems like a better plan. City Manager Zelenak stated basically studying the flows and all the permeable surface and how much goes down all the side streets, what potentially can we take off and send in different directions and still end up getting to the Yerkes Drain. That will help determine what the size of that will be, but that doesn't mean nothing will be done on Pontiac Trail, the capacity is not there for the changes of the events. It's a relief to move this forward. Councilmember Walton stated the residents can call the newspaper themselves and ask the delivery to be stopped. She stated her complex wanted to stop the deliveries of the papers, but they said each resident had to call. She then thanked City Manager Zelenak for working with the DPW to keep the lot on Dorothy Street cleared out at the construction area. She then stated the DPW has done a great job as well as Depot Day. Councilmember Kurtzweil stated she wanted to remind people that are campaigning that she has gotten complaints from residents about people leaving literature on their porch when they have a no soliciting sign on their door. People should respect the homeowners wish to not solicit and leave literature on their porch, that is the only complaint she has gotten about paper floating around. Councilmember Richards thanked the City Manager for getting the weeds cut down by the construction site on Dorothy Street. He then stated before the City Manager was here, he gave the city a plan on how to reroute the water from Lafayette Street to the 36-inch pipe drainage pipe on the west end of town that goes under the tube mill property that gets little water through it. He is glad that HRC is going to address

this again and hopefully come up with a solution for overflow and diversion. It is important we get this in place.

#### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Kivell stated he had a lot of fun at the food truck rally and it was well received and he thinks we could actually have some successful events of that kind. He stated the weather was great and Depot Day was a success. Everyone was enjoying their selves and it was nice to see the community enjoying it.

Councilmember Richards stated Depot Day was a success, the weather cooperated and we got good responses from the vendors and he spoke with them and they all want to come back next year. He hopes we can expand it and have a great turnout again. He stated since the last council meeting, he had a surgery and it was significant. Today is the 14<sup>th</sup> day since the surgery occurred and people of his age are reluctant to have a surgery when it is needed and you can't be afraid of medical science today. It is to the advantage of all seniors to forget your objections and if you need something, have it done. He then stated he is sorry the BP gas station has closed. He then stated he hopes to participate with the road improvement committee and he wants to attend the meetings. He has studied much of this and he wants to see how it progresses.

Councilmember Walton thanked Darryl Dix for the nice job that was done at the police station. She stated Active Faith is working hard to continue to serve our community and they have a note on the door that says if you need groceries and your budget's a little tight, you don't have to go without. They have a note on the door directing people to a link to make an appointment to pick up some groceries. They are being very cognizant of COVID 19, but still helping our community. She then stated it is only 14 weeks to the holiday season, and if you shop now, you can have your shopping done by shopping all the great businesses in our town and help keep them going during COVID 19.

Councilmember Kennedy stated he wanted to let everyone know that the Salem-South Lyon District Library and the Lyon Township Library are working together and holding a shredding event this Saturday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 10:00am until 1 pm at the Lyon Township Library on Milford Rd. Everyone should gather up your old documents and take them to the Lyon Township Library to be shredded. He then stated this week on Friday the 17<sup>th</sup>, the City and SLARA will be presenting the final Movie in the Park. Jumanji, the Next Level will be shown in McHattie Park starting at 9pm. So, grab the family and come to the park for an evening of family fun. He then reminded everyone that next Wednesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> will be the final Lake Street Cruise-in for this year. The event will start earlier on that Wednesday, beginning at 6pm. So, make plans now to grab dinner in town and check out all the great cars that evening. He then stated Pumpkinfest will be held on September 24-26 this year, and the Pumpkinfest Committee is in desperate need of volunteers for this year's event. If you can help in any way possible, please go to [www.southlyonpumpkinfest.com/volunteer](http://www.southlyonpumpkinfest.com/volunteer) and sign up. It takes a lot of volunteers to make this event a reality, so show that South Lyon spirit and sign up today.

Councilmember Kurtzweil thanked Amelia Yunker for her outstanding service to the Cultural Arts Commission and she congratulated her on her new journey and may she continue to be blessed with success and happiness. She then thanked Linda Ross for her commitment and leadership for another well-attended depot day event. She does such a great service for our community and we are all lucky we have her for her leadership and vision of historic preservation. She then stated she has been chatting with our residents and listening to what issues are important to them. She was in Oak Creek this past Sunday and it is clear the people in South Lyon love their mayor. She further stated he doesn't have to do too much campaigning because he has a lot of support and what comes across is how well the city has gone

through COVID 19 and they look to you and thank you for all you were doing behind the scenes and assisting the City Manager. She wants to make sure he is aware of this.

Mayor Pelchat thanked her. He stated we have a great team here and he enjoys working with everyone and that makes it easier. He then stated it can get confusing with the border with the township. Some people reached out to him about the lot at the Lyon Cantina and he spoke with the township’s Ordinance Officer and unfortunately the issue is they actually have fulfilled the ordinance by taking care of the right of way. He asked the Ordinance Officer if he could reach out to the business owner to see if they will maybe knock down some of the weeds before our events later this year. He then reminded everyone that Saturday, we are having a victory day where kids that can’t play sports, or cheer on the cheer team for whatever reason, will be able to participate in Victory Day. The kids do drills and the cheerleading team and it will make your day.

**CLOSED SESSION-: “Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268 at the request of the City Manager to conduct performance evaluation.”**

**CM 9-9-21 MOTION TO ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Walton, supported by Kennedy

Motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Section 8(a) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268 at the request of the City Manager to conduct performance evaluation

ROLL CALL VOTE:

- Walton- Yes
- Richards- Yes
- Kennedy- Yes
- Kivell- Yes
- Kurtzweil- Yes
- Pelchat- Yes

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

\*The regular City Council Meeting reconvened at 9:30p.m.\*

Mayor Pelchat asked Council to email him their recommendation for a wage increase and it will be discussed at the next meeting. City Attorney Hamameh stated it may be better for it to be discussed at the next meeting as opposed to emails. Mayor Pelchat stated we will add it to the agenda and discuss it at the next meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**CM 9-10-21 MOTION TO ADJOURN**

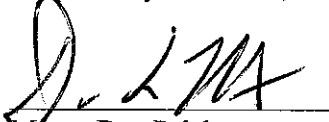
Motion by Kurtzweil

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m.

VOTE:

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mayor Dan Pelchat

  
City Clerk Lisa Deaton