A Regular Meeting of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Wednesday, January 18, 2017
opening at 7:33 p.m. Mayor Lorenz presided over the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Meskin, Zubrzycki, Dzenko, Endres, Lorenz
Absent: None
Also Present: City Manager Martin, Clerk Dryden and Attorney Schultz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Dzenko, seconded Meskin, to approve the City Council Agenda for January 18, 2017, as submitted.

Yes: All
No: None      MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Meskin, seconded Endres, to approve the following minutes, as submitted.

December 14, 2016, Organization Meeting
December 14, 2016, CDBG Public Hearing
December 14, 2016, Regular Meeting

Yes: All
No: None      MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

Moved by Meskin, seconded Dzenko, to approve the voucher report for January totaling $388,639.94, as submitted.

Dec Payroll $ 95,644.81 Check #’s 11844-11850
DD2830-DD2869
EFT1107-EFT1116
STUB74-STUB76

Accts Pay-Dec-Jan $292,995.13 Check #’s 49269-49327
EFT 1345-1346, 1353-1364 (E)

Totaling $388,639.94 ACH 1344, 1347-1352 (A)
ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Mayor Lorenz received the reports for the DPW and Police reports for December and asked that they be placed on file.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Matt Benavides reported for the Cable Communication Commission, sharing the civic center program guide is available. Also, the board adopted the Sunshine Week Resolution and urges the four communities to also adopt this.

Mayor Lorenz reported for the Park & Recreation, sharing their annual chili cookoff is February 11th starting at 7:00 p.m.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Jessica stated on Beverly it looks like they started working on the mailbox rack and now the top is missing. She asked if it will be fixed. Martin responded, they are building a new one right now and the DPW will replace it when it is complete.

Luke Cassar welcomed Jim Endres to City Council and knows he’ll do a good job for the city.

Helen Jane Peters shared how surveys were measured back in 1815 with a 60’ chain measured in lengths, which she had with her. They surveyed our area in 1817. Again, she shared a map from 1913 that shows the four townships come together, which is behind the second or third house on Avondale/Pontiac. At the DTE property she has tied a red ribbon on one of the bushes there and down below it is a stake in the ground. They are going to make a copy of this map and make a sign with the historical information about these four townships.

Eric Wiegand shared he found in his house papers dating back to 1824 talking about table of measures being 1 lengths is 7.92” and 100 lengths is one chain.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Martin stated it nice to see a lot people here and wished a Happy New Year.
Trash Collection
Trash collection is Thursday. Rizzo’s web site said trash was going to be delay one day due to MLK holiday. However, when Dennise called Rizzo, they said that was only for Detroit.

Streets
It has been an interesting winter with a little bit of snow and now ice. With the ice recently, it does give us a good indication of how important adequate drainage is and it shows what it would be like if you had more impervious surface if there was more concrete or asphalt. Because all the grass that was frozen became imperious surface, nothing was going anywhere. We really didn’t have a lot of rain, which we were very lucky. If there had been more ice then that could mean power outages and people could have had water in their basements because sump pumps wouldn’t have worked.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Endres shared the city lost a great citizen today, Helen McAllister. She was a fellow gardener with the Garden Club and very active in the city.

Zubrzycki welcomed and thanked everyone for coming. He noted the Parks & Recreation Euchre Tournament and Chili Cookoff is a great event. February 10th the West Bloomfield School Education Foundation is holding Casino Night at the Edgewood Country Club. There will be a silent auction and you can get more information and tickets at WBEF website. Zubrzycki agreed Helen McAllister will be missed. He invited everyone to stop into the new City Hall. It was City Manager John Martin’s vision come to life. It looks great.

Meskin welcomed everyone and was sad to hear about Helen McAllister.

Dzenko thanked everyone for attending and agreed Helen McAllister will be greatly missed. He asked to have unsolicited advertisements thrown in the driveway, put on the study session agenda.

Lorenz thanked Zubrzycki for mentioning the completion of City Hall. He explained City Hall and Police Department are separated and it is a safe and secure environment for the employees and everyone who comes into City Hall. The Police have moved downstairs. This is more professional and should have been done 20 years ago.

O-001-17
Lorenz commented on the drone comment which was brought up at the regular meeting. He has done some research on this and found the FAA regulates these and the FAA has asked communities and States to stay out of regulating them. Only laws on the books he could find is you can’t use them to help hunt animals and people can’t harass hunters with drones. He wants to keep an eye on this because he doesn’t believe it is a good idea flying drones around the lake and beach, but once a drone is above Sylvan Lake there isn’t anything City Council can do about it. The only thing required is they have to have a line of site on the drone and a certificate showing it is registered with the FAA.
Lorenz shared information on dormant bank accounts. Banks give away money that has been sitting in an account without any activity for two years. This money goes to the State. So, keep your account active even if only do once every two years because getting your money back from the State can be a real hard process.

**ACTION ITEMS**

a. Appointment of Board of Review  
   Mayor Lorenz stated he is appointing Megan Zumbach to a two-year term to expire January 31, 2019 and Gerry Nechal to a three-year term to expire January 31, 2020.

   Moved by Dzenko, seconded Meskin, to approve the Mayor’s Appointments to the Board of Review as he stated.

   Yes:  All  
   No:   None

   **MOTION CARRIED**

b. Appointment of Dock Committee Members  

   Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Endres, to confirm Mayor Lorenz appointments to the Boat Dock Committee as he stated.

   Yes:   All  
   No:    None

   **MOTION CARRIED**

c. Appointment of Parks & Recreation Committee Members  
   Mayor Lorenz noted there is still one opening vacant as there was not enough interest. Mayor Lorenz stated he is appointing Patrick Runk, Terri Etter, Patty Harrop, Danica Cousens, Larry Jack and Susan Pontack to the Parks & Recreation Committee for 2017.

   Moved by Endres, seconded Zubrzycki, to confirm Mayor Lorenz’s appointment of members to the Parks & Recreation Committee as he stated.
Endres shared he attended the last Parks & Recreation meeting and discussed having concerts in the park and they are all for it. It would be nice for the city. Lorenz thanked all the people on this committee for all the work they do. It is valuable and is part of what makes the city.

d. Proposed Water/Sewer Rates

Martin made a presentation on the water/sewer funds and how rates are calculated. He explained the change in rates won’t take effect until the August billing. This increase does not take into effect the loan that was made to the Sewer Department from the General fund. This will be discussed at the next study session.

Martin noted we do not and cannot use any enterprise fund revenue (water and sewer funds in this case) for anything other than expenditures in those funds. He stated there has been much informal discussion about utilizing General Fund Tax Dollars to subsidize the water and sewer departments. At the last Study Session, it was decided that formal discussion will begin in March with a presentation on funding at the Budget Public Hearing in May. He also is working on a more detailed presentation for the water/sewer funds including how the system works and is paid for, cost for infrastructure maintenance and improvements, and why the cost will continue to rise and why it is a fantastic deal.

He summarized the water base fee will increase $1.90 and no increase to the usage fee. The sewer base fee will remain the same and decrease the usage fee by .85/per 1000 gallons. The net change in water sewer bills will be a reduction for anybody that uses more than 3,000 gallons of water a quarter. Irrigation meter fees will see no change because they don’t pay a quarterly fee for water and the sewer reduction won’t affect them.

Larry Jack thanked City Manager Martin and City Council for being more diligent in notifying the residents. He shared an issue he has been having with his water meter with getting a correct reading.

Meskin questioned if the residents on James K are billed for water and the city pays someone. Martin explained Pontiac is their water and sewer system and Pontiac bills them directly. Meskin asked about Woodrow Wilson and the homes around there. He believes we bill them and the city pay someone else. Does that equal out? Martin stated it is close. He further explained the city supplies them with water and the sewer goes into the West Bloomfield system. Meskin asked how many residents have a second meter. Martin reviewed his presentation showed it was 37 that have an irrigation meter.
Larry Jack stated he is discouraged that people are not attending this meeting. He would like to see this on cable. He would like the decision to televise meetings made before the budget presentation in May. Lorenz stated this is on the agenda today. Martin added he has already spoken with cable and they will do the two presentations even if the meetings are not televised.

Zubrzycki announced budget discussions start in March and everyone should come to understand it. Also, he found the City of Birmingham has interesting tidbits to read. Their residents have the same kinds of questions. There site explains the GLWA has a lot of fixed cost and increased the fixed charges. You can also see their rate comparison too. Sylvan Lake is right in line for what we are charging for water and sewer. Bloomfield Twp was also good. Zubrzycki reviewed a comment Martin shared previously, because Sylvan is a small community we pay more with that fix cost than a larger community because they can spread it out to more residents. More of this will be discussed in March.

Dzenko stated overall for residents this is a net savings.

Meskin stated a spreadsheet was posted showing samples of usage and how much saved in the last column. This was sent out January 10th.

Lorenz shared with Sylvan Lake being a small city, the City Manager wears many hats and Martin is our certified water distribution operator. Lorenz explained this is a State requirement to have, which saves the city a lot of money, without him the city would have to contract this out and it would be more expensive. He thanked Martin for wearing his many hats of City Manager, Police Chief, DPW Superintendent and Water Distribution Operator.

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Dzenko, to adopt the water rate resolution slightly increasing the quarterly base fee and sewer rate resolution reducing the per unit fee as presented.

Yes: Dzenko, Endres, Lorenz, Meskin, Zubrzycki
No: None

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

e. Resolution Supporting Sunshine Week R2-002-17

Martin explained Sunshine Week is in March and it shows our support of having our meetings open and posted in accordance with the law, minutes accessible and going above and beyond the legal requirements to get information to our residents.

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Endres, to adopt the resolution supporting sunshine week.

Yes: Endres, Lorenz, Meskin, Zubrzycki, Dzenko
No: None
RESOLUTION ADOPTED

f. Televising Meetings

Endres stated he promised to have numbers for City Council, but due to the holidays and some out sick he was unable to get this. He would like to table for one more month. He will have information for the study session on the 24th.

Moved by Endres, seconded Zubrzycki, to table this item.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

Nicole Menuck provided some reasons why she doesn’t like televising meetings. It changes the mood in the room. People won’t want to speak with a camera on them; some may be intimidated. They are already not comfortable talking in front of everyone, now adding a camera to it. Many things have been said here. She noted many things have been said here that were foot-in-mouth moments and not everything should be on camera. Also, not everyone has cable; she has DirecTV. Study sessions are where a lot of discussion happens. These would need to be televised also if they are going to televise meetings. There are minutes online for everyone to read. She feels it is $1200 that could be spent elsewhere. She is all for special presentations such as the water/sewer, but also feels a better way people view a video is on YouTube. It can be live or recorded and linked on the city website.

Pete Peters stated he has a real problem with hearing what everyone is saying. He asked if the audio will be better with videoing. Endres stated there will be a sound system and mixer. He agrees he had trouble too hearing when he sat in the audience. Meskin asked if the price of the speakers will be included. Endres stated it will.

Eric Wiegand stated he has been in film all of his life. If residents aren’t coming to the meeting there won’t be a lot watching it on cable. Do you have any research on this?

Lorenz explained the cost and who will pay for this. The city gets revenue from the cable company which goes into a fund for public education for governments. He believes that balance is around $29,000. No money will come out of the city’s general fund. In terms of the number of people who are going to watch this he is not sure. He has mixed feelings about this, but feels good being able to allow those who can’t or unable to attend. Give them the opportunity to watch. He is not really a fan of televising the meetings, but he would like to see the presentations documented and put online to view.

Luke Cassar stated there was a good comment about not all have cable. What percent have cable? Lorenz replied you can always stream it online.
Meskin stated he watched Keego’s meeting and noted the video/cameras are skillfully done. They are not in anybody’s face; they are mounted on the wall.

Endres shared his phone and email is on the city website and if anyone wants to contact him to talk he would be happy to talk. He added the curtain for the tables, and podium, which he volunteered to pay for, but Martin said the city should have these anyways.

g. Weed Control  L1-002-17

Martin review the current payment amount and what Phil Thomas, Sylvan-Otter Association, would like to see. He noted Sylvan is the only community that collects a fee to send to the Association.

   Moved by Meskin, seconded Dzenko, to table discussion to study session. He wants to know how much is spent and needed.

   Yes:  Meskin
   No:   Zubrzycki, Dzenko, Endres, Lorenz

   MOTION FAILED

Endres would like to hear what Thomas has to say. He feels the lake is the heart of the city and they need to take care of it.

Zubrzycki recalled Phil Thomas making a presentation to them already. He believes this is good to do. Something can be put on cable and on the city website about donating additional money. He feels they should be thankful Thomas does this. He noted at the study session they discussed increasing the amount based on the number of docks from $35 to $50 and he would be ok with that.

Dzenko explained this won’t impact the boat dock fee or other tags, keys.

Martin added, on Council’s spreadsheet, which they have in their packet, it shows Phil Thomas’ report of how much they took in donations and how much they spent. In his presentation that he made back a couple months ago, he requested another $15,000 that would be helpful to treat the lake. Meskin asked if this does the whole lake. Zubrzycki recalled Thomas stating they treat only those sections that donate.

Jim Smith feels the comment of comparison that no other community is contributing or collecting is off base. Sylvan Lake is unique with all its parks, 150 dock spaces and launch access.

Luke Cassar stated he brought Phil Thomas to a meeting. He did answer all these questions. He works diligently and is very strategic in what he does. money collected from other households from
other communities is 2/3 greater than what Sylvan Lake collects and donates. He looks at each area separately and spray by what is needed.

Nicole Menuck asked what homeowner’s association are contributing.

Gavin Marshall suggested having Phil Thomas looking into using paypal to make it easier for people to donate.

Zubrzycki stated they are only discussing a $2,000 increase. He is not sure what Meskin is thinking. Meskin doesn’t want to give more than needed or maybe it should be more. Zubrzycki recommended the increase based on $50 per dock space, which would total $8750. They can always increase or decrease it later. Dzenko recalled they were discussing a total dollar amount such as $10,000- $15,000.

Moved by Endres, seconded Zubrzycki, to annually donation $9,000 to the Sylvan Otter Association for weed control.

Yes: Lorenz, Meskin, Zubrzycki, Dzenko, Endres
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

NON-ACTION ITEMS

a. ROW Policy – Parking direction, maintaining gravel spaces, material
b. Boat Dock Policy
c. Security for Ferndale Park, Restroom and Boat Launch
d. Fire Department
e. Seawall – Replace section of Ferndale wall

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Dzenko, seconded Zubrzycki, to adjourn the regular City Council Meeting.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.

Dennise Dryden, City Clerk