

A Regular Meeting of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Wednesday, June 20, 2016; opening at 7:33 p.m. Mayor Dzenko presided over the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Dzenko, Lorenz (8:00 p.m.), Meskin, Zubrzycki, Cassar

Absent: None

Also Present: City Manager Martin, Clerk Dryden and Attorney Schultz

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Cassar, seconded Meskin, to approve the City Council Agenda for July 20, 2016, as submitted.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meskin requested the minutes corrected on page 5, item D. He doesn't recall this discussion or voting on it because he would have voted against it. So he would like his vote to reflect "no".

Moved by Meskin, seconded Cassar, to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 1, 2016, as amended.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

Moved by Meskin, seconded Cassar, to approve the voucher report for June totaling \$413,864.54, as submitted.

June Payroll	\$ 94,636.98	Check #'s	11808-11815 DD2648-DD2696 EFT1061-EFT1070 STUB68-STUB70
Accts Pay-May-June	<u>\$319,227.56</u>	Check #'s	48903-48967
		EFT	1206-1208, 1216-1229 (E)
Totaling	\$413,864.54	ACH	1210-1215 (A)

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

### ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Meskin noted the total hours weren't added for the SAW Grant activity on the April, May and June DPW report.

Mayor Dzenko received the DPW reports for April, May and June; the Police reports for May and June; and they Attorney's report for June and asked that they be placed on file.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Dzenko read Jim Endres report. The March Board of Review was on 7/19/16 to make administrative corrections. Megan Zumbach was elected Chairperson of the committee. Planning Commission has new Chairperson and Endres will leave it to him to make a report. The Greater West Bloomfield Cable Communication Committee- City Council members missed a great meeting. Endres will update the Council at the next meeting.

Martin stated the Planning Commission minutes are on file at City Hall and posted on the website.

#### **FR-001-16**

Eric Wiegand reported for the Home and Garden Tour. The tour had fewer people but everyone enjoyed it. They made around \$10,200 and have around \$13,000 in their account. Dzenko added he was a driver for the tour, which he really enjoyed and he got instant feedback. Everyone thought the tour was really nice and were impressed with how organized it is. Meskin thanked the drivers Mike Schwanitz, Alex James, Jim Schafer, Bob Dzenko and Paul Foytack. Helen Jane Peters also included Cindy Hannah in thanking her for being the Chairman of Home and Garden Tour. She did a great job.

### BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Neil Friedman stated he is happy to report the park rangers are enforcing the rules at the beach. There are still issues with golf carts and motorcycles going between the gates and people opening the gates, but when the park rangers are there they are enforcing the no open rule. Friedman would like to get a City flag. Martin stated the City used to have one. He asked Friedman to get with him so they can get more. Friedman would like to get three, one at City Hall, Community Center and Memorial Park. Lastly Friedman noted the cost for installing an irrigation meter is double of what was estimated. He paid \$515 for 1" meter. Also Bloomfield Twp. is closed on Friday. Martin stated the estimated given early this year was for a 5/8" meter, \$300. A 1" meter doesn't do any good if the pipe isn't 1".

Jim Smith noted in the West Bloomfield Beacon this week they reported Keego Harbor was raising the water and sewer rates. So Orchard Lake and Keego Harbor now have followed suit in raising rates. He also stated in the paper was a photo of the new senior facility and quantity of water they will be using. Which brought to Smith's mind paying for Fire services. It is currently divided equally between the three communities, Sylvan Lake, Keego Harbor and Orchard Lake. With this facility requiring more runs and more cost. The shared cost is totally outdated; which City Council has been saying.

Helen Jane Peters discussed Whitfield School's history and digitizing it. She has cornerstone ledgers from 1851. She would like to see these scanned to preserve them. She asked what the procedure is to pay for this. Dzenko asked her to get an estimate and provide it to Martin and then City Council can discuss it at a meeting. Peters is planning a City celebration for the discovery of this area and putting it on a map 200 years ago. Also the "Mary Had a Little Lamb" portrait has been restored and she wants to get it framed. She asked if City Hall was ready to have it hung. Martin asked her to contact him to discuss as this is not a City Council issue. Peters noted Sylvan Lake is in Waterford and West Bloomfield Townships, but the four townships come together right at Stone Soap, Pontiac, Bloomfield Twp., West Bloomfield, and Waterford Twp. and she would like to put a marker out there to say this is the center point of the four communities. She would like City Council to discuss this. Whitfield School Class Reunion is August 7<sup>th</sup> at the Spirit of Grace Church (which used to be Sylvan Lake Lutheran), from 1-4 p.m.

Eric Wiegand asked if the city did its research before increasing the water/sewer rates. Keego Harbor says their typical bill will only increase \$7. He asked if they have been increasing their bills all along where Sylvan Lake didn't. Martin stated he didn't know how often they increased their rates. Keego Harbor and Orchard Lake both opted to go with Oakland County Water Resources many years ago while Sylvan Lake wanted to maintain their own system. So Sylvan Lake has to cover cost for maintenance of the system, running the departments and purchasing water and sewer.

Wiegand also questioned the \$185 increase for trash pickup. Mayor Dzenko explained it is not an increase. They changed how it is being paid. He further explained the contract for trash collection is now divided equally between households and the balance of the garbage and rubbish fund is paid by taxable value. The \$185 will be on the winter tax bill.

Wiegand stated he received a ticket for building a deck without a permit. His contractor told him he didn't need a permit. He stated he still doesn't have a permit from Bloomfield Twp. Bloomfield said it took Sylvan Lake two weeks to issue the zoning permit. Martin stated it didn't take Sylvan Lake two weeks and Wiegand was given the zoning permit. Martin doesn't know how long a permit takes with Bloomfield Twp.

Graham Cousens expressed his gratitude to the Director and Police Department for the work they do. Pete Peters seconded that and stated that everyone should be stopping the officers and personally thanking them. He has done this.

## CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

### Fireworks

For those of you that were out of town for the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, you missed another beautiful fireworks display hosted by the Oakland County Boat Club. It was a gorgeous evening, the crowd was smaller than usual and subdued and there were only very minor incidents not even worth mentioning so overall a great time. The annual fireworks are a wonderful longstanding tradition here and a fun family event.

### Events

The Family Fun Day, Movie night and plant exchange that were held in June went very well and they were very well attended. Thank you Sylvan Lake Police Department, Parks and Rec and Garden Club. The Home and Garden Tour was very successful and he heard only nice things about it. The annual Ice Cream Social hosted by the Sylvan Lake Garden Club will be August 18<sup>th</sup> and is another long standing community event for all ages. Martin is sure they would be grateful for any help in the form of volunteers at the event. We will mention it at the next Council meeting too.

### Election

The Primary Election will be August 2<sup>nd</sup> to select the Republican or Democratic candidates to be on the November ballot. This is for Federal, State and County primaries and also the zoo millage renewal. August 2 is also the last day to turn in signed petitions for City Council by 4:00 p.m.

### Street Repairs

There is a long list of asphalt repairs. He gave the list to Midwest Paving to get a quote. The list is not as big as last time. They will review it and let us know if there is an area that can last longer, no sense in repairing if it can last. Martin will bring the proposal to City Council once he receives it.

### City Hall Construction

**A-009-16**

City Hall was going great. We ran a little higher on cost this year due to a few unforeseen things, the networking being one of them. The line item will be over budget, but the department is not. Other things like having to totally remove the plaster and metal lath and all new electrical were a couple of the big items. We will hold an open house this fall so everybody can come and see the new building. It is very safe and professional.

Lorenz came into the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

### Water Bills

**U-001-16**

Water bills will be mailed soon and this is a reminder that the rate increase approved in January will be in effect. Also, since the water rate increase was approved in January, the City received another increase of a little over 4% from GLWA (Great Lakes Water Authority) that was not calculated into our rate increase. At the meeting in January and again at the budget public hearing in May, some

contradictory questions and statements were made by attendees in the audience. The question of why the rates went up so much a year ago was explained – dealing with Detroit Water, contracts, etc. and then dealing with Pontiac Sewer department. The rates hadn't been increased in 8 years, etc. The argument was made that they should have been increased every year, not wait and do it all at once. City Council listened and agreed that would be the case. Revenue and expenditures would be reviewed annually and appropriate rate adjustments made in January to go into effect in July. When City Council approved the rate increase in January, the next question was, "you just raised the rates last year and now you're going to again?" You should expect the water and sewer rates to increase annually. We have a water and sewer system that are both over 60 years old. We have made many improvements to the system to enable us to provide reliable and safe drinking water and fire protection. It is City Council's duty to do that and they will continue.

Police and Globally What is Happening

**P1-003-16**

We cannot stop thinking about the war that is going on in our nation now. People don't want to use that term, but that is what it is. Right now Police officers are forced to play only defense in a one-sided war they not only cannot win, but cannot fight. The officers will keep doing what they do, protect the good from the bad, try to deter and stop crime, enforce laws, wave at residents, open and close gates and take barking dog complaints. It used to be their badge was a symbol of honor, courage and justice and now it is a target to some. Unfortunately, that feeling of animosity carries over into how City Hall employees are treated too. Once again, Martin doesn't want it to sound like nobody is nice anymore because there are a lot that are, but there is an ever increasing amount of people that are beyond rude. There have been several times that either he or the officer on duty have gone to the front counter just to make sure everything is ok with our employee's because a customer is so belligerent. As an example, just the other day our officer went to the front counter because a customer was very abrasive and was greeted by the resident complaining that the officer came to the front counter, it was a waste of tax payers' money and he should be out writing tickets to speeders. That is one recent example of many. Another problem is what people feel it is a right to immediate attention and answers. Martin prays for a brighter tomorrow, but in reality he thinks it's going to be quite a while.

### COUNCIL COMMENTS

Cassar thanked everyone for being here. He thanked Martin for his comments on the Police Department and the challenges they are facing. He thanked the Home & Garden Tour Committee, and stated the fireworks were great. He suggested looking at Carrot Top for flag prices. Martin stated that is who the City uses to purchase flags. Cassar shared he heard the senior living center in Keego Harbor which will roughly generate \$300,000 for Keego Harbor in revenue. Early on he recalls hearing they were going to require them to have EMS on site. He doesn't know if this is still going to happen. He thanked Helen Jane Peters for her history of the city. He expressed it is amazing how much she knows. Lastly he stated the Garbage and Rubbish levy was unfair in the past. There were residents who only paid \$80 and others paying \$1000.

Lorenz thanked everyone for coming and paying attention to what is going on in the City. He thanked Martin for his comments on the Police Department and what is going on in our world today. Lorenz feels it is important that residents have supported our police department and City Council supports having the best little city we can have. He stated City council wants a peaceful, safe and viable place to live. It is not easy for City Council to sit at a meeting and having to increase rates and fees. To do things right it costs some money and they can't keep nickel and diming it. Lorenz thanked the volunteers and the Oakland County Boat Club who all help make the city a great place to live. He hopes future City Councils continues this philosophy in keeping the city safe and viable.

Zubrzycki echoed Lorenz' comments. He thanked Helen Jane Peters and stated he would like to see the cornerstone books. Zubrzycki thanked Graham Cousens for volunteering on Planning Commission. He shared there has been a great game of whiffle ball going on at the beach which is a lot of fun.

Meskin stated he will take Jim Smith's comments to the Tri-City Fire Board's next meeting. He shared they meet quarterly; the next meeting is in September and then January. Dzenko added he heard the build of the Magnolia Living Center was delayed because they didn't put an exit stairway in the building, so it has been put on hold until they fix this.

Dzenko expressed the fireworks were great and uneventful for police. He shared during the Home & Garden Tour he drove a woman who lived here for 50 years, but now is living in Saginaw; she just loved it. There were Pontiac residents who thought it was great. Lastly Dzenko looks forward to the Ice Cream Social.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **a. Ramp at City Hall**

**CA-006-16**

Martin stated he has two quotes for a brick/concrete ramp. The building inspector said aluminum ramps are designed for special events and temporary installation, not designed to be permanent. Martin did get one quote, which was the same price and brick/concrete. The contractor he would like to go with is a brick layer and he will also repair all the brick around the window and door, which was not included in the quote because it was overlooked.

Meskin asked if a wood ramp was considered. Martin stated it was talked about and contractors said not to go with wood and it would be better to go with new fiberglass board. A wood ramp would have to be replace every 5-6 years because of the wear and tear. Meskin feels a fancy ramp isn't needed for the number of people who would use it. He suggested putting plants in front of it. Cassar stated for the difference in cost is it not worth it.

Moved by Lorenz, seconded Cassar, to approve the construction of a brick and concrete ramp with either black aluminum or wrought iron railing as determined by the City Manager and City Attorney at a cost not to exceed \$28,000.

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

MOTION CARRIED

b. Generator at City Hall **CA-007-16**

Martin explain how he would like to get one generator which will run both buildings-City Hall/ Police Department and the DPW garage. Lorenz asked what the City currently has. Martin replied a gasoline generator. Lorenz stated so if the power is out for a day or two and gas stations don't have power, then there is no power to run the command center. He feels this is not a good thing.

Meskin asked how many blackouts required a generator in the last couple of year. Martin estimated 4-5. Meskin asked if the City could live with a gas generator in each location. Is there a law stating gas can't be stored on site? Martin stated there is no law for small quantities. He explained the DPW is only two guys and there is a lot in settling up a generator each time the power goes out. Meskin feels \$50,000 is a lot money for 4-5 power outages.

Zubrzycki stated this was budgeted for in the capital expense department. He stated he is good with it. It is like writing the check for your vacation. You enjoy the vacation, but when it comes time to writing the check it is never easy. We are running a business, not a house. Dzenko recalls it being on the capital expense list for at least four years.

Jim Smith is in favor of it. It will power the Police Department which you don't want interrupted power. Cassar added surges are not good for the computers either. Martin stated they do have battery backups on some of the computers because there are so many surges, but they only last 5 minutes on the battery backup.

Meskin asked if they could get two natural gas generators. Martin stated they could but the two they got for the pumping stations ran \$22,000 and \$23,000. We can't use a Home Depot type generator.

Moved by Lorenz, seconded Cassar, to approve the installation of a generator for the City Hall and DPW garage at a cost not to exceed \$50,000 allowing the City Manager and City Attorney to review and execute the agreement.

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

MOTION CARRIED

c. Discussion – Golf Carts

**P1-004-16**

Martin reviewed currently the City is telling residents golf carts are not allowed. He stated Council received a copy of the vehicle code which Attorney Schultz provided. Schultz explained in 2010 the code changed saying cities having a population of fewer than 30,000 population may by resolution allow the operation of golf carts on the streets subject to the requirements.

Martin stated they can go either way. The pros are they are electric and cheaper, economical, fun and we are a small, lake community; the cons: safety, people are not as careful, they have a different mindset when using them. Martin stated this is for City Council to think about. They can discuss at the next meeting if they are interested in moving forward with this.

Dzenko reviewed the current law is no unmodified carts allowed unless approved by the State and now the City can allow by resolution, subject to statutory regulations such as turn signals, 15 mph, etc. Schultz added City Council can add into the resolution more of what they would like to have, seat belts, rear view mirrors, etc.

Neil Friedman stated if you make street legal they are not a golf cart anymore. Schultz stated they are a low speed vehicle.

City Council agreed to continue discussion on this at the next meeting. Schultz added Council can also designate to only allow them on certain streets.

d. Discussion – Lake Weed Control

**L1-003-16**

Cassar read from the Sylvan-Otter newsletter suggested donations they are requesting: \$75 lakefront, canal homes or boat owner, and \$25 for beach privileges. Martin explained currently the city collects fees with boat docks, park tag and ramp keys. The sheet provided shows the break down with each. A year ago Phil Thomas requested our fees be increased. Martin suggested setting a set amount for the city to pay instead of a fee. It is cleaner this way.

Lorenz suggested they put this on the next study session agenda to discuss.

e. Discussion – Temporary Garage for Boat Storage

**O-004-16**

Martin stated a resident brought this to his attention who has a boat and space in our RVA. You can purchase a temporary structure somewhat inexpensively that could be used for the winter and store your boat in the back yard. We currently would not allow that. The cons are regulating it, neighbor complaints and general appearance. The pros are for the property owner, saving money on shrink wrapping the boat or RV and storing it in your yard.

Dzenko stated then we would have to require them to take it down in summer and policing that wouldn't be good. Lorenz is not interested in this. Dzenko agreed. Cassar and Meskin agreed to drop it.

f. Discussion – Dog Park                      **PR-001-16**

Martin shared this was brought up by a resident and asked to have it on the study session agenda. Martin thought about it and he still can't find a location that would be suitable for the following reasons: size-must be big enough to have multiple dogs, otherwise a back yard is no different; location-should not be adjacent to residential property due to noise, dust, smells, etc.; installation and maintenance-it may be possible to get a fence constructed and water service run using donations. Maintenance and upkeep would be added to our already too big list of amenities for a city our size.

Proposed locations the resident discussed: Whitfield property-not city property; vacant property on Inverness-not city property; the Community Center property-not conducive for a rental; and Memorial Park-it has adjacent homes on the sides and rear of the property.

Martin stated it is a fantastic idea and he thought maybe we could make something work, but it is more a County level, not a city. Cassar agreed there are County Parks residents can currently use. Zubrzycki agreed it is a great idea, but just no place to put it. Meskin stated residents can take this on personally by calling the school district and asking about renting it. Lorenz agreed with Meskin and requested to remove this from the agenda.

**NON-ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Security for Ferndale Park, Restroom and Boat Launch
- b. Parking in ROW
- c. Fire Department
- d. Seawall – Pontiac Drive and Lakeview Beach
- e. ROW Policy

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Cassar, seconded Meskin, to adjourn the regular City Council Meeting.

Yes: All  
No: None

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.

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Dennise Dryden, City Clerk