

A Regular Meeting of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015; opening at 7:39 p.m. Mayor Dzenko presided over the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Lorenz, Meskin, Zubrzycki, Cassar, Dzenko

Absent: None

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Meskin requested item 11C be removed from the agenda.

Moved by Meskin, seconded Lorenz, to approve the City Council Agenda for April 15, 2015, as amended.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Lorenz, seconded Cassar, to approve the minutes of the following meetings, as submitted:

March 11, 2015 Regular Meeting

March 24, 2015 Study Session

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF DISBURSEMENTS

Moved by Meskin, seconded Lorenz, to approve the voucher report for April totaling \$237,706.42.

March Payroll \$ 47,517.40

Check #'s 11705-11716
DD2222-DD2247
EFT937-EFT946

Accts Pay-March-Apr \$190,189.02

Check #'s 48200-48238
EFT 938 (E) – 942 (E), 948 (E) – 957 (E)
ACH 943 (A) – 947 (A)

Totaling \$ 237,706.42

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

ACCEPTANCE OF REPORTS

Mayor Dzenko received the DPW, Police and Attorney's reports for March and asked that it they be placed on file.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Russ Meskin reported the Tri-City Fire Board held their quarterly meeting April 9th at Orchard Lake City Hall and the new Chief was there and provided an update. It is a very informative meeting for those who are interested in knowing what is going on with the Fire Department.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Greg Flynn introduced himself. He is the new Fire Chief for West Bloomfield. He is looking forward to working with Board and invited City Council to contact him with anything.

Pete Peters introduced Dr. Markavitch, Superintendent of Oakland Intermediate School District. She is here to explain the needs and plans for the Pontiac School District.

Dr. Markavitch thanked Council for allowing her to speak. She stated Pontiac Schools has the opportunity to be the most viable it has ever been. Oakland Intermediate Schools now operates Pontiac Schools through the consent agreement including all business, HR, technology and communications functions. This is in place for the next 12 years. The deficit has been reduced by 24% in the first year of the Consent Agreement and is two years ahead of schedule. She stated every school district in Michigan doesn't have money built into their school fund formula any money for school maintenance and repairs of their facilities. That is why you see all these school districts trying to pass bond issues or a sinking fund levy. As of June 30, 2015 the debt millage of 3.87 mills will retire. If this sinking fund millage if passed at 2.87 mills, it will still provide taxpayers a relief of 1.00 mill.

Dr. Markavitch shared all the school buildings are in a state of terrible disrepair. The insurance companies won't insure because the district has no funds in place to repair the buildings. If the buildings are not fixed students can't attend. If they have to be redistricted to surroundings districts then those districts will be affected. There is a high poverty district in Pontiac. The districts around

Pontiac are not really used to or necessarily equipped for that high poverty population that would come into those schools.

Jim Smith questioned if he heard right that if the sinking millage passes their property tax still goes down? Dr. Markavitch confirmed that is correct. Their taxes would reduce by 1.00 mill.

Mayor Dzenko asked how long the sinking millage proposal is for. Dr. Markavitch stated 5 years.

MaryAnn Smith thanked Dr. Markavitch for coming. Smith shared a conversation she had with Dr. Burt and he told her there is no reason to spend any money on her child attending Notre Dame Prep. He wants our tax dollars, but won't spend it on the kids. Smith is not in favor of voting anything for Pontiac Schools.

Meskin questioned if the \$35 million is the cost to repair eleven buildings. Dr. Markavitch explained every building was evaluated by Barton Malow earlier this year and it lists the most critical needs by building. It is a ten year plan for \$70 million. The \$35 million is for five years. Oakland Schools will oversee all payments and the work done to any of the buildings. Meskin asked if any of the \$35 million would go towards reducing the deficit. Dr. Markavitch stated it cannot and they already have a plan in place to reduce the deficit. If the millage doesn't pass the State may need to make a determination on what to do with the students as the district's deficit plan does not have funds to fix the buildings. Dr. Markavitch stated you want a viable school district.

Lorenz stated he has been reading articles on the closing of the high school if the millage doesn't pass. If this were to happen how would this take place and who makes this decision. Dr. Markavitch the Governor would make this decision and they would look at the surrounding school districts according to school population. Lorenz stated when the surrounding districts get these kids then they will have to go out to get more money to improve their facilities. He asked if there is a way for Oakland Schools to levy a millage across the districts to help Pontiac because otherwise this affects these surrounding districts. Dr. Markavitch stated the only thing Oakland Schools can do now is call a County enhancement millage. That is all 28 districts and all 28 districts are not around Pontiac. Dr. Markavitch doesn't even know if a community outside the Pontiac District could tax their taxpayers and give that money away to another district.

Helen West, Long Point Dr. Bloomfield Hills, commented on the International School in Bloomfield Hills and the Pontiac School District withdrawing from the consortium. Dr. Markavitch stated the budget doesn't allow them participate. Pontiac is trying to build their own International District 6-12K.

Courtney Marshall asked if the millage doesn't pass how quickly would they act on redistricting. Dr. Markavitch stated it depends on how quickly the buildings fail.

Zubrzycki was surprised to hear about this International School. He asked if it is in a separate building. Dr. Markavitch stated it is a separate building and they are going to expand it. GM and

other big businesses are looking to invest 3-4 million dollars to expand that International Technically School and once they do that they will open another building or two. Zubrzycki asked why they would spend money on this International School and not fix all of the buildings. Dr. Markavitch stated all the buildings are at maximum capacity of students and if the International School closes then they still would need another building to accommodate all the students.

Zubrzycki reviewed the 3 mills passed onto the taxpayers in the past to pay for bills the district was not paying. He asked if anything more like this was going to happen again. Dr. Markavitch stated Oakland Schools along with auditors went over every outstanding debt and have them on a time plan repayment so there should be no outstanding debts that should come onto the taxpayers.

Jim Endres shared only two kids from Sylvan Lake attended the Pontiac Schools last year. He asked if the millage fails would there be another election in August or November asking again. Dr. Markavitch stated the 18 mills levied to non-principal residents expires soon and will have to be renewed some time next year.

Lorenz asked if any of deficit reduction was due to the sale of property. Dr. Markavitch stated 1.5 million this year and they are hoping for 3 million next year. Lorenz thanked her for coming.

Mayor Dzenko also thanked Dr. Markavitch for coming and the Peters' for inviting her.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Spring Cleanup

Martin shared as with each of us at our own homes, the City has a number of things that need to be taken care of or repaired. Unfortunately his magic wand is broken so he can't wave it and have everything fixed the first nice week we have this spring. Things just take time. He asked to please remember it was only a couple weeks ago there was ice on the lake and last week there was still a foot of frost in the ground. We have had numerous calls asking when these projects are going to be done. One even started with, "This was the first nice weekend we've had and were hoping the grass would have been fixed where the water main broke." We are just now starting to see lawn maintenance people out working and they're doing spring cleanup, nothing with landscaping yet.

Parks

The tennis nets were put up a couple weeks ago along with the volleyball net. The restrooms will not be open until we're sure it will not get below freezing, probably around May 1st. The park rangers won't begin until the end of May and the gates won't be closed until school is out.

Some of the things we're working on are getting the streets swept, he was hoping that would have been done by now but apparently they were put behind by the intermittent rain over the past couple weeks. We'll continue with cold patching the streets, work on the 13 areas that need to be restored from water main breaks and two areas from sewer repairs.

Seawall

Martin is meeting with the seawall contractor tomorrow to discuss finalizing the seawall project and looking at other areas that need seawall replacement. We will be bringing in more fill and grading the area behind the new seawall to help eliminate the ponding that always occurred during heavy rain. He is working with the engineers to make permanent lines on the new seawall as perfectly parallel to each other as possible. This too takes time.

Boat Dock Applications

The boat dock process went pretty well this year. There weren't major issues except a large number of people that were late and had to pay the fee in order to keep their dock space. Most just came in and paid, a couple were quite adamant that they should not have to pay the fee for various reasons and were upset when it wasn't waived, even calling back 2 or 3 times. 10 people were late and paid the fee to keep their spot. Only 1 person moved from the move list, which went very smoothly this year. We then went through the wait list process; two residents paid to go to the bottom of the wait list, seven open spaces were filled.

Events

The "Glow in the Dark" Easter Egg Hunt was the only City event last month and it went very well. Thank you very much to the Parks and Rec Committee for hosting this event again.

We have several events coming up. There are a couple boater safety courses. The Household Hazardous Waste collection will be April 25th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at West Bloomfield Township. The annual Sylvan Shuffle will be May 3rd, Michigan Week Breakfast will be May 15th at Knollwood Country Club - tickets are still available online for a little while longer. The annual City-wide garage sale will be May 21, 22 and 23. You can register for the garage sale at City Hall. The Election will be May 5th with the polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Memorial Day Parade

Jim Smith has volunteered to Chair this again. There will be more newsbytes going out about this event.

ZBA

The Zoning Board of Appeals heard a request for a Lakeview property tonight. Some of the variances were approved and some were tabled to allow the petitioner to reduce the variance request.

2015/16 Budget

The next City Council meeting will be May 13th and will begin with the budget presentation and an explanation of the most recent budget forecast. He asked everyone to come to learn more.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Cassar thanked Jim Smith for handling the Memorial Day Parade again this year. Cassar stated he did pick up the paint topcoat to go on the seawall cap and plans to put it on this weekend, weather permitting. He explained why the seawall is jagged is because the contractor is restricted to what they can do. They have to follow the shoreline and the DEQ only allows a limited amount of leeway.

Lorenz explained why they took the road proposal resolution off the agenda. He explained if this passes it would get the city around \$90,000 in State Revenue for street improvements, but some Council members didn't want to get involved in the political aspect of Proposal 1 whether to endorse it or not. Regarding the Pontiac School millage he shared last year he had a German exchange student live with him who worked with at the Pontiac Schools with a teacher. The German student told Lorenz all good things about the students and teacher at the Pontiac Schools. Lorenz feels everyone has a responsibility to support kids and provide an education for them. This will be paid for in one way or another.

Zubrzycki also thanked Jim Smith for chairing the parade. He asked everyone to reach out to Smith to help and provide suggestions. Zubrzycki shared the glow Easter Egg Hunt was a big hit. He thanked the Parks & Rec volunteer committee. He stated their next event is boat safety and then a CPR course. He stated the committee works with limited resources. Zubrzycki stated he has spoken to Martin about DTE lighting issue already, but wanted to share they are reflecting their lights onto neighboring property now. Martin is looking into it.

Meskin agreed it looks like either way they will have to pay for the Pontiac Schools. He shared the Household Hazardous Waste Event provides disposal of computers and shredding.

Dzenko reminded everyone to vote. He agreed the Household Hazardous Waste is a great value. He encouraged everyone to sign up for the newsbytes. The notices on water main breaks is worth it alone.

ACTION ITEMS

- a. Mayoral Appointment to Cable Commission Committee **A2-004-15**

Mayor Dzenko stated Preston Wertheimer has resigned from the Cable Commission and accepted his resignation. Mayor Dzenko appointed Bill Brundage, to the Greater West Bloomfield Cable Commission Committee for the remainder of the open term to expire on June 30, 2016.

Moved by Cassar, seconded Lorenz, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Bill Brundage to the GWBCCC for the reminder term ending June 30, 2016.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

b. ACH Policy

A-001-15

Martin explained this policy has been revised to meet the new ACH (Automatic Clearing House) banking requirements. This addresses policies, procedures and systems to protect the confidentiality and integrity of customers banking and personal information. Martin stated it has been worked on for the last year and reviewed by three attorneys and Flagstar Bank.

Moved by Lorenz, seconded Cassar, to adopt the ACH Policy as submitted.

Yes: Meskin, Zubrzycki, Cassar, Dzenko, Lorenz

No: None

POLICY ADOPTED

NON-ACTION ITEMS

- a. Ordinance to Regulate Construction Sites
- b. Security for Ferndale Park, Restroom and Boat Launch
- c. Community Center Storage and Furniture
- d. Fire Dept

There was nothing new to report on these items.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Dennise Dryden, City Clerk