

A Regular Meeting of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2023, opening at 7:30 p.m. Mayor Cowper presided over the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Segal, Zubrzycki, Buchanan, Clarke, Cowper

Absent: None

Also Present: Interim City Manager O'Donohue, Administrative Contractor Martin, Attorney Schultz, and Clerk Dryden

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Clarke, seconded Buchanan, to approve the City Council Agenda for November 15, 2023, as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

### APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Clarke, seconded Segal, to approve the following items on the consent agenda as submitted.

- A. October 18, 2023, Regular Meeting, October 24, 2023, Study Session, and Executive Session
- B. Disbursement Report, Payroll check #'s 12260-12262, DD5115-5139, EFT1809-1815, STUB223-STUB224; and A/P check #'s 52520-52548, EFT & ACH 3017-3039; TOTALING: \$ 500,708.32.
- C. Acceptance of Public Works and Police Department for October 2023.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Police Department Award – Chief O'Donohue

**P1-004-23**

Chief O'Donohue announced he is honored to present Lifesaving Awards to Sylvan Lake Police Sgt. Joe Molinaro and several members of the West Bloomfield Fire Department.

On October 15<sup>th</sup>, the Sylvan Lake Police Department received a call regarding a medical emergency on the 1700 block of Woodland. Sgt. Joe Molinaro quickly responded and found a resident attempting CPR on her husband, who was unresponsive and without a pulse. Joe

immediately took over CPR and instructed the resident to wait outside for the fire department to help guide them in. He continued CPR until the WBFD arrived and relieved him. West Bloomfield Firefighters took over life saving measures, and once the patient was stabilized, promptly transported him to the hospital.

Due to the quick, compassionate, and skilled actions of the first responders, a tragedy was averted, and a life was saved.

Sgt. Joe Molinaro and the WBFD, we appreciate and applaud your selfless service and commitment to the well-being of our community.

Chief Flynn thanked the council for recognition for what the Fire Department does for a living. He stated it is an honor to serve the city and great to see the husband and wife together.

There were no other reports.

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

Mayor Cowper opened the meeting to the public.

There were 11 people in the audience.

Jan Hays brought to City Council's attention a letter her attorney wrote and emailed to council which never received a response to. She provided a copy of the letter and asked that they address the letter.

There were no other comments.

#### CTY MANAGER COMMENTS

Martin shared City Hall is working on the same issues, improvements, and projects he mentioned last month. Some of those projects have progressed. We will be trimming and removing some trees in Memorial Park to open it up from the front, making drainage improvements to Ferndale park, and we finished this round of crack fill on several streets and parking lots. The road right of way and construction repair guarantee bond are on the agenda tonight.

It was known leaves were potentially going to be an issue this year when they refused to fall off the trees for so long. We're aware that they are there on the streets and the crews are out collecting them. We hope the weather will hold out. If we get snow or freezing temperatures, it will slow them down even more. Again, if residents want to make sure their leaves are picked up quickly, please put them in yard waste bags and they will be picked up on Thursday, but remember, yard waste collection ends the end of November.

City Hall is very happy that Mr. Wagner is still with us and Congratulations to Sgt. Joe Molinaro on his life saving award. For those of you who haven't met Joe, he is a very nice, capable, and humble man. We're very happy he's with us here in Sylvan Lake and happy Corey is here as the Chief.

Martin hoped everybody had a safe Halloween and will have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

### CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Zubrzycki congratulated and thanked Molinaro for his life saving act and thanked Chief O'Donohue for recognizing those involved. Zubrzycki acknowledged Veteran's Day and thanked all veterans. He thanked whoever removed the small island from Ferndale.

Segal shared a new pickleball court facility is opening at 14 Mile and Orchard Lake Road. It is going to be 26,000 square feet. Leaf pickup workers have been working very hard and they are just as frustrated as the residents.

Cowper also acknowledged Veteran's Day. He thanked Martin for thanking Luke and those who helped with lighting the tree and hopes everyone will attend the lighting ceremony.

Buchanan shared new events are happening. Midge's Sweet Dreams has started. Beds are built and she is accepting complete comforter and bedding sets along with a small bunny to donate to the cause. The Sylvan Lake book club started last night with 26 attending. January 9<sup>th</sup> is the next meeting at 6:30 for social hour and 7:30 discussion. They have an email [sylvanlakebookclub@gmail.com](mailto:sylvanlakebookclub@gmail.com) or contact Ruth Anderson or Sharon Miller. The Parks & Recreation is holding their wine tasting event this Friday from 7-9:30 p.m. Wednesday is still game night. Thursday weekly is yoga. The first and third Thursday is knitting, and the second Thursday is craft night. Last Thursday they made bracelets. She thanked Midge for sharing her home and time.

Clarke also announced the Harvest Wine Tasting that Parks & Rec is hosting this Friday from 7-9:30 p.m. Patty Harrop added December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. is the tree lighting. Helen Jane Peters got the Big Chief Barbershop to help with Christmas carols. There will be treats and hot chocolate too.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**B3-001-23 PH-002-23**

Mayor Cowper opened the public hearing for CDBG 2024 Application/Funds at 7:48 p.m. There were eleven people in the audience. There were no comments.

Mayor Cowper closed the public hearing at 7:50 p.m.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Resolution to Accept 2024 CDBG Funds **B3-002-23 R2-006-23**

Martin explained this resolution accepts the CDBG funds. We will receive the same funding of \$7,000. This will provide funding for seniors for lawn mowing in the summer and fall cleanup.

Clarke asked what other communities use their funds for. Martin stated most other communities receive more money than Sylvan Lake does so they can provide minor home repairs for seniors. Clarke asked if the funds could be used for sidewalk repairs. Martin replied it has to be for low income areas and Sylvan Lake doesn't have any.

Moved by Buchanan, seconded by Zubrzycki, to approve the agreement for I.T. services with Oakland County as presented.

Yes: Cowper, Segal, Zubrzycki, Buchanan, Clarke  
No: None

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED**

- b. Appointments to Planning Commission **A2-004-23**

Mayor Cowper appointed Jim Smith and Shannon Dickstein to the Planning Commission for a three-year term. He shared his reasons for the appointments.

Clarke didn't agree with not reappointing Meg Morley. He felt he was throwing out someone with good experience and a good attendance record. He thought Shannon Dickstein and Jan Hays are friends and feels this could be a conflict of interest with the Lakeview issues.

Jon Farms asked how many applications were received. Mayor Cowper replied one.

Nicole Menuck expressed she appreciates the Mayor trying to get new people involved. She stated volunteers work really hard and if they are showing up they should be reappointed as long as they want to serve.

Moved by Segal, seconded Zubrzycki, to approve the Mayor's appointment of Jim Smith and Shannon Dickstein to the Planning Commission for a three-year term.

Yes: Segal, Zubrzycki, Buchanan, Cowper  
No: Clarke

**MOTION CARRIED**

- c. Ordinance 365 Right of Way (ROW) **O-010-23 S-007-23**

Martin first clarified this is not a zoning ordinance but a code ordinance amendment to Chapter

56. This addresses the requirements to apply to enclose, eliminate, or modify a ditch in the road right of way. It will require a plan to be submitted by a licensed professional engineer indicating the requested work and showing that the proposed improvements would work. The city's engineer will then review the application and drawings to ensure the improvements will perform as required.

Clarke asked how much an engineer will cost residents. Martin is not sure. Clarke asked if this should be applied to areas who are having drainage problems. Martin replied it would be impossible to put into groups. He stated it should not be on the city's shoulders to fund a ditch problem that someone is enclosing or has enclosed. It is possible it will eliminate those who just want a parking area because this is what is causing many problems. Martin reiterated this only applies to ditch enclosures, not all improvements in the ROW.

Moved by Buchanan, seconded Clarke, to approve Ordinance 365, adding regulations for filling drains or ditches.

Yes: Buchanan, Clarke, Cowper, Segal, Zubrzycki  
No: None

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

d. Ordinance 366 Site Restoration Bond for Construction **O-11-23**

Martin explained this ordinance adds a new section to the building regulations in Chapter 14 of the code of ordinances. It states the damage to anything on public property, drainage, etc., during a construction project, will be repaired or replaced to the same level as before construction. It also addresses maintaining construction sites, keeping streets clear of mud and debris, and maintaining drainage. Martin recommended setting the bond at \$5,000 cash.

Clarke asked why a percentage wasn't set. Martin stated it was found it doesn't matter. If they damage a ditch, the percentage of the project doesn't matter. Clarke asked if smaller amount should be set for smaller projects. Martin stated if there is no impact on the road or right-of-way it won't be collected.

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded Segal, to approve Ordinance 366, adding Article 8, site restoration bond, to Chapter 14 of the Code of Ordinances, and set the bond amount at \$5,000 cash to be paid at the time a zoning permit for construction is approved if deemed necessary by the City Manager based on the nature of the construction.

Yes: Clarke, Cowper, Segal, Zubrzycki, Buchanan  
No: None

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

e. Community Garden Progress

Martin stated this has been discussed at the last couple of meetings. Jon Farms started this project on a trial basis, and it took off. People love it. He thanked Farms for coming up with the idea and spear heading. Martin acknowledged Farms provided the wood and put in all the beds. The city provided the electrical and irrigation system. Now they would like to extend the gardens towards the lake and come up with one fence design to enclose it all. They also need to come up with an application and use policy.

Cowper asked if the expansion request would increase at a later date or if this would be it. Martin stated because of the space there they probably won't be able to increase it after this expansion. The city will pay for the expansion of the garden beds and fence. Segal feels it is a wonderful idea.

City Council agreed to move forward with the project.

f. Adjourn to Executive Session to Discuss Collective Bargaining Negotiations

Moved by Zubrzycki, seconded by Buchanan, to adjourn to executive session to discuss collective bargaining negotiations.

Yes: Zubrzycki, Buchanan, Clarke, Cowper, Segal

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting adjourned to closed session at 8:21 p.m.

At 9:23 p.m. City Council reconvened the regular City Council meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

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Dennise Dryden, City Clerk