

A Regular Meeting of the Sylvan Lake City Council was held on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, opening at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Cowper presided over the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Segal, Buchanan, Clarke, Cowper

Absent: Zubrzycki

Also Present: City Manager Martin, Attorney Shortley, Clerk Dryden, and Assistant City Manager O'Donohue

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Clarke, seconded Buchanan, to approve the City Council Agenda for April 3, 2024, as presented.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. February 14, 2024, Regular Meeting; and March 26, 2024, Study Session
- B. Disbursement Report, Payroll check #'s 12271-12277, DD5217-5278, EFT1839-1855, STUB234-STUB241; and A/P check #'s 52647-52697, EFT & ACH 3104-3127; TOTALING: \$ 411,646.46.
- C. Acceptance of Public Works and Police Department for February and March 2024.

Yes: All

No: None

MOTION CARRIED

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Patrick Riney reported for GWBCCC, sharing each weekday from 8:30-11:30 is SPLASH Live, Civic Center TV (Comcast channel 15, AT&T channel 99), Lakes FM, or at www.civiccentertv.com provides local news and information. Last week highlights were West Bloomfield girls State Championship, spring activities at the Library, Celebrating the life of a leader. Watch Live or OnDemand programs and communities' meetings. Need help with cable provider go to the customer tab at www.GWBCable.org.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mayor Cowper opened the meeting to the public.

There were 16 people in the audience.

Rob Kalman, Mayor of Keego Harbor, announced he is running for County Commissioner which includes Sylvan Lake. He invited everyone to reach out to him to discuss his plans and platform for running. Cowper asked Kalman to provide his website link to Martin or Dryden.

John Powers asked if the Ordinance Police Officer is really necessary for Sylvan Lake. If so he would like to see more training if they are going to keep him. He feels enforcement should be universal for everyone. Power shared he loves the public walkways, but feels they need some work as one is almost impassable.

RT-001-24

Friends of the Clinton River Trail Presentation – Josh Eichenhorn provided an update on the trail. He announced 20th anniversary for the Clinton River Trail where five communities sign agreements to maintain the trail. Since then grants have been awarded and bridges, signage, road crossings have been provided. Look for Art will be provided this summer on the Clinton River Trail from the DIA. It will be displayed spring through fall. Eichenhorn acknowledged the real challenges for cities maintaining and repairing the trail. There are five things everyone can do. Enjoy the trail, continue to engage in the alliance meetings, encourage residents to reach to and get involved, help the Friends of the Clinton River Trail celebrate 20 years on May 22nd at Goldner Walsh Nursery. There will be guest speakers. Eichenhorn stated the Friends of the Clinton River Trail stand ready to help the city.

There were no other comments.

CTY MANAGER COMMENTS

Martin thanked the Friends of the Clinton River Trail for coming. He acknowledged the work they do is tremendous and do great work with grants.

City Hall continues to be very busy. The Presidential Primary election went off without incident, despite all the new election laws. Thank you, Dennise, Megan, and the team, for another successful election. Dennise has applied for a grant and three reimbursements for the election. She has received payment for the grant, which was to pay for a camera to capture activity at our ballot drop box as required by State Law.

Applications for zoning permits, variances, text amendments to the zoning ordinance, FOIA requests, and site plan review discussions are still challenging. There have been about 35 permits, 3 site plan reviews, and 4 ZBA applications since mid-January. Those are in addition to our regular work at City Hall.

There are a few important topics that will be coming up. One is an initial site plan review and

special land use request for the Oakland County Boat Club. That will be introduced to the Planning Commission at their meeting next Wednesday. Next month, the Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on a proposed amendment to our Planned Unit Development Ordinance and possibly a public hearing regarding the Boat Club topic. Martin will send information on that to ensure everyone is informed.

In addition, the Planning Commission is working on a few potential amendments to the Zoning Ordinance regarding nonconforming structures, allowable uses in the I-1 light industrial zoning district, and a few others.

Martin provided a few brief project updates. Work has begun on a new Memorial Park plan. We have a plan in place that will be followed. Right now, we are preparing to do more tree trimming and removal and relocating some of the trees. The plan drawn up will open up the park so people can see that it is much larger than the small triangle in the front. Most people didn't know it was 150 feet deep. It will be the beautiful Memorial Park that it should be.

RT-002-24

Trail cleanup and widening. This continues the cleanup and brush removal we started last fall. The surface was way too narrow, and the brush and vines were overhanging the trail, making it potentially dangerous for bikers and walkers; also, not having any space beside the trail was dangerous. The typical standard is an 8 to 10-foot trail surface and 10' of green space adjacent. We had neither. Also, we could not keep up with the terrible invasive species, especially vines that were killing everything and growing like weeds. So, we are removing them, hoping the remaining trees will survive and fill in.

Tree Planting is scheduled again with Michigan ReLeaf to plant 20 trees. Barb Ash has volunteered to assist in this project. The planting will be on Saturday, May 11, and we will need several volunteers to assist in planting these trees. Be watching for newsbytes!

The Tennis/Pickleball court improvements should begin in May. Some Ferndale drainage improvements have been completed, but more needs to be done.

CITY COUNCIL COMMENTS

Clarke thanked the Friends of the Clinton River Trail. He shared that he uses the trail most days. He suggested adding signage to ingress/egress for soft trail and leaving marks when biking.

Buchanan announced the spring newsletter will arrive soon by postcard in the mail. There are several options to get the newsletter. Scan the QR code to view, use the city website, paper copies available at City Hall, and copies will be mailed to those who signed up.

Cowper thanked Martin for his recap on all the projects going on. He thanked Dryden for applying for grants with the election. He thanked the OCBC for working on their site plan review and special land use. Memorial Park will look great when it is done. He understands people

concerns when cutting trees and planting more. There is a plan and maintenance of them in place.

Segal thanked John Powers for his comments on keeping up the path walkways. She thanked the Friends of the Clinton River Trail for their update. She is excited about the art work that will be on the trail. Segal thanked Pat Riney for the Cable Commission update and Rob Kalman for introducing himself as a candidate for County Commissioner.

ACTION ITEMS

- a. GFL Contract Extension for Trash and Leaf Collection **CA-002-24**

Martin reviewed the discussion from the study session. This is a five year contract extension with GLF. There is a 4% escalator for years 2-5.

Clarke asked if they could discuss extending the yard waste to two weeks earlier. Martin agreed they can ask that. It makes sense to extend the yard waste to be the same as the leaf vacuum end date. Martin will contact GFL regarding this.

Moved by Segal, seconded by Clarke, to approve the contract extension with GLF to continue to collect waste, recycling, yard waste and leaf pickup, following the current guidelines with cost as stated in their proposal.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

- b. Open Burning Ordinance **FD-002-24** **O-003-24**

Mayor Cowper stated he was flabbergasted at the study session when he found the Fire Department is allowing open burning. He would like to have the Fire Marshall come to a meeting and answer questions about why this is being allowed.

Martin stated the city is required to follow West Bloomfield's ordinance. They can't make changes to it. All the communities need to be uniform. Cowper read the changes. Buchanan feels they need to do this since the city is with West Bloomfield Fire for fire protection. Clarke feels it is better to be informative for residents. They will need to educate the residents and move forward. Segal agreed they need to have the Fire Department attend a meeting. She wants to know how they are going to mitigate this. Cowper suggested they table this. Martin stated that is fine. He will ask for a WBFD Representative to come to a study session, but in the end they will have to adopt this change.

Moved by Segal, seconded Clarke, to table open burning until the Fire Marshall comes to a meeting.

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

MOTION CARRIED

c. Clerk Fees **F-002-24**

Martin stated City Hall is requesting a few fee increases to boat dock reinstatement fee, ZBA application fee and ZBA publication fee, and Site Plan review fee.

Moved by Clarke, seconded by Buchanan, to approve the Clerk's fee schedule as presented.

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

MOTION CARRIED

d. Water/Sewer Rates **U-002-24 WA-001-24 SW-001-24**

Martin explained the water and sewer rate increases. The total water/sewer bill will increase by less than 10%, approximately 2.3% per year.

Cowper shared they will get back to annual review of rates to determine increases from here on forward.

Moved by Clarke, seconded by Buchanan, to approve the fee schedule for water and sewer rates as presented.

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

e. Appointment to Dock Committee **A2-001-24**

Mayor Cowper appointed Patty Harrop, Ed Robbins, Shane Doyle, Ruth Anderson, and Daniel Lewis to dock committee for 2024. He thanked new resident Mary Wallace for applying.

Moved by Segal, seconded by Clarke, to confirm Mayor Cowper's appointment of Patty Harrop, Ed Robbins, Shane Doyle, Ruth Anderson, and Daniel Lewis to dock committee for 2024.

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

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

Yes: All
No: None

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Dennise Dryden, City Clerk