

City of Utica
Regular Council Meeting
February 13, 2024

The City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Calandrino at 7:34 p.m.

Members present: Sikora, O'Donnell, Dionne, Ryan, Robinson, Calandrino
Absent: Terenzi

Moe Lietz led the pledge of allegiance.

Public Hearing 8:00 p.m. CDBG FY 2024 Allocation/Distribution

Motion by Dionne, seconded by Robinson, to enter into Public Hearing at 8:04 p.m.
Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Representatives from Utica Public Library, Sparkle Network, Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Samaritan House and Turning Point were all present to request funds from Utica CDBG. Jim Stone asked what Utica had to distribute? \$2,490.

Motion by Sikora, seconded by Dionne, to close Public Hearing at 8:19 p.m.
Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Police Department Awards

Chief Kaluzny awarded several officers for their exemplary police work for an incident that occurred on 12/24/2023. Sgt. Barry Andrade and Sgt. Vince Ranelli received the Chief's Merit Award. Ofc. Steven Bartrow, Ofc. Ryan Boos, Ofc. Matthew Agens, Ofc. Brandon Vagi, Ofc. Elizabeth Demuynck, Ofc. Anthony Sauger, Dispatcher Michael Roberts, and Dispatcher Emily Milatz all received the Meritorious Conduct Award.

Public Comments for Items Listed on the Agenda

Stacy Smale, 45273 Brownell, expressed concern about the amount of land the proposed Sports facility is asking for. She believes an appropriate amount of time should be given to give Michael Ivkov time to complete due diligence for his proposed Downtown Development Plan.

Jim Stone, 45280 Klingammer, expressed concerns of the proposed Mixed-use building at 7525 Auburn being attractive and beneficial to the city and will enhance the existing bike trail.

Dan Roma, representing owners of former National Coney Island. He cited COVID in declining business and the closure of several National Coney Island locations, including Utica. He thanked the residents of Utica for the many years of patronage.

John Johnson, CEO of Southeastern Michigan Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of the consideration of adding additional Marijuana licenses in Utica.

Chris Yurman, 57633 Yorkshire, spoke in favor of the Sports Complex being proposed at the North end of Utica.

Carlo Santia, Clinton Township, spoke in favor of the consideration of adding additional Marijuana licenses in Utica.

Michael Stein, 150 W. Second Street, spoke in favor of adding 2 additional Marijuana licenses in Utica.

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Rob Huth, 55807 Buckthorn, represented Harrison Twp., Shelby Twp., and Detroit for marijuana licensing and is in favor of 2 additional Marijuana licenses in Utica.

Unfinished Business

None.

Consent Business

Approval of Agenda

Minutes of 01/09/2024

Bills Payable

OMID Easements

Planning Commission 2024 Meeting Calander

Motion by Dionne, seconded by Ryan, to approve Consent Business as presented.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Correspondence

None.

New Business

Utica Palooza, Vintage Market & Tastefest

Lynn Karnes of Woman's Life Chapter 911 as present to ask Council for approval of the 2024 Utica Palooza. June 15, 2024, is the proposed date for 4 events to be held; 8 a.m. at Grant Park-a walk/run with vendors set up; 10-4 p.m. behind the Fire Department-Vintage Market and Tastefest; 7 p.m.-Comedy show at the American Legion.

Motion by Dionne, seconded by O'Donnell, to approve Utica Palooza Vintage Market and Tastefest to be held June 15, 2024, at Grant Park and downtown Utica, subject to Fire Department approval and permission to place signs for the event around the city.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Bill Roney 5K Run and 1 Mile Walk

Sonja Hanson was present to seek approval for a 5K run and 1 Mile walk on March 23, 2024, beginning at 10 a.m. Registration is available on the day of the run at 8:30 a.m. for a fee of \$25.00.

Motion by Dionne, seconded by O'Donnell, to approve the Bill Roney 5K run and 1 mile walk on March 23, 2024, at 10 a.m. beginning at Trinity Lutheran Church and following a route through the Flickinger Subdivision.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Pioneer Park Pavilion

The City of Utica received a \$1,000,000.000 State of Michigan Enhancement Grant to fund replacing the Davis Street Bridge (partial funding) and to construct a pavilion at Pioneer Park. The City is awaiting additional grant money from the Federal Government to complete the funding for the Davis Street Bridge. HRC has provided a preliminary cost estimate of \$224,710.00 for the pavilion.

Motion by Ryan, seconded by Sikora, to authorize HRC to begin the bid process for constructing the pavilion at Pioneer Park.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

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Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator Appointment

Motion by Sikora, seconded by Dionne, to appoint Becky Livernois, Deputy Clerk, as the City of Utica ADA Coordinator.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

2024 CDBG Allocations

Motion by Ryan, seconded by Sikora, to allocate CDBG FY2024 funds in the total of \$2,490.00 as follows: Utica Public Library-\$1,000; Sparkle Network, Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, Samaritan House and Turning Point \$372.50 each.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Special Conditional Use, 7881 Chapoton, Front Yard Fence

Petitioner, Jeremy Plunkett, was out of town and unable to attend.

Motion by O'Donnell, seconded by Ryan, to postpone to March 12, 2024, Council meeting.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Special Conditional Use, 7525 Auburn Rd., Mixed Use Building

Dana Schmidt of GSB Utica Property and GS Entertainment was present to seek approval of Special Conditional Use at 7525 Auburn Road for a Mixed Use, 2-story Building with retail, office, meeting and event space. The Planning Commission recommended approval to the Council.

Motion by Dionne, seconded by Robinson, to approve Special Conditional Use at 7525 Auburn Road for a Mixed Use, 2-story Building with retail, office, meeting and event space.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Sports/Soccer Facility Proposal for Packing Plant Property

Gronthik Chatterjee was present to share a proposal to build a sports and recreational facility on 8 parcels of property now known as the Packing Plant property located at the North end of Utica.

Motion by Dionne, seconded by Sikora, to receive and file proposal for a Utica Sportsplex on the Packing Plant Property at the North end of Utica.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Phased Downtown Development

Motion by Robinson, seconded by Sikora, to table the Phased Downtown Development plan proposed by Michael Ivkov.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Resolution to Oppose the Proposed “Water Affordability” Legislation

Motion by Sikora, seconded by Ryan, to adopt the resolution to oppose the proposed “Water Affordability” legislation.

Voting by roll, 5 ayes, O'Donnell no, Terenzi absent, motion **CARRIED**.

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AFSCME Local 1103.18 CBA Addendum

Motion by Sikora, seconded by Calandrino, to approve the Addendum to the AFSCME Local 1103.18 Collective Bargaining Agreement, eliminating from representation by Local 1103.18 the Clerical positions including the Deputy Treasurer position, effective immediately.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Revised Marihuana Business Ordinance

Motion by Dionne, seconded by Robinson, to adopt the revised Marihuana Business Ordinance adding an additional license to be issued in the hotel district located between M53 and Park Ave.

Voting by roll, 4 ayes, Sikora and O'Donnell no, motion **CARRIED**.

Department Reports

Mayor Calandrino

None.

Council Reports

None.

Planning Commission/ Planner

Master Plan 2024-2029

Motion by Sikora, seconded by Robinson, to release the City of Utica 2024-2029 Master Plan for 42 Day Public Review and Comment.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Assessing- Thomas Agrusa, Assessor

2024 Poverty Exemption Guidelines for Property Tax Relief

Motion by Sikora, seconded by Dionne, to accept the 2024 Poverty Guideline's with the updated Federal Poverty income Standards as presented.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Building- Jerry Hicks

None.

Library- Katherine Francis, Director

None.

Fire- Kevin Wilseck, Chief

None.

Police- Matthew Kaluzny, Chief

Traffic Control Order 24-01

Chief Kaluzny held a joint meeting with Sterling Heights Police Department and a resident on Canal. The complaint was about vehicles illegally passing on the shoulder driving on residents lawns when traffic backed up waiting to turn on Mackay.

Motion by Sikora, seconded by Ryan, to approve traffic control order 24-01 and have DPW order and install two signs stating “no driving on shoulder” to be placed on Canal. Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

DPW- Bill Diamond, Superintendent

Purchase of Utica Police Patrol Vehicle

Motion by O'Donnell, seconded by Sikora, to approve the purchase of the Utica PD patrol vehicle VIN#1FM5K8AT7KGB44626 for \$12,000 from Street Department Vehicle Purchase GL #101-441-986-000 into Police Department Sale of Fixed Assets #101-301-693-000.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Motion by O'Donnell, seconded by Sikora, to amend the FY2024 General Fund Street and Parks Department Budgets, transferring \$12,000 from Parks Department Vehicle Purchase #101-751-986-000 to Street Department Vehicle Purchase #441-986-000.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

HydroCorp Cross Connection Control Contract Renewal

Motion by Sikora, seconded by O'Donnell, to approve the new proposed 2-year contract with HydroCorp for Cross Connection Control Program beginning February 1, 2024, until January 31, 2026.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Motion by Sikora, seconded by O'Donnell, to amend the FY2024 revenue, Cross Connection #592-000-607-501 and expenditure, Cross Connection #592-536-817-000 in the amount of \$1,000 to reflect the increase of HydroCorp new two-year contract rates.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Treasurer- Philip Paternoster

Last day to pay 2023 taxes to the city is February 29, 2024.

OPEB Valuation Agreement-Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 & 2025

Motion by Sikora, seconded by Robinson, to approve the OPEB Service Agreement with CBIZ Retirement Plan Services, costs to be included in the FY2025 and FY2026 General Fund Budgets.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Administration- Lori Cooke, City Clerk

Early Voting begins February 17th, 2024, at Sterling Heights Community Center. The schedule and address can be found on the city website.

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Parks and Recreation Commission

Chairwoman Laurie Schmidt thanked Council for approval of the Pioneer Park pavilion. She also reminded residents the Monthly Parks and Recreation meeting would be on the 21st and all are welcome to attend.

Historic District Commission

None.

City Attorney- Linda McGrail

None.

Communication from the Public

Jim Stone, Klingkammer resident, said he thinks electric vehicle charging stations are needed in the city.

Rob Huth, 55807 Buckthorn, corrected O'Donnell on what entities mean per the marijuana ordinance.

Stavros Toma, Shelby Township, thanked council for approving the revised marijuana ordinance and talked about applications and factors in the scoring system.

Adjournment

As there were no further comments from the public, motion by Sikora, seconded by Dionne, to adjourn the meeting.

Voting by roll, all ayes, motion **CARRIED**.

Meeting adjourned at 10:46 P.M.

Lori Cooke
CITY OF UTICA
City Clerk