

**MINUTES OF THE  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL**

**MAY 20, 2019**

Council convened at 7:01 p.m. with Council President Patrick presiding.

Present: Council Pro Tem McDonald, Councilmember Woodard, Councilmember Lewis,  
Councilmember Bates and Council President Patrick (5).

Absent: (0).

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

\*\*\*

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Councilmember Lewis  
Supported by Councilmember Woodard

To approve the agenda with the removal of the resolution to extend contract for Gregory Terrell & Company (current auditor) for one year, and the addition of a resolution to approve the Finance Director as Plan Administrator for the Public Safety Retirement Plan in accordance with that plan's document. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

\*\*\*

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Councilmember Lewis  
Supported by Councilmember Woodard

To approve the minutes of the Workshop meeting held April 15, 2019. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

\*

Moved by Councilmember Woodard  
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

To approve the minutes of the Regular meeting held April 15, 2019. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

\*

Moved by Councilmember Woodard  
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

To approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held April 17, 2019. Yeas (5), Nays (0),  
Absent (0).

\*

Moved by Councilmember Woodard  
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

To approve the minutes of the Budget Workshop held April 22, 2019. Yeas (5), Nays (0),  
Absent (0).

\*

Moved by Councilmember Woodard  
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

To approve the minutes of the Public Hearing held April 29, 2019. Yeas (5), Nays (0),  
Absent (0).

\*\*\*

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**05-20-19 V**

The Clerk stated this was the place and time to hear comments on proposed sewer  
distribution improvement projects.

Moved by Councilmember Bates  
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

To open the Public Hearing. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0). Public Hearing opened at  
7:11 p.m.

Project Manager Jarion Bradley gave an explanation and overview of completed, current  
and proposed improvement projects. After which questions and/or comments were received  
from City Council and the following audience members: Margaret Lewis, Khursheed Ash-  
Shafii, Frank Robinson, Elene Robinson, Enel Little, Sydney Spight, Lorne McGee and Lisa  
Stolarski.

Moved by Councilmember Lewis  
Supported by Council Pro Tem McDonald

To close the Public Hearing. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0). Public Hearing closed at  
7:37 p.m.

\*\*\*

**VETO  
05-20-19 VI**

The following communication was received from Mayor Yopp.

Honorable Council:

On May 6, 2019, a resolution was passed adopting the annual budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2020. Please take notice that, pursuant to Section 6-3 of the City Charter, I veto that resolution as it is *ultra vires* and in clear violation of the City Charter. As mandated by the State of Michigan, all funds are structurally balanced and are based on estimated revenues and expenditures. The City Council seeks to add expenditures, which include \$20,000 for legal expenses, \$10,000 for ordinance development, and \$5,000 for seminars and training. These amendments are prohibited and in direct contravention of the Charter. The relevant sections of the Charter are enumerated as follows:

**Section 7-1:** Exclusively vests the administrative and executive power of the City with the Mayor.

**Sections 7-2 and 7-5:** The Mayor has authority to appoint the City Attorney whose representation includes that of the City Council. Thus, Council's attempt to obtain fees for prospective litigation by outside representation is illegal.

**Section 7-3:** Permits the Mayor to prepare the annual budget and present it to the Council, not vice versa.

**Section 8-2:** Sets forth the procedure for submitting the budget. "The tabulation of the Mayor's recommendation shall constitute his budget proposal." Thus, it is the Mayor's budget, which Council can vote "for" or "against." The additional expenditures are not recommended nor supported by the Mayor.

The budget recommendation reflects my policies and priorities. The City still faces significant challenges, but the budget encompasses a strategic plan that places Highland Park on a path to economic recovery. Additional expenses would only hinder our progress.

Moved by Councilmember Lewis  
Supported by Councilmember Woodard

To override the Mayor's veto. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

\*\*\*

**CITY CLERK  
05-20-19 VII**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO RETAIN THE WOODHILL GROUP FOR ONE-YEAR**

Moved by Council Pro Tem McDonald  
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

**WHEREAS**, on March 18, 2019 the Highland Park City Council approved the solicitation of highly reputable supplemental human resource and financial services for the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the RFP was advertised; however, no bids were received; and

**WHEREAS**, the Woodhill Group has begun the process of advising Highland Park in: 1) administrative record retention, 2) special accounting projects, 3) grant administration, and 4) administrative internal controls and process improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, the Woodhill Group currently plays a key role in audit prep; and

**WHEREAS**, it is customary for the City to begin its audit preparation at the end of June for the prior fiscal year to have the records available for the auditor to complete his/her state-mandated audit prior to the end of the year and, therefore, it is too late to re-advertise the work; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City that it allow the Finance Director to retain the Woodhill Group for one year at the current rate. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

\*\*\*

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 05-20-19 VIII**

A new business license application was submitted for approval for The Chat Room, located at 16000 Woodward Avenue.

Moved by Councilmember Woodard  
Supported by Council Pro Tem McDonald

To approve the new business license application for the Chat Room located at 16000 Woodward Avenue. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Councilmember Lewis, Absent (0).

\*\*\*

## **FINANCE 05-20-19 IX a**

Finance Director Eleanor Williamson submitted the monthly financial statement for the period ending April 30, 2019.

Moved by Councilmember Woodard  
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

To receive and file the monthly financial statement for the period ending April 30, 2019.  
Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

\*

**05-20-19 IX b**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE FINANCE DIRECTOR AS PLAN ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE PUBLIC SAFETY RETIREMENT PLAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PLAN'S DOCUMENT**

Moved by Councilmember Lewis  
Supported by Councilmember Woodard

**WHEREAS**, the Public Safety Retirement Plan is a single-employer defined benefit pension plan, and

**WHEREAS**, section 2.2 of the plan document, provides that the Employer may appoint any person, including, but not limited to, the Employees of the Employer, to perform the duties of the Administrator, and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Director currently serves as Plan Administrator for the City's General Employees Retirement Plan and the Policemen and Firemen Retirement Systems, and to ensure uniformly among all plan's policies and procedures, and now therefore,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that the Highland Park City Council hereby appoints the Finance Director as Plan Administrator for the Public Safety Retirement Plan. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

\*\*\*

**HUMAN RESOURCES  
05-20-19 X**

The following resolution of support was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT FOR DETROIT WAYNE MENTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY AND THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK**

Moved by Council Pro Tem McDonald  
Supported by Councilmember Bates

**WHEREAS,** The Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority has a duty to provide comprehensive array of mental health services appropriate to conditions of individuals who are located with its geographic service area, including but not limited to, prevention activities; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Highland Park agrees to serve as a service provider; providing prevention activities by employing youth in the City of Highland Park during the summer season; and

**WHEREAS,** The City is the recipient of grant funds from The Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority for summer youth employment;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the City Council of the City of Highland Park that The City Council authorizes a Resolution approving the Professional Services Agreement with the Wayne Mental Health Authority and the City of Highland Park. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

\*\*\*

**OUTSIDE COMMUNICATION  
05-20-19 XI**

The following communication was received from Moratorium Now.

Citizens want each council member to address their own opinion on the hiring of unethical police officers who the citizens of Highland Park don't trust to protect them. Moratorium Now as a group is seeking this answer from each council member to address on the agenda for Monday May 20, 2019.

Moved by Councilmember Woodard  
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

To receive and file the above communication. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

\*\*\*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councilmember Woodard  
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

To adjourn the meeting, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

**CERTIFICATE**

I, hereby certify that the attached is a copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held the 20<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2019 and that said minutes are available for public inspection at the address designated on the posted public notice.



Cidia Wicker-Brown, Deputy City Clerk