

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

JULY 19, 2021

Council convened at 7:05 p.m. with Council President Clyburn presiding.

Present: Council Pro Tem Patrick remotely from Highland Park, MI; Councilmember Jackson remotely from Highland Park, MI; Councilmember Bates remotely from Highland Park, MI; Councilmember Armstrong remotely from Highland Park, MI and Council President Clyburn remotely from Highland Park, MI (5).

Absent: (0).

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

To approve the agenda with the addition of the February 20, 2020 Special Meeting minutes. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilmember Armstrong
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held February 20, 2020. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To approve the minutes of the Virtual Workshop Meeting held July 6, 2021. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

To approve the minutes of the Virtual Regular meeting held July 6, 2021. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

VETO
07-19-21 V a

The following communication was received from Mayor Yopp.

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Mayor under Charter **Section 6-3**, I veto the resolution retaining the Bodman law firm as a third-party independent attorney to obtain contractual information related to the City of Highland Park and Ajax Paving Industries, Inc. for potential litigation related to that contract, if necessary, and allocating and approving funds for same.

These are unrelated but sensitive intergovernmental issues related to the DPW yard, which were explained to the City Council President in 2020. That conversation was followed by a scheduled meeting between the City Council President and the City Attorney to review, this matter. Over one year ago, on Monday, July 6, 2020, at 4:26 p.m., the City Council President was invited to review the Ajax agreement. That meeting was cancelled at the request of the City Council President. He indicated he would not meet to discuss this matter, although he regularly engaged in discussions with the Legal Department. There are efforts to arrange for a secured virtual closed session. Also, the sensitive unrelated issues are about to be resolved at the intergovernmental level.

City Council has had an open invitation to review documents and discuss the matter with the City Attorney. However, instead of meeting in the City Attorney's office, City Council has imprudently opted to waste taxpayer dollars by paying for information it can review at no cost. Again, under Charter **Section 7-3(15)**, this matter relating to Ajax was based upon my authority to manage and control all City property, and I hereby veto this resolution.

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To override the above veto. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Councilmember Jackson, Absent (0).

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07-19-21 V b

The following communication was received from Mayor Yopp.

On July 5, 2021, City Council walked on a resolution retaining Bodman PLC as a third-party independent attorney to assist City Council and represent Rodney Patrick in the case

involving Temeko Manica. This letter serves as a veto of Council's actions pursuant to the powers granted under **Section 6-3** of the City Charter.

Care was taken in this matter in an attempt to prevent any errors in the decision regarding legal representation of Mr. Patrick at City expense. After the litigation was filed and served, the Wayne County Clerk's office was contacted to ascertain the veracity of the averments made in the lawsuit against Rodney Patrick and his election committee. The violations did not involve the City, but rather the matter of his candidacy for office. An inquiry was made as to whether the outstanding balances were resolved. The Clerk sent an email confirming the indebtedness. This investigation has disclosed that this matter, whatever the outcome, in no way associates Mr. Patrick to any actions arising out of his position with the City or the City Council. In summary:

- The allegations set forth in the Complaint are not against City Council, and thus City Council is not identified as a party.
- The claims are purportedly based upon pre-election conduct and not acts done in performance of his duties as a member of City Council.
- The allegations involve criminal behavior, which requires individual representation.
- Independent legal counsel should be employed, but not at City expense.

If City Council is not a party to the litigation, it has no authority to request the representation of Bodman PLC in matters arising outside of the parameters of their position. For the foregoing reasons, I hereby veto Council's actions.

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Council Pro Tem Patrick

To override the above veto. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Councilmember Jackson, Absent (0).

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 07-19-21 VI

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION TO SELL THE VACANT RESIDENTIAL SIDE LOT AT 213 FLORENCE TO THE ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER AT 207 FLORENCE

Moved by Councilmember Armstrong
Supported by Councilmember Bates

WHEREAS, The City of Highland Park holds in its inventory a surplus of City- owned parcels that are not producing a taxable, habitable and general benefit to the City and its residents; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the City to decrease the number of city-owned parcels and

return them to productive use; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park is the owner of the vacant side lot at 213 Florence, (vacant lot adjacent to resident's home); and

WHEREAS, upon the payment of all fees have been previously paid, and required clearances obtained from the Water Department, Treasurer, City Engineer, CED and Legal Departments are signed off and ready to purchase; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the sale of the vacant lot located in Highland Park, MI at the cost of \$500. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

**FINANCE
07-19-21 VII**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To receive and file the adopted budget for FY 2021-2022. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

**HUMAN RESOURCES
07-19-21 VIII**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN DETROIT WAYNE
INTEGRATED HEALTH NETWORK AND THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK
SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM**

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park has an interest in promoting the health, safety and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, engaging the youth in the community in positive activities during the summer months; and

WHEREAS, the City has been awarded monies by Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network in the amount of \$30,000 to fund a summer youth program to allow eligible participants to earn income during the summer, while performing safe yet constructive

employment activities, which are in the best interest of the youth and the community

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Highland Park approves the acceptance of \$30,000 from Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network for the funding of the Summer Youth Employment Program. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

**WATER
07-19-21 IX**

RESOLUTION TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FY 2022 WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND RATES ON AUGUST 2, 2021 AS REQUESTED BY THE WATER DEPARTMENT

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick
Supported by Councilmember Bates

WHEREAS, pursuant to chapter 1040.17 and 1042.01 of the City Code of Ordinances, it is the responsibility of the City of Highland Park to establish water and sewer rates and to determine an annual budget; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park City Council shall receive comments on the recommended water and sewer rates and proposed budget from citizens at a duly advertised public hearing; and

WHEREAS, all comments received from citizens at a duly advertised public hearing, will be documented; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Water Department Director, after approval, that water and sewer rates shall adhere to the proposed budget funds for FY 2022; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Highland Park Water Department requests a public hearing to be held at the next Regular City Council Meeting of August 2, 2021, to receive these comments regarding the FY 2022 Water Department Budget and Rates. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

To adjourn the meeting, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the attached is a copy of the minutes of the Virtual Regular Meeting held the 19th day of July 2021 and that said minutes are available for public inspection at the address designated on the posted public notice.



Cidia Wicker-Brown, Deputy City Clerk