

CITY OF HUNTINGTON WOODS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION
MINUTES
January 4, 2022
7:30 p.m.
In-Person Meeting – Gillham Recreation Center

Mayor Paul called the Meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Paul, Commissioner Olsman, Commissioner Elder,
Commissioner Jenks, and Commissioner Rozell

ABSENT: None

City Staff Present: Interim City Manager Wollenweber,
Finance/Treasurer Director Rowland, City Clerk Barckholtz and City
Attorney Zalewski

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Rozell and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Elder
to approve the January 4, 2022 agenda as presented.

Ayes: Paul, Jenks, Olsman, Rozell, Elder

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Olsman and seconded by Commissioner Rozell
to approve the January 4, 2022 Consent Agenda.

Ayes: Paul, Olsman, Elder, Rozell, Jenks

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Motion Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

COUNTY COMMISSIONER AND ELECTED OFFICIAL REMARKS

State Senator Moss and State Representative Wise

- Reminded residents and staff if support is needed for issues such as unemployment or any other issues, please contact Senator Moss or Representative Wise at their office.

Charlie Cavell- Oakland County Commissioner

- Huntington Woods has 134 cases of Covid – if you have any questions concerning the Oakland County Covid response, please contact the Oakland County Health Department at 1-800-848-5533.
- The City will be receiving information on the Oakland County \$2.4 million Water and Sewer Infrastructure Grant and encouraged the City to apply for it.

PROCLAMATIONS

A PROCLAMATION BY THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON WOODS, MICHIGAN HONORING DANNY FENSTER

WHEREAS, Danny Fenster, a proud son and native of Huntington Woods, was wrongfully arrested and imprisoned by the military government of Myanmar from May 24 through November 15, 2021 for the sole crime of being a journalist and the managing editor of Frontier Myanmar, and

WHEREAS, Danny Fenster sought only to contribute to the well-being of the citizens of Myanmar and the world by editing stories concerning the military coup which toppled Myanmar's democratic government in February 2021, and

WHEREAS, a vigorous free press and dedicated journalists are essential to the preservation and survival of democracy throughout the world, and

WHEREAS, Danny Fenster, his wife Julianna Silva, his brother Bryan and their parents Rose and Buddy Fenster, and the extended Fenster, Racey and Kurzweil families, all demonstrated incredible courage, fortitude, and determination to the world during this tense ordeal, and

WHEREAS, the Huntington Woods City Commission further recognizes the efforts of Governor Bill Richardson, Representative Andy Levin, U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, State Senator Jeremy Moss and State Representative Regina Weiss and other public officials who worked diligently to assure the safe release of Danny Fenster from his unlawful detention in Myanmar.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Huntington Woods City Commission hereby expresses its full appreciation to Danny Fenster for his courage and accomplishments as a journalist and for the strength and determination he and his family displayed over a very difficult six-month period of time.

PROCLAIMED by resolution of the City Commission on this 4th day of January 2022.

Andy Levin – US Senator (9th District)

- Congratulated Chris Wilson for being selected as the new City Manager for the City of Huntington Woods.
- Commended Anne Hage and other librarians for their hard work and being advocates for public libraries.
- He commended the City of Huntington Woods residents and the Fenster family and friends for their hard work, diligence, and support in bringing Danny Fenster home safely.

**A PROCLAMATION
BY THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON WOODS, MICHIGAN
HONORING LIBRARY DIRECTOR ANNE HAGE**

WHEREAS, Anne Hage, known to many as Miss Anne, started her career as a clerk at the Huntington Woods Library in 1988. She became the Youth Services Librarian in 1990 maintaining a warm relationship with residents and children for years of story hours. She succeeded in becoming the Library Director in September of 2007, and

WHEREAS, Anne obtained her Undergraduate Degree from the James Madison College at Michigan State University, her Master's in Library Science from Wayne State University as well as her specialized Library Certification from the Library of Michigan, and

WHEREAS, Anne has been an active member of our library cooperative, the Library Network as a member of the Steering Committee from 2011-2013 and a member of the Shared System User's Group from 2014 to present, representing smaller libraries, and

WHEREAS, she co-chaired in both 2000 and 2002 the auction committee for the Michigan Library Association, and

WHEREAS, her career at the City of Huntington Woods Library included substantial expansion of the children's programming including the addition of story times for various age groups and other special programs including several preschool and volunteer fairs, and

WHEREAS, Anne worked collaboratively and tirelessly with the Huntington Woods Recreation Center on programming and maintained a positive relationship with the City's contract community of Pleasant Ridge. She further continued a good working relationship with the Library Advisory Board and the Friends of the Huntington Woods Library.

WHEREAS, under her leadership the Woods Gallery has been further developed and now hosts various art shows several times a year, and

WHEREAS, her operational experience, excellent taste and tenacity were instrumental in the complete renovation of the entire lower level of the library including the Woods Gallery, the three community meeting rooms, and the kitchen following the major city-wide flood, and

WHEREAS, Anne is well respected by her staff and is considered a consummate leader in her ability to listen, mentor and consider staff thoughts and opinions when making library decisions.

WHEREAS, Anne proudly raised three children during her time with the City of Huntington Woods. Her eldest, Joe Hage, is a Cloud Engineer at Ford Motor Company. Her youngest son, Jacob Hage, is a Software Engineer for META (formerly Facebook) living in

Seattle, Washington and her youngest, Meredith Hage, is a sophomore at Michigan State University studying Supply Chain Management.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that on behalf of the residents of Huntington Woods, the many patrons of the library, and the entire City staff Anne worked with over her thirty-one plus years of dedicated service, I as Mayor and the members of the City Commission express our sincerest thanks and best wishes to Anne in her retirement and future endeavors.

PROCLAIMED by resolution of the City Commission January 4, 2022.

**A PROCLAMATION
BY THE CITY OF HUNTINGTON WOODS, MICHIGAN
HONORING SWIM COACH SEAN PETERS**

WHEREAS, Sean Peters in 1992 was an undergraduate student swim team co-captain at Oakland University where he competed as well as assisted other swimmers with their swim techniques. He was noted then for his patience, kindness, and excellent work ethic, and

WHEREAS, in 1994 the fledgling Huntington Woods Aquatics Club Hurricanes was about to lose City support and discontinue membership in the NSSL. In response, a parent board was formed to reconfigure operations of the program including the hiring of a new head coach. Young Sean Peters just graduating from Oakland University, applied for the job, and was given the opportunity based on his well-known capabilities as a swimmer and solid training methods and techniques.

WHEREAS, he has continued as the coach for HWAC for over twenty-five years where he coached and mentored many generations of little Tropical Storms and Hurricanes, turning a once-dying program into one of the most sought-after summer programs in our Parks & Recreation programming. Sean is still loved by both swimmers and parents alike. His positive leadership and ability to nurture a Hurricane's individual development has resulted in a swim culture centered on fun, inclusivity, and fostering the love of swimming in our young athletes. He has undeniably become the most successful coach in Huntington Woods history and an indispensable part of the community.

WHEREAS, Sean also serves as the Head Swim Coach for Wayne State University for over twenty-five years and has recently been recognized as one of the Top One Hundred Greatest Swimming and Diving Coaches by the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association, and

WHEREAS, he has guided the WSU Warriors to twenty GLIAC Championships, one National Championship, forty individual national championships, fourteen national championship relays and has coached three hundred seventy-seven Academic All-GLIAC athletes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the members of the City Commission, City Staff, Tropical Storm and Hurricane families and their swimmers recognize and thank Coach Peters for being an exemplary community leader and example of professionalism within the HWAC program.

PROCLAIMED by resolution of the City Commission January 4, 2022.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None

CITY MANAGER APPOINTMENT:

Moved by Commissioner Rozell to appoint Chris Wilson as the next City Manager and authorize the Employment Agreement effective January 18, 2022.

Commissioner Comments:

Rozell: Noted the City went through a very thorough process and thanked Mark Wollenweber and Alex Allie, former City Managers, for their guidance through the process. He is pleased with the hiring of Chris Wilson and thinks he will do an excellent job in guiding the City into the future.

Ayes: Paul, Olsman, Elder, Rozell, Jenks
Nays: None
Absent: None

RESOLUTION R-1-2022:

Matter of authorizing 2021-2022 Budget Amendments Mid-Year.

Finance Director Rowland clarified that Uniform Accounting and Budgeting Act requires budgets to be amended on a periodic basis as needed and that a local unit of government shall not incur expenditures more than the amount appropriated. A review of accounts through half of the fiscal year has identified multiple adjustments that are needed.

He further noted the General Fund revenue adjustments include increasing state shared revenue and building permits and lowering district court revenue and investment income. Expenditure adjustments in City Hall are for decreased salaries due to position vacancies and increased maintenance costs due to contracting out janitorial services. Many expenditure adjustments are needed for Public Safety due to a retirement, a resignation, and two employees on medical leave. This has caused a dramatic increase in overtime. The department will be back at full staffing in early January. Public Safety is also moving one Public Safety Officer to 24-hour shifts like the command officers. This will help bring down overtime costs in the future.

The Recreation Fund is performing better than planned so far this year. Revenue adjustments are included to increase revenue from the pool, classes, and Pre-K. Various expenditure adjustments are included primarily due to staff restructuring from retirement. The recommendation is to reduce the General Fund transfer to the Recreation Fund by \$51,4909.

Adjustments are also included in the George W. Kuhn Drain Fund for an additional assessment for Oakland County and for the creation of an ARPA Fund to hold federal revenue received from ARPA.

Moved by Commissioner Jenks and seconded by Commissioner Olsman to Authorize the 2021-2022 Budget Amendments Mid-Year.

Ayes: Paul, Olsman, Elder, Rozell, Jenks

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION R-2-2022:

Matter of authorizing the City of Huntington Woods 2022 Refunding Bonds (Limited Tax General Obligation)

Interim City Manager Mark Wollenweber and Bond Council, Patrick McGow, clarified for and presented the Resolution authorizing the refinancing of the City's 2007 Capital Improvement Bonds (Limited Tax General Obligation). In the original principal amount of \$1,500,000 (the 'Prior Bonds'), which were issued to finance the cost of paving, grading resurfacing or reconstruction streets and drive approaches in the city, including 11 Mile Road, together with all necessary and related costs. The Resolution is based upon the bond specifications prepared by Northland Securities Inc., the City's placement agent. The Resolution sets forth the terms of the Bonds, the form of the Bond and provides for the solicitation of bids from financial institutions and private placement sale of the bonds to financial institutions. It also authorizes various City officials (City Manager and Finance Director) to take the necessary actions to issue, sell and deliver the Bonds.

Moved by Commissioner Jenks and Mayor Pro-Tem Elder to authorize the City of Huntington Woods 2022 Refunding Bonds (Limited Tax General Obligation)

Ayes: Paul, Olsman, Jenks, Elder, Rozell

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION R-3-2022:

Matter of entering into an agreement for the conversion of streetlights to LED bulbs with DTE Energy at a cost of \$58,166.

Interim City Manager, Mark Wollenweber, provided explanation on the upgrade noting the City has budgeted \$65,000 this year to convert streetlights to LED of all Edison owned streetlighting. A proposal was received from DTE to complete the conversion of all 241 streetlights at a cost of \$58,166. The City would also be eligible for a rebate of \$3,143 bringing the net cost to \$55,023. The annual saving from the conversion is estimated at \$11,603.44 giving the project a payback period of 4.74 years.

The Environmental Sustainability Committee recommends the City convert to 3000K bulbs rather than the standard 4000k bulbs that DTE supplies to reduce the brightness of the light. A sample of a 3000k and a 4000k bulb have been installed in various locations throughout the City. The cost of conversion is the same, but if the City decides to go purchase the nonstandard 3000k bulb, the City would be required to purchase and store the bulbs within City facilities. With each

outage, a DTE employee would have to access City facilities and retrieve and install the replacement light.

The City is recommending moving forward with the DTE proposal based on the cost savings, additional equipment and bulbs to be stored or purchased.

Moved by Commissioner Olsman and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Elder to enter into an agreement for the conversion of streetlights to LED bulbs with DTE Energy at a cost of \$58,166.

Public Comment:

Harold Stack – 10445 Vernon

Noted he is not in support 4000k bulbs being considered and questioned if the lights have seven pin connectors.

Mary Maslin-Cooper – 13122 Talbot

Noted she is not in favor of the 4000k bulbs because her block was used as a test site for the 4000K bulbs and the neighbors complained about the volume and brightness of the bulbs.

Commissioner Comments:

Elder:

Noted she would like more feedback from the residents that have lived near both the 3000k and 4000k lighting. She sought clarification on the carbon difference between the two lights. She did drive by the lighting and did not notice a difference but would like more resident feedback before a decision is made.

Rozell:

Noted he did not notice a huge difference between the lighting when he drove by but does agree with Commissioner Elder in seeking resident feedback. He would like to table the item.

Olsman:

Noted he agrees with Mayor Pro-Tem Elder and Commissioner Rozell to seek more resident input before making this purchase.

Paul:

Asked that the lighting map that shows the locations of both the 3000k and 4000K bulbs that was provided to the City Commission at an earlier date be promoted out to the residents via the Eblast-and website asking seeking resident feedback.

Moved by Commissioner Rozell and seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Elder to table the matter of entering into an agreement for the conversion of streetlights to LED bulbs with DTE Energy at a cost of \$58,166 until the next regular meeting.

Ayes: Paul, Olsman, Jenks, Elder, Rozell
Nays: None
Absent: None

The Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE No. ___ :

Matter of consideration of the Adoption of an Ordinance to amend the City Code of the City of Huntington Woods, Chapter 40, Article 9, Sustainable Design and Environmental Standards, To Replace in Its Entirety Section 9.03, Solar Structures and Easements; and to Provide Penalties for Violations Thereof. (First Reading)

Moved by Commissioner Rozell and seconded by Commissioner Jenks to move the first reading of the ordinance for purposes of discussion.

Public Comment:

David Eagan – Member of the Environmental Sustainability Committee

Clarified that the ordinance does not state or allow for ground placement of the solar panels, strictly roof mount.

Julie Petrick – Member of the Environmental Sustainability Committee

Provided the Commission with a history of the development of the ordinance noting it has been under discussion two or three times with the Planning Commission who finally moved the ordinance out for City Commission review. There were also several surveys sent out to residents seeking feedback if front facing solar panels would be actable in the City. Positive feedback was received.

Ben Falik – Member of the Environmental Sustainability Committee

Noted support of the ordinance along with highlights on why it is important in keeping the City progressive and inclusive.

Aaron Retish – Member of the Environmental Sustainability Committee

Noted the hard work the committee has done over a two-year period on the ordinance including two surveys that had a large percentage of support for the change to allow for front facing panels.

Bridget McKinley - 26674 Humber St.

Noted her strong support for the ordinance as both a former member of the Environmental Sustainability Committee and as a resident.

Commissioner Comments:

Rozell:

Questioned how many homes are impacted by the need to have front facing panels.

Wollenweber noted he was not clear on an exact number.

Rozell further noted in reference to standard #5, he was not clear on how or who would determine if a ten percent or more decrease in energy production was met to allow for the rear or side facing roof placement of panels.

Wollenweber noted he was not clear but thought it would include the consultation with the solar company and the City. City Attorney noted for the second reading, it could include who and how the determination would be made.

Rozell also noted #9 has a typo.

Paul:

Noted he is concerned with the aesthetics of the panels. He stated he would like more clarification on what the expectation is with the color of the panels versus the roof color.

Elder:

Thanked the Committee and the Planning Commission for looking at this issue. She noted she has several questions and is also questioning the #5 ten percent issue. She further commented that the Master Plan draft did not mention a lot about solar panels and would like some feedback from the consultants on why this issue was not included in the community wide outreach on the Master Plan. She also asked if any benchmarking had been done with other communities. She would also like to look at maintaining consistency of this ordinance in keeping with other City zoning permits such as generators and fences that require neighbor approval.

Jenks:

Noted he hopes this ordinance will be moved forward as he sees the value in allowing for front-facing panels.

Olsman:

Although the Environmental Advisory Committee and Planning Commission have worked hard on this, he strongly noted the aesthetic component of this ordinance is significant. After driving around other communities that allow for front facing panels, he finds them unsightly. Because Hank Berry is not present, he does not want to move forward with this ordinance until more clarification and questions are clarified.

*Commissioner Rozell withdrew his original motion with the support from the seconder, Commissioner Jenks.

Moved by Commissioner Olsman and seconded by Commissioner Rozell to table the matter of consideration of the Adoption of an Ordinance to amend the City Code of the City of Huntington Woods, Chapter 40, Article 9, Sustainable Design and Environmental Standards, To Replace in Its Entirety Section 9.03, Solar Structures and Easements; and to Provide Penalties for Violations Thereof. (First Reading)

Ayes: Paul, Rozell, Jenks, Elder, Olsman

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Motion Carried.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- Noted that the Boards and Commissions are being better represented on the City website within the site calendar.
- The City is exploring customer service training for City staff.
- Anne Hage's retirement reception has been cancelled due to Covid concerns.
- The City is currently seeking the new Library Director. Interviews will start over the coming month.
- Several residents have called and complained about the potential of a medical marijuana distribution center on Eleven Mile Rd. in Berkley. He has been in discussion with Berkley officials regarding this matter.
- Would like the City to consider ordering commemorative bricks for former City officials.
- Noted he has enjoyed working as the Interim City Manager and thanked the residents and staff for making his time enjoyable.

Commissioner Comments:

Paul:

Thanked Mark Wollenweber for coming back as the interim and all his dedicated work in the search for a new City manager.

Rozell:

He also thanked Mark Wollenweber for his time served as the Interim City Manager. He further noted he is not in support of a medical marijuana establishment on Eleven Mile which across the street from a Huntington Woods Park. Given the good working relationship Huntington Woods has had over the years with the City of Berkley, he is of the hope that they will decide against this approval and asked the Mayor and new City Manager, Chris Wilson, to advocate for the City's position against the placement of the dispensary.

Olsman:

Noted that although the Huntington Woods has no legal say in the medical marijuana establishment location within Berkley, he is not in support of it being there and hopes the two cities will come to an agreement given their good working history.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Commissioner Olsman and seconded by Commissioner Rozell to adjourn the regular City Commission meeting.

Ayes: Paul, Elder, Rozell, Jenks, Olsman

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Motion Carried, meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Heidi Barckholtz, City Clerk

Robert F. Paul, III, Mayor