

CITY OF HUNTINGTON WOODS
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION
MINUTES
July 18, 2023
7:30 p.m.
CITY HALL

Mayor Paul called the Meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Paul, Mayor Pro Tem Jenks, Commissioner Elder, and Commissioner Rozell

ABSENT: Commissioner Olsman (excused)

City Staff Present: City Manager Wilson, Finance Director Haan, City Clerk Barckholtz, and City Attorney Rosati

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Rozell and seconded by Commissioner Elder to approve the July 18, 2023 agenda as presented.

Ayes: Paul, Jenks, Elder, Rozell

Nays: None

Absent: Olsman

The Motion Carried.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Moved by Commissioner Elder and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jenks to approve the July 18, 2023 Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: Paul, Jenks, Elder, Rozell

Nays: None

Absent: Olsman

The Motion Carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

COUNTY COMMISSIONER AND ELECTED OFFICIAL REMARKS

None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Josephine Leider – 26308 Dundee:

Noted concern with City's DEI plan.

Jessica Downey – 13160 Kingston:

Noted concern with the ongoing problems at Val Jones Park.

Jeff Bortnick – 25535 York Rd., Royal Oak:

Noted he supports the park remaining but would like to see more action taken by the City to address the concerns noted by the residents.

Lori Dwan – 13160 Lasalle:

Noted concern with the skate park and the activity taking place there.

RESOLUTION-32-2023

Matter of consideration to approve the Cost-Sharing Agreement – Safe Streets and Roads for All.

Manager Wilson presented the agreement to the Commission. The City has been working with the cities of Ferndale, Berkley, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Hazel Park, and Madison Heights on a joint Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Application. The SS4A program is a federal program that allows local communities impacted by major highway and corridor development to identify ways to improve connectivity, safety, non-motorized uses and reduce pollution through improvements to the local streets system.

The City of Ferndale is acting as the administrative lead for the Grant Application. Submission of the application requires all participating communities to approve a cost-sharing agreement to commit to their portion of local match should the Grant Application be approved. The total local match requirement is \$96,250.04 of which the City of Huntington Woods would be required to pay \$14,895.84. Total Federal funds, if awarded would be \$385,000. The City is only committing to these costs if the grant application is successful. The City of Huntington Woods would look to use any funds awarded by this grant to improve pedestrian safety and access along the 11 Mile corridor, Woodward and Coolidge. The agreement has been reviewed by City Attorney Rosati.

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Jenks and seconded by Commissioner Elder to approve the Cost-Sharing Agreement – Safe Streets and Roads for All.

Commissioner Comments:

Rozell:

Sought clarification from Manager Wilson if this plan for would include a “Road Diet” as seen on Coolidge Highway in Berkley. Manager Wilson noted there is no consideration in place for this type of change on Eleven Mile other than a possible dedicated left hand turn lane.

Elder:

She has received resident concerns regarding the safety of crossing Eleven Mile Rd. She is relieved that this plan is being put into action. She also asked Manager Wilson if there is a plan for the safer crossing of Eleven Mile and Woodward and Lincoln and Woodward. Manager Wilson noted that is Royal Oak’s jurisdiction and is not part of this grant application process, but the City and Woodward Mayors are working with a committee to implement safer pedestrian crossings from Pontiac all the way to Detroit on Woodward Ave.

Paul:

He has attended several of the meetings with other Woodward Mayors concerning safer crossing on Woodward and noted MDOT does seem to be listening to the concerns of the communities.

The Ayes: Paul, Jenks, Elder, Rozell

Nays: None

Absent: Olsman

The Motion Carried

RESOLUTION R-34-2023

Matter of consideration to receive and file the MERS Annual Actuarial Valuation Report for the year ending December 31, 2022.

Manager Wilson provided context for the Commissioners noting they were provided the Municipal Employees’ Retirement System of Michigan (MERS) Annual Actuarial Valuation Report for the year ending December 31, 2022. The report analyzes the City’s funding levels for all outstanding pension obligations and sets required contribution rates beginning July 1, 2025. With the review of the report, he feels the City is in a solid position with defined benefit pension plans being closed to new hires, an approved millage to help address pension obligations and plans to make future contributions in excess of the City’s ARC. As noted in the report, at the current ARC contributions levels, the City’s full pension obligations would be met by 2040.

Moved by Commissioner Rozell and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jenks to approve to receive and file the MERS Annual Actuarial Valuation Report for the year ending December 31, 2022.

The Ayes: Paul, Jenks, Elder, Rozell

Nays: None

Absent: Olsman

The Motion Carried

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

- He provided the Commission with a copy of the note from Mary Beth Krehbiel thanking the Commission for honoring her as Citizen of the Year.
- On Friday July 28, 2023 at 4:00 p.m. the City will host the dedication of the historical marker being placed at Rackham Golf Course. Attendees will include Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist, the remaining heir to the golf course, one of Ben Elron Davis's last living relatives as well as remarks from Mayor Paul.
- Road construction continues with progress being made on Talbot and Winchester. Work on Nadine will continue in August.
- The 4th of July Fireworks went well and thanked the Rackham Staff and Public Safety for getting people out of the course quickly and safely after the show.
- Noted that after MRMA sent out a facilities expert to inspect the bowl and the rink at Val Jones Park, it was determined the bowl is in good condition, but the rink needs repair. The Recreation Center will be putting out RFPs for the needed work on the rink. The City will not only work on repairing the park but will continue to work long term on the general site issues to include signage, conduct and litter pick up. The City would like to work with the residents on the process.
- There are openings on the Anti-Racism Advisory Committee and the Environmental Advisory Committee. Information on the openings will be included in the Eblast.

ADJOURNMENT:

Moved by Commissioner Rozell Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jenks, to adjourn the regular City Commission meeting.

Ayes: Paul, Jenks, Elder, Rozell, Olsman

Nays: None

Absent: None

The Motion Carried, meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Heidi Barckholtz, City Clerk

Robert F. Paul, III, Mayor