

CITY OF HUNTINGTON WOODS  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
**September 19, 2023**  
7:30 p.m.  
CITY HALL

Mayor Paul called the Meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

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

**ABSENT:** Commissioner Elder (excused), Commissioner Olsman (excused)

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Manager Wilson noted agenda item #4, Agreement for Election Services, should be removed from the agenda because Commissioner Rozell abstained. As the Oakland County Elections Director, he was involved in the drafting of the agreement.

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Jenks and seconded by Commissioner Rozell to approve the September 19, 2023 agenda with the removal of agenda item #4, Agreement for Election Services.

Ayes: Paul, Jenks, Rozell

Nays: None

Absent: Elder, Olsman

**The Motion Carried.**

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Commissioner Rozell and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jenks to approve the September 19, 2023 Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: Paul, Jenks Rozell

Nays: None

Absent: Elder, Olsman

**The Motion Carried.**

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

None

## **PROCLAMATIONS**

**Mayor Paul read into the record the Proclamation declaring September 8, 2023  
Lissencephaly Awareness Day.**

### **Lissencephaly Awareness Day Proclamation**

WHEREAS Lissencephaly is a rare gene-linked brain malformation, causing the brain to have less or no ridges & folds; making it appear smooth. It is estimated about 1 in 100,000 individuals are born with this condition; and

WHEREAS people living with this condition may also suffer from hypertonia, epilepsy, swallowing disorders, developmental delays, and more; and

WHEREAS addressing the complex medical needs early in life is imperative to helping families successfully care for their children at home. The need for more education, awareness and support for families is desperately needed; and

WHEREAS Lissencephaly Foundation Inc; a nonprofit charitable organization wants to help support these individuals through our continued efforts of empowering families and educating communities; and

WHEREAS It is appropriate that one day each year should be set apart from the rest and be known as Lissencephaly Awareness Day, this day shall be on September 30th; and

WHEREAS on September 30<sup>th</sup>, residents of the City of Huntington Woods and surrounding communities will participate in a Walk and Roll the family of Huntington Woods resident Julianna Filak to raise awareness for Lissencephaly; and

WHEREAS the City of Huntington Woods encourages all our residents to wear blue, purple and gray for Lissencephaly Awareness Day on Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup> in honor of Julianna and all who are working to overcome this condition;

NOW, THEREFORE, I Mayor Robert Paul, do hereby proclaim September 30<sup>th</sup> 2023, to be known in the City of Huntington Woods as Lissencephaly Awareness day and urge our citizens, patients, caregivers, medical professionals and all agencies and organizations interested in supporting these families to unite on that day in observance of such exercises.

**Mayor Paul read into the record the Proclamation declaring September 15, 2023 through October 15, 2023 as Hispanic Heritage Month.**

**A Proclamation of the City of Huntington Woods, Michigan  
Recognizing September 15, 2023 to October 15, 2023  
as National Hispanic Heritage Month**

WHEREAS, each year, the United States observes National Hispanic Heritage Month by celebrating the culture, heritage and countless contributions of those whose ancestors were indigenous to North America including Mexico, as well as those who came from Central America, South America, Spain, and the Caribbean; and

WHEREAS, what began in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Johnson was expanded by President Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15; and

WHEREAS, the date September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for the Latin American countries of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Additionally, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively; and

WHEREAS, we recognize and honor the many ways that Hispanics have enriched the fabric of our society and we rededicate ourselves to address the lack of equal access to opportunity that many still face; and

WHEREAS, the Hispanic population of the United States is now 62.1 million, constituting 18.7% of the total population; and WHEREAS, in Oakland County the Hispanic population is now 61,000, constituting approximately 4.8% of our total population. and

WHEREAS, in the State of Michigan and Oakland County, the Hispanic population represents a wide range of nationalities and backgrounds, all of whom make a positive contribution to educational, non-profit, government and business sectors which reflect the remarkable diversity of the American people; and

WHEREAS, State of Michigan Hispanic employees comprise 5% of our workforce, delivering services and providing leadership in ALL departments throughout the county.

WHEREAS, Hispanics continue their rich tradition of significant and diverse contributions to the cultural, educational, economic, social and political vitality of the State of Michigan and Oakland County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on this 19th day of September 2023, the City of Huntington Woods does hereby proclaim September 15th – October 15th, 2023, as Hispanic Heritage Month and encourage all residents to celebrate our unique and vibrant history and recommit ourselves to a shared future of healthy, peaceful, safe and sustainable communities for all.

**Mayor Paul read into the record the Proclamation declaring September 2023 National Recovery Month.**

**National Recovery Month – September 2023**

WHEREAS, According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), in 2021, 16.5 percent of American (or 46.3 million people) 12 years or older, were classified as having a substance use disorder in the past year, including 29.5 million people who were classified as having an alcohol use disorder and 24 million people who were classified as having a drug use disorder; and

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) over 105,000 overdose deaths occurred in the United States in 2022, a 2% decrease from 2021; and  
WHEREAS, Substance use recovery is important for individual well-being and vitality, as well as for families, friends, communities, and businesses; and

WHEREAS, OCHN continues to educate and raise awareness of the risks and potential harm associated with prescription drug misuse; and

WHEREAS, Stigma and stereotypes associated with substance use disorders often keep people from seeking treatment that could improve their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Substance use disorders occur when the re-current use of alcohol and/or other drugs cause clinically or functionally significant impairment, such as health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home; and

WHEREAS, Substance use disorder recovery is a journey of healing and transformation, enabling people to live in a community of their choice while striving to achieve their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Substance use disorder recovery is a journey of healing and transformation, enabling people to live in a community of their choice while striving to achieve his/her full potential; and

WHEREAS, Substance use disorder recovery, benefits individuals with substance use disorders by focusing on their abilities to live, work, learn, and fully participate and contribute to society and also enriches the community culture; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, Oakland Community Health Network and the City of Huntington Woods hereby recognize September 2023 as National Recovery Month.

OCHN and the City call upon our citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, faith-based organizations, and schools to re-commit our state to increasing awareness and understanding of substance use, and the need for appropriate and accessible services to promote recovery.

**Mayor Paul read into the record the Proclamation declaring September 2023 National Suicide Prevention Month.**

**National Suicide Prevention Month – September 2023**

WHEREAS, September is known as National Suicide Prevention Month and is intended to help raise awareness surrounding suicide prevention resources available in the community; and

WHEREAS, World Suicide Prevention Day is observed each year on September 10; and

WHEREAS, Suicidal thoughts can affect anyone regardless of age, gender, race, orientation, income level, religion, or background; and

WHEREAS, According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), each year more than 48,000 people die by suicide; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is the second leading cause of death for people 10 to 34 years of age, the fourth leading cause among people 35 to 54 years of age, and the eighth leading cause among people 55 to 64 years of age; and

WHEREAS, Organizations like the National Alliance on mental illness (NAMI) and National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 988 work to help individuals in crisis and provide resources to shed light on this highly stigmatized topic; and

WHEREAS, Every member of our community should understand that throughout life's struggles we all need the occasional reminder that we are all silently fighting our own battles; and

WHEREAS, Oakland Community Health Network (OCHN) is committed to being a Zero Suicide organization and cultivate a network of providers who are engaged in the Zero Suicide philosophy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, Oakland Community Health Network and the City of Huntington Woods hereby recognize September 2023 as National Suicide Prevention Month. OCHN and the City call upon our citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, faith-based organizations, and schools to recommit our state to increasing awareness and understanding of suicide prevention, and the need for appropriate and accessible services to assist individuals in crisis.

## **COUNTY COMMISSIONER AND ELECTED OFFICIAL REMARKS**

None

## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- Ronald Stawiasz – 26332 York Ave.  
Thanked Manager Wilson and the City Commission for their work on remedying the issue of trash and rodents being present at the commercial property located near his home. He is still concerned with the trash receptacles the establishment is currently using and thinks they should be upgraded and re-located on the property.
- Jennifer Margrath – Autism Society of Greater Detroit  
Introduced the organization and presented services offered throughout Oakland, Macomb, Wayne, St. Clair and Washtenaw Counties.
- Jessica Downy – 13160 Kingston Ave.  
Presented compiled data of the number of incident reports made relative to Val Jones Park.
- Joanne Leider – 26308 Dundee Rd.  
Noted her continued concern with the city's DEI plan.

## **CITY OF HUNTINGTON WOODS LIBRARY PRESENTATION – Deb Hemmye**

Deb Hemmye, Library Director presented the Commission with an update on Library programming and events.

- The library now has a monthly teen program. Teens can sign up for text message program reminders using the Remind App utilizing the code HWLIB.
- The library hosted an exotic animal show with fifty people in attendance.
- The library hosted a library card sign up event with over one hundred people in attendance with twenty-seven people signing up for a library card.
- In October there will be a “Talk about Ukraine” led by a former NATO representative.
- On October 13<sup>th</sup> the library will hold the first Freedom to Read Festival that is in honor of Banned Books week which was the first week in October.
- On October 14<sup>th</sup> the library will host a local Author Fair with fifteen local authors available to sell and sign their books.
- Presented photos of the updated children's area of the library that have been painted with whimsical and colorful murals.
- Pleasant Ridge now has a book drop donated and crafted by Ed Quesenberry. Items get collected from the box twice a week.

- The Friends of Library will be selling “Defend your Freedom T-shirts” in support of books that have been banned.

**RESOLUTION-36-2023**

Matter of consideration to receive and file the 2023 PASER Rating Report.

Moved by Commissioner Rozell and seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Jenks to receive and file the 203 PASER Rating Report.

The Ayes: Paul, Jenks, Rozell

Nays: None

Absent: Elder, Olsman

**The Motion Carried**

**RESOLUTION-37-2023**

Matter of consideration to approve the Agreement for Assessing Services Between Oakland County and the City of Huntington Woods.

Moved by Mayor Pro Tem Jenks and seconded by Commissioner Rozell to approve the Agreement for Assessing Services Between Oakland County and the City of Huntington Woods.

The Ayes: Paul, Jenks, Rozell

Nays: None

Absent: Elder, Olsman

**The Motion Carried**

**CITY MANAGER’S REPORT**

- Noted the City has been addressing the rat issue at the 1-800 Pain building along with working with Tringali to get a new dumpster for that location after resident concerns were brought to the Commission.
- Dog waste stations have been installed throughout the City. The project was implemented by a Berkley High School student’s school project. He thanked the DPW for their work in getting the posts set.
- He and Hank Berry attended the kickoff meeting with MKSK for the Climate Action Plan. They are also looking over the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

Ayes: Paul, Jenks, Rozell

Nays: None

Absent: Elder, Olsman

**The Motion Carried, meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi Barckholtz". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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Heidi Barckholtz, City Clerk