

**MINUTES OF THE  
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL  
AUGUST 16, 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.

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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick  
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

To approve the agenda with the addition of items from City Council and Fire Department and to remove Community Development items B and D. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick  
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

To approve the minutes of the Virtual Workshop Meeting held July 19, 2021. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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Moved by Councilmember Armstrong  
Supported by Council Pro Tem Patrick

To approve the minutes of the Virtual Regular Meeting held July 19, 2021. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**PUBLIC HEARING  
08-16-21 V**

The Clerk stated this was the place and time to hold a public hearing to hear citizens input regarding FY 2022 Water Department budget & rates.

Damon Garrett, Director of Water/Engineering, gave an overview of the proposed budget and upcoming projects and costs.

Brian Donovan and Gracie Wooten had comments as well as members of City Council.

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick  
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To close the Public Hearing. Public Hearing closed at 7:46 Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**CITY ADMINISTRATOR  
08-16-21 VI**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE CONTRACT WITH THE WOODHILL GROUP FOR  
SUPPLEMENTAL FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE SUCCESSFUL MANAGEMENT  
OF THE 2020/2021 FY AUDIT**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick  
Supported by Councilmember Bates

**WHEREAS**, the Michigan State Treasurer is required to prescribe uniform accounting and reporting standards for all local units within the State; and

**WHEREAS**, if a local unit has a population of 4,000 or more, an audit is required every year; and

**WHEREAS**, the Woodhill Group has assisted the Highland Park Finance Department in completing a successful audit during the last several years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Department wishes to engage the Woodhill Group to provide accounting and financial services to:

- 1) manage the 2020/2021 FY audit for an amount not to exceed \$15,000
  - 2) complete all record-keeping required for the audit
  - 3) provide emergency or special projects as requested by the City
- Total of items 2 & 3 not to exceed \$15,000; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City approves issuing a

contract to TheWoodhill Group for supplemental financial services relating to the 2020/2021 audit for a total amount not to exceed \$30,000. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**ADMINISTRATION  
08-16-21 VII**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE ALL EMERGENCY EXPENDITURES CAUSED BY  
THE JUNE 25- 27, 2021 FLOOD.**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick  
Supported by Councilmember Bates

**WHEREAS**, over a 3-day span from June 25-27, 2021, the City of Highland Park and surrounding areas received 4" to 6"+ of rain; and

**WHEREAS**, the rain exceeded the capacity of the storm water system and, as a result, significant flooding occurred; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor declared a State of Emergency in Highland Park due to the impact of the flooding, the Governor declared a State of Emergency in Wayne County and the President of the United States subsequently approved a Michigan Disaster Declaration; and

**WHEREAS**, the greatest impacts from flooding in Highland Park were the basement of City Hall and the Recreation Center; and

**WHEREAS**, in an effort to mitigate the damage and allow employees to return to work on Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> the City took the following emergency actions: 1) called the City's insurance carrier, 2) engaged a flood restoration company to clean-up the City Hall basement (**\$15,053.37**), 3) engaged a Public Adjuster to work on Highland Park's behalf to secure maximum compensation from the insurance company (during the 2014 flood, Highland Park hired a Public Adjuster) (**10% of total insurance award**), 4) engaged an air quality contractor to check the air quality in City Hall (**cost TBD**); 5) engaged a mold remediation company to assess mold findings in the Recreation Department (**cost TBD**); and 6) may engage additional companies to protect Highland Park citizens and employees, as needed (**cost TBD**); and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City approves all emergency expenditures caused by the June 25-27, 2021 flood. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**08-16-21 VII b**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR A 2022 DETROIT AREA AGENCY ON AGING (DAAA) COMMUNITY IMPACT GRANT**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick  
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

**WHEREAS**, the Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) is accepting Community Impact Grant proposals for selected Senior and Caregiver Services; and

**WHEREAS**, the grant will be funded through the Older Americans Act, including National Family Caregiver Support Program (Federal), State, and/or Wayne County Funds for Fiscal Year 2022, covering the period November 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, in April, the DAAA held two town hall meetings for residents of Highland Park and conducted a Community Needs Assessment to determine the needs of the community; and

**WHEREAS**, the DAAA will fund innovative proposals put forth by Highland Park to address the cultural needs of older adults and caregivers identified in the town hall meetings and Community Needs Assessment (see attached list); and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the City approves Highland Park applying for a 2022 Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA) Community Impact Grant. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**CITY COUNCIL  
08-16-21 VIII**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION FROM THE HIGHLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL MANDATING THAT AJAX PAVING, INC. CEASE AND DESIST ITS ILLEGAL OPERATIONS AT THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS YARD LOCATED AT 14200 DEQUINDRE STREET, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48212, IMMEDIATELY.**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick  
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

**WHEREAS**, the Highland Park City Council is mandated by the Highland Park City Charter to approve all contracts that include the City of Highland Park, and,

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Hubert Yopp has illegally engaged the City of Highland Park in an ‘illegal contract’ with Ajax Paving, Inc., and,

**WHEREAS**, this illegal contract that Mayor Yopp signed, (but for months publically stated that there was no contract), puts the City of Highland Park and its residents at risk and in legal jeopardy, and,

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Hubert Yopp has clearly broken the law and violated the Highland Park City Charter (a charter that he publically supported) by not requesting the Highland Park City Council approve the proposed contract by following the Highland Park City Charter procedures, and,

**WHEREAS**, there is a section of the Highland Park City Charter that provides the Mayor with the ability to manage and control city property, but not the ability to manage and control Contracts and all Contracts must be approved by the Highland Park City Council, Now,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Highland Park City Council demands that Ajax Paving, Inc. immediately Cease and Desist its illegal operations at the City of Highland Park Department of Public Works Yard until further notice. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Councilmember Jackson, Absent (0).

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**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
08-16-21 IX a**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO SELL THE VACANT RESIDENTIAL SIDE LOT AT  
193 FARRAND PARK TO THE ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER AT  
189 FARRAND PARK**

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 189 Farrand Park, (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).

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**08-16-21 IX b**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO SELL THE VACANT RESIDENTIAL SIDE LOT AT 374 PILGRIM TO THE ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER AT 370 PILGRIM**

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 189 Farrand Park, (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).

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**FINANCE**  
**08-16-21 X a**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick  
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To receive and file the monthly financial statement May 31, 2021. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**08-16-21 X b**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick  
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To receive and file the monthly financial statement June 30, 2021. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**08-16-21 X c**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick  
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To receive and file the monthly financial statement July 31, 2021. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**FIRE**

**08-16-21 XI**

Moved by Councilmember Bates  
Supported by Council Pro Tem Patrick

To receive and file the monthly incident report. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**WATER**

**08-16-21 XII**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE FY2022 WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND RATES AS REQUESTED BY THE WATER DEPARTMENT**

Moved by Councilmember Bates  
Supported by Council Pro Tem Patrick

**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

**WHEREAS**, the Highland Park received documentation from the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) regarding deferred implementation – Great Lakes Water Authority FY 2022 Wholesale Water and Sewer Schedule of Charges; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council has received and reviewed the Water Department Director's recommended water and sewer rates for FY2022; and

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

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Water Department Director that rates shall adhere to the proposed budget funds for FY2022; and

**BE IT RESOLVED**, all comments received from citizens at the duly advertised public hearing, are documented; and

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, after documentation of all comments received from citizens, that the Water Department is authorized to take all necessary actions to give this resolution effect this 16th day of August 2021. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick  
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

To adjourn the meeting, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.



**CERTIFICATE**

I hereby certify that the attached is a copy of the minutes of the Virtual Regular Meeting held the 16<sup>th</sup> day of August 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