

**MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON
REGULAR MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL**

Monday May 20, 2024

Council convened at 7:00 p.m. with Council President Tem Robinson presiding.

Present: Council Pro Tem Robinson, Councilwoman Manica, Councilwoman Martin and Councilman Ash-Shafii (4).

Absent: Council President Thomas (excused) 1.

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Martin

To approve the agenda with the removal of item# V Bid Opening and item# VIII resolution to approve option to purchase and sale of commercial lots located at 16025, 16039 and 16051 Hamilton to Afrodsiac, Inc. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

To approve the minutes from the In-Person and Virtual Regular Meeting held May 6, 2024.

NO SUPPORT FOR THE APPROVAL

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Moved by Councilwoman Martin
Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To approve the minutes from the Workshop Meeting held May 6, 2024. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

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Moved by Councilwoman Martin
Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To approve the minutes from the Special Budget Workshop Meeting held May 13, 2024. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

V. PUBLIC HEARING:

05-20-24

The Clerk stated this was the place and time to hold the Public Hearing regarding FY 2024-25 and rates.

Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii

Supported by Councilwoman Martin

To open the Public Hearing session at 7:15 p.m. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

Water Director Garrett made a presentation, several audience members asked questions.

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To close the Public Hearing. The hearing was closed at 7:29 p.m.

VI.- a ADMINISTRATION:

05-20-24

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

RESOLUTION TO UPGRADE THE BS&A SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park maintains an on-premises server that hosts the BS&A software that manages operations, reporting and payment collection for the city; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park's current network infrastructure has been plagued by environmental challenges, reached its recommended age limit and needs to be replaced; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park wishes to transition the current on-premises server to a cloud-based model to ensure dependability; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park received a quotation from BS&A for an implementation cost of \$106,590.00 to convert to the new system along with maintenance costs of \$54,790.00 annually; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED NOW, the city approves the costs for migrating the BS&A operations software. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

VI. b

05-20-24

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

Moved by Councilwoman Martin

Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE RAPID RESPONSE CONTRACT TO PROVIDE AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, Michigan Public Health Code Act 368 of 1978 specifies requirements for ambulance services for Michigan residents; and

WHEREAS, in conformance to the Michigan Public Health Code, Highland Park seeks to enter a contract for ambulance transportation services for its residents in the event of medical emergencies; and

WHEREAS, ambulance transportation services must be provided to patients and residents of the city, with or without the ability to pay, 24/7, 365 days/year; and

WHEREAS, Rapid Response Emergency Services, LLC the current provider, has a contract that expires in June 2024; and

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2024, the City approved a resolution to issue an RFP for ambulance transportation services; and

WHEREAS, Rapid Response was the sole bidder at a cost of \$320,000 annually, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the City approves a contract for Rapid Response Emergency Services; LLC to provide Ambulance Transportation Services at a cost not to exceed \$320,000. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

*COUNCIL CALLED TO TAKE A FIVE-MINUTE RECESS

COUNCIL RECESSED AT 8:35 P.M. AND RECONVENED THE MEETING AT 8:40 P.M.

VII – CITY CLERK

05-20-24

The following application was submitted for approval.

Moved by Councilwoman Martin

Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To approve the vending license application submitted by Roni LCC, to sell Italian Ice from a cart to be located on Manchester and Woodward. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

VIII a – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:

05-20-24

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

Supported by Council Pro Tem Robinson

RESOLUTION TO SELL THE VACANT RESIDENTIAL SIDE LOT AT 157 PILGRIM STREET TO THE ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER AT 159 PILGRIM STREET, DEANDRE O’NEAL

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park holds in its inventory a surplus of 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 parcels under its control; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park is the owner of the vacant residential lot at 157 Pilgrim Street; and

WHEREAS, DeAndre O’Neal, resident and owner of the house adjoining the vacant side lot at 159 Pilgrim Street, has submitted an offer to purchase application and paid \$25 non-refundable fee to purchase the vacant residential side lot at 157 Pilgrim Street; and

WHEREAS, all fees have been previously paid and there is no indebtedness to the City and all required clearances obtained from the Water Department, Treasurer, CED, and Legal Departments are signed off and the purchaser is ready to purchase the side lot; and

WHEREAS, the purchaser has not had any code violations within the past 18 months; and

WHEREAS, the purchaser shall secure the vacant lot, remove debris, and maintain the land in accordance with City ordinance within 14 days after closing; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council approves the sale of the vacant residential side lot located in Highland Park, MI at the cost of \$500.00 which has been determined and certified by the Assessor. Yeas (2) Councilwoman Manica and Council Pro Tem Robinson, Nays (2) Councilman Ash Shafii 2), Absent (1).

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VIII-b

05-20-24

Moved by Councilwoman Manica

NO SUPPORT WAS OFFERED TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION TO SELL THE VACANT RESIDENTIAL SIDE LOT AT 304 ELMHURST TO THE ADJACENT PROPERTY OWNER OF 300 ELMHURST, DETROIT 80, LLC.

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**VIII-c
05-20-24**

Moved by Councilwoman Martin
Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION TO SELL THREE VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOTS AT 42(1), 42(2), AND 44 BERESFORD TO DMC PROPERTY MANAGEMENT, LLC

Yeas (2) Councilwoman Martin and Councilman Ash Shafii, Nays (2) Councilwoman Manica and Council Pro Tem Robinson, Absent (1).

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**VIII – d
05-20-24**

Moved by Councilman Ash Shafii
Supported by Councilwoman Martin

TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING REVISIONS TO ZONING ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1210.02 REGARDING PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP. YEAS (4), NAYS (0), ABSENT (1).

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**VIII -e
05-20-24**

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

RESOLUTION FOR THE SUBMITTAL OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENERGY PROGRAM (“LGEP”) COMMUNITIES SPARKING INVESTMENT IN TRANSFORMATIVE ENERGY (“C-SITE”) APPLICATION TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (“DOE”) BY THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK’S COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (“CED”) DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, the C-SITE grant was developed by the DOE to support eligible local governments to implement projects that; provide direct community benefits; spark additional investments; meet community-identified priorities; and build local capacity. Community benefits may include creation of local economic opportunities for workers, workforce measures and agreements; community revitalization; lowered energy burden for the City of Highland Park; increased access to renewable

energy; improved air quality; increased public participation in energy decision-making processes; and improved quality of life for residents within the City of Highland Park;

WHEREAS, the City, as a community is confirmed to meet the established eligibility requirements; and

WHEREAS, the grant application request must be between \$900,000 and \$3,600,000 and it will assist the City with implementing multiple beneficial projects during 2025 and 2026, including, facility upgrades that will lower city energy bills; installing solar-powered streetlights, installing both solar panels and a large battery backup system to provide renewable energy to the Recreation Center or another City community facility; and to purchase electric fleet vehicles for the City's use; and

WHEREAS, the City was invited to jointly pursue these implementations grant funds by the same National Renewable Energy Laboratory experts who recently finished providing technical assistance to the City during the Communities Local Energy Action Plan ("C-LEAP") project; and

WHEREAS, the city is required to provide a 5% match of the awarded grant amount, which can be met with the value of time spent by City staff members as in-kind services; and

WHEREAS, the CED Department, as a condition of accepting awarded funds, will be responsible for naming a full-time city employee authorized to sign contract documents and approve pay applications; the authorized full-time employee will also be responsible for attending meetings for this project;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Council approves the City's submittal of the C-SITE Grant Application requesting a total award of between \$900,000 and \$3,600,000 to the DOE by not later than May 31, 2024. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

Moved by Councilwoman Manica
Supported by Councilman Ash Shafii

To hold a Workshop Session once a month. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1).

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 p.m.