

**MINUTES OF THE
VIRTUAL REGULAR MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

Council convened at 7:02 p.m. with Council President Clyburn presiding.

Present: Council Pro Tem Patrick, Councilmember Bates, Councilmember Armstrong and Council President Clyburn (4).

Absent: Councilmember Lewis (1).

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councilmember Armstrong
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To approve the agenda as submitted. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To approve the minutes of the Virtual Special meeting held July 20, 2020. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

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Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To approve the minutes of the Virtual Special meeting held August 17, 2020. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR
09-08-20 IV

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION FOR WINDOW COVERINGS FOR HIGHLAND PARK
CITY HALL OFFICES**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

WHEREAS, in 2018, the City approved a resolution to renovate the offices on the first floor of Highland Park City Hall; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the City approved a resolution to renovate the offices on the second floor of Highland Park City Hall; and

WHEREAS, both projects were successfully completed and came in under budget; and

WHEREAS, window coverings were not included in either project; and

WHEREAS, the cost of window coverings for City Hall is approximately \$16,000; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Highland Park approves the installation of window coverings in Highland Park City Hall for a cost not to exceed \$16,000. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

CITY COUNCIL
09-08-20 V a

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Council Pro Tem Patrick

To hold a Public Hearing on Monday, October 5, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the request by Hamilton Corridor, LLC to vacate the public streets and alleyways from Hamilton west to Thompson and LaBelle south to Auburndale. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

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09-08-20 V b

Council President Clyburn reported that the Covid-19 Just Recovery Task Force has met and the schedule of upcoming meetings is posted on his Facebook page.

09-08-20 V c

The Highland Park Housing Commission requested a two-week extension to submit their monthly report.

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09-08-20 V d

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Council Pro Tem Patrick

To receive and file the monthly report from the Fire Department. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

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09-08-20 V e

Cathy Square, City Administrator, reported on residential side lot applications and parcels. She shared that there are properties available however many applicants are delinquent on their property taxes which make them ineligible at this time. It was also discovered that addresses thought to be adjacent to a property were actually a lot next to a lot. Another issue is that property rightfully belonging to the City have liens on them that have not been released yet. Mrs. Square also shared that the next steps will be filing and digitizing all applications; creating an electronic database of all properties (residential and commercial); market studies and market assistance through resources from the state.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

09-08-20 VI a

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION TO SELL THE RESIDENTIAL SIDE LOT AT 137 MCLEAN TO SHARDAY WHITE

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick
Supported by Councilmember Bates

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 3-1 of the City of Highland Park, "the City shall have power to manage and control the finances, rights, interests, buildings and property" of the City; and

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 137 McLean (vacant lot adjacent to resident's home); and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, Highland Park resident Sharday White , who lives at 135 McLean , submitted an application to purchase the vacant side lot at 137 Mclean, adjacent to his/her residence; and

WHEREAS, Sharday White paid the \$25 (twenty-five) fee prior to August 2020 he/she shall be permitted to purchase said lot for \$500.00 and

WHEREAS, The Community and Economic Development Department recognizes that Sharday White meets all requirements for purchasing property in the City of Highland Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Department of Community and Economic Development to: 1) the sales price at \$500.00, 2) to sell the city-owned property at 137 McLean to Sharday White. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

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09-08-20 VI b

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION TO SELL THE RESIDENTIAL SIDE LOT AT 144 FLORENCE TO GEORGE FLOYD

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 3-1 of the City of Highland Park, "the City shall have power to manage and control the finances, rights, interests, buildings and property" of the City; and

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 144 Florence (vacant

lot adjacent to resident's home); and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, Highland Park resident George Floyd, who lives at 142 Florence, submitted an application to purchase the vacant side lot at 144 Florence, adjacent to his/her residence; and

WHEREAS, George Floyd paid the \$25 (twenty-five) fee prior to August 2020 he/she shall be permitted to purchase said lot for \$500.00 and

WHEREAS, The Community and Economic Development Department recognizes that George Floyd meets all requirements for purchasing property in the City of Highland Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Department of Community and Economic Development to: 1) the sales price at \$500.00, 2) to sell the city-owned property at 144 Florence to George Floyd. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1)
Councilmember Lewis.

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09-08-20 VI c

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO SELL THE RESIDENTIAL SIDE LOT AT 205 CANDLER TO
AKANKE HILL**

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 3-1 of the City of Highland Park, "the City shall have power to manage and control the finances, rights, interests, buildings and property" of the City; and

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 205 Candler (vacant lot adjacent to resident's home); and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, Highland Park resident Akanke Hill, who lives at 203 Candler, submitted an application to purchase the vacant side lot at 205 Candler, adjacent to his/her residence; and

WHEREAS, Akanke Hill paid the \$25 (twenty-five) fee prior to August 2020 he/she shall be permitted to purchase said lot for \$500.00 and

WHEREAS, The Community and Economic Development Department recognizes that Akanke Hill meets all requirements for purchasing property in the City of Highland Park;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Department of Community and Economic Development to: 1) the sales price at \$500.00, 2) to sell the city-owned property at 205 Candler to Akanke Hill. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

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09-08-20 VI d

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION FOR
SAFEBUILT MICHIGAN, LLC CONTRACT FOR BUILDING INSPECTION
SERVICES**

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick
Supported by Councilmember Bates

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan requires the engagement of an inspector for the express purpose of enforcing the state building code; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park entered into a one-year contract with Safebuilt Michigan, LLC on September 8, 2019 to provide inspection services, including: business licenses, rentals, safety, etc., for a fee of 75% of total revenues collected; and

WHEREAS, Safebuilt will provide a Safebuilt employee to man the permit window from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at their expense and will house 4 Safebuilt employees in City facilities; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Highland Park approves the one-year contract extension for Safebuilt Michigan, LLC, 426 E. Lincoln, Royal Oak, MI 48067. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

**WATER/ENGINEERING
09-08-20 VII a**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

A RESOLUTION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE FY 2021 WATER DEPARTMENT BUDGET AND RATES AS REQUESTED BY THE WATER DEPARTMENT

Moved by Councilmember Armstrong
Supported by Councilmember Bates

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 City of Highland Park received a letter dated April 28, 2020 from the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) regarding deferred implementation - Great Lakes Water Authority FY 2021 Wholesale Water Schedule of Charges; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park Water Department previously requested the FY 2020 rates be authorized to continue to be in effect until September 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park City Council previously approved the deferment of the FY 2021 Water Department Budget and Rates; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park City Council shall receive 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, after approval, that rates shall adhere to the proposed budget funds for FY 2021 and

WHEREAS, all comments received from citizens at a duly advertised public hearing, will be documented; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Highland Park Water Department requests a public hearing to be held at the Regular City Council Meeting of September 21st and October 5th, to receive these comments regarding the FY 2021 Water Department Budget and Rates. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

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09-08-20 VII b

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY (EGLE) AND THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (MDHHS) WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Council Pro Tem Patrick

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan Senate, Bill 690 (SB690), appropriated \$25 million for municipal water system assistance; and

WHEREAS, the grant program will be operated through a partnership between the EGLE, the Executive Office of the Governor, and MDHHS, to ensure vulnerable families have access to water during the current COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, MDHHS will be implementing the Water Utility Assistance Program through the local Community Action Agencies (CAAs), for which the City of Highland Park's local CAA will be the Wayne Metropolitan Action Agency; and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park will be required to enter into a Data Share Agreement; and

WHEREAS, participation in the program will assist residents with water arrearages up to \$700 during the COVID-19 pandemic until December 1, 2020; and

BE IT RESOLVED, the Highland Park City Council APPROVES the City of Highland Park to accept financial assistance from the EGLE - MDHHS water assistance grant while partnering with the Wayne Metropolitan Action Agency. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

OUTSIDE COMMUNICATIONS

09-08-20 VIII

The following communication was received from George Floyd.

I was informed that the prices of lots went up to \$500.00 last year. I am submitting in writing as advised by Erica Heath, the reason I am asking to be grandfathered the price of \$250.00. I have been a resident of the city of for over 60 years, I love this city, I have been cutting the grass for over 5 years. The lot 144 Florence, I found that I enjoy the quiet and there is more room to beautify, I am also on a limited income.

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

To receive and file the above communication. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Pro Tem Patrick
Supported by Councilmember Armstrong

To adjourn the meeting, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the attached is a copy of the minutes of the Virtual Regular Meeting held the 9th of September 2020 and that said minutes are available for public inspection at the address designated on the posted public notice.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a series of loops and flourishes, positioned above the printed name.

Cidia Wicker-Brown, Deputy City Clerk