

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE HIGHLAND PARK CITY COUNCIL**

FEBRUARY 1, 2016

Council convened at 7:01 p.m. with Council President Patrick presiding.

Present: Council Pro-Tem Mc Donald, Councilmember Woodard, Councilmember Lewis, Councilmember McClary and Council President Patrick. (5)

Absent: None (0).

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**Moved by Councilmember Woodard
Supported by Council Pro Tem Mc Donald**

To remove item# V resolution to approve offer to purchase property policy & instructions from the agenda per C.E.D. Director Robinson. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2).

**Moved by Councilmember Woodard
Supported by Council Pro Tem Mc Donald**

To approve the agenda with the addition. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

To approve the minutes from the Workshop Meeting held January 19, 2016. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2).

**Moved by Councilmember Woodard
Supported by Council Pro Tem Mc Donald**

To approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting held January 19, 2016. Yeas (3), Nays (0), Absent (2).

**Councilmember McClary entered the meeting at 7:10 p.m.
Councilmember Lewis entered the meeting at 7:14 p.m.**

**Moved by Councilmember McClary
Supported by Councilmember Lewis**

To add to the agenda the request from the Police Chief Logan to accept the Armored Vehicle (MRAP) donated to the department. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

**Moved by Councilmember McClary
Supported by Councilmember Lewis**

To accept the donation of an Armored Vehicle (MRAP) for the Special Response Team. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

TABLED ITEMS:

**Moved by Councilmember Lewis
Supported by Councilmember Woodard**

To take a vote on all the tabled items together. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

**Moved by Councilmember Lewis
Supported by Councilmember Woodard**

To remove the following items from the agenda.

- a. Approve purchase of vacant residential structure at 46 Tuxedo at a cost of \$2,334.00 to Curtis Jordan.**
- b. Approve purchase of vacant residential structure at 55 Tuxedo at a cost of \$2,287.00 to Curtis Jordan.**
- c. Approve purchase of vacant lots located at 27, 33, 59, 69 and 75 Church for \$250 each by Bishop Lewis Evans.**
- d. Approve purchase of vacant lots located at 91, and 93 Ferris, 16343 John R for \$250 each by Bishop Lewis Evans. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Councilmember McClary, Absent (0).**

ADMINISTRATION:

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**Moved by Council Pro Tem Mc Donald
Supported by Councilmember Woodard**

WHEREAS, Section 13 (9) of Act 51, Public Acts of 1951 provided that each incorporated city and village to which funds are returned under the provisions of this section, that, “the responsibility for street improvements maintenance, and traffic operations works, and the development, construction, or repair of off-street parking facilities and construction or repair of street lighting shall be coordinated by a single administrator to be designated by the governing body who shall be responsible for and shall represent the municipality in transactions with the State Transportation Department pursuant to this act.”

THEREFORE, be it resolved, that this Honorable Body designate Willie Faison, Director of Public Work as the single Street Administrator for the City of Highland Park in all transactions with the State Transportation Department as provided in Section 13 of the Act. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

CITY CLERK:

The following request was submitted for approval.

I respectfully request your approval of the rates of pay for all election workers and the establishment of polling places for the State Presidential Primary election being held Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

**Moved by Councilmember Woodward
Supported by Councilmember Lewis**

BE IT RESOLVED, that all persons serving on the election board for the State Presidential Primary election to be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016 shall be paid on a fee basis; and the fee to be paid for Chairman shall be the sum of \$150 each and the fee to be paid for Inspector shall be the sum of \$125.00 each which includes the \$10 fee for attending the training session prior to the election;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following places are hereby designated as the polling places within each of the election precincts of the City of Highland Park for the State Presidential Primary election to be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

PRECINCTS	LOCATION	
1	God's House of Prayer Baptist Church	11843 Hamilton
4 & 15	Highland Park Recreation Center	10 Pitkin
7 & 8	Faith Tabernacle Church	16548 Hamilton
12 & 20	New Mount Moriah Baptist Church	13100 Woodward Ave.
14	Bishop G.D. Moore Apartments	99 Manchester
18	Robert B. Blackwell Municipal Complex	12050 Woodward Ave.
23	Downes Manor	13725 John R.
25	Soul Harvest Ministries Church	16300 Woodward Ave.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that pay for all election workers and the establishment of polling places and (1) A.V. Counting Board for all precincts for the State Presidential Primary election being held Tuesday, March 8, 2016 be approved. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

COUNCIL AFFAIRS:

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, RICK SNYDER, TO PROVIDE THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK ALL NECESSARY RESOURCES TO REPAIR, RESTORE, AND RE-OPEN THE HIGHLAND PARK WATER PLANT

**Moved by Councilmember Lewis
Supported by Councilmember Woodard**

WHEREAS, in early 2012 the MDEQ (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) issued numerous determinations regarding the safety of the Highland Park Water Plant and recommended corrective actions for the City to complete, and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park City Council allocated funds totaling approximately \$380,000 to address and correct the stated concerns of MDEQ, and

WHEREAS, RFP's were advertised for qualified companies that could complete the scope of work for the needed repairs, and

WHEREAS, a selection was made from the best bid to make repairs at the water plant with the work beginning in mid-October, 2012 and

WHEREAS, the needed corrections were addressed with relative success in the first phase, but stalled in the second phase, and

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Treasury Technical Advisor directed the company based on a request to “shut down” the operation to complete other repairs, and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park Water Plant was closed by the Michigan State Treasury Technical Advisor without regard to the significance of Highland Park’s water system’s role in the redundancy to the region as a potable water supplier, and

WHEREAS, the Michigan State Treasury Technical Advisor executed the aforementioned action over the objection of the Highland Park City Council, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned action was executed without any plan to protect (winterize) the valuable assets within the Highland Park Water Plant, and

WHEREAS, as a result of the Water Plant shut off Highland Park was required to accept water from DSWD which while operating under an administrator appointed by the State of Michigan notified Highland Park they were shutting off the City’s water supply, and

WHEREAS, the DSWD system (now known as the Great Lakes Water Authority) is only designed to be an emergency water provider for the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, this emergency system is designed not to be a permanent system for the City of Highland Park has the potential to cause “distribution failure” which translates to “no water” provided to the residents and businesses in the City of Highland Park, and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park continues to suffer from low water pressure since the State mandated closure and switch, and

WHEREAS, scientific studies provide support that “low” water pressure can increase the possibility of water contamination, therefore, adversely affecting the health And welfare of our residents, and

WHEREAS, due to the aforementioned “low” water pressure could have a catastrophic effect on fire suppression efforts throughout the City of Highland Park, and

WHEREAS, the MDEQ (Michigan Department of Environmental Quality) on two separate occasions refused a loan option for the City of Highland Park to make all the necessary and required repairs on the Highland Park Water Plant (estimated to be \$15 to \$20 million dollars at the time of the request) and

WHEREAS, the MDEQ agreed to a loan request from the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan for \$109 million at a 2.5 % interest rate from a revolving fund managed by the MDEQ, and

WHEREAS, the City of Ann Arbor financed the aforementioned terms for over 20 years and will save them over \$35 million over the life of the loan, and

WHEREAS, the \$35 million saving is substantially more than the amount needed by the City of Highland Park at that time, and

WHEREAS, the City of Ann Arbor is the current place of residence for Governor Rick Snyder and the City Highland Park is not, and

WHEREAS, MDOT received sewage disposal services from the City of Highland Park since 1986 for storm water runoff on an MDOT owned roadway (Woodward Avenue) and has failed to pay for such services, and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park estimates the value of the sewage disposal services received from MDOT to be approximately \$26 million, and

WHEREAS, all sewage from the City of Highland Park's sewer system flows into the DWSD sewer system where it is treated, the DWSD then bills the City of Highland Park for such sewage treatment services, and

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park has been forced to pay DWSD for the treatment has placed stressful financial hardship upon the City of Highland Park, and

WHEREAS, MDOT's failure to pay the City of Highland Park for sewage disposal services has caused a substantial deficit in the City of Highland Park's Water and Sewer Fund, which is the primary cause of the City of Highland Park's financial distress and inability to pay operational and capital improvement costs for the City of Highland Park's water plant, and

WHEREAS, the State of Michigan mandated the closure of the Highland Park Water Plant; however, recently DWSD requested a 45 day right of refusal clause prior to any sale of our water plant, now

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the City of Highland Park recognizes a "pattern of abuse" and is requesting that the Governor of the State of Michigan, Rick Snyder, provides the City of Highland Park all the necessary resources for the repairs, restoration, and reopening of its own Highland Park Water Plant in order to protect and provide safe, treated water to its residents and businesses. Yeas (4), Nays (1) Councilmember McClary, Absent (0).

ADJOURNMENT:

**Moved by Councilmember Lewis
Supported by Council Pro Tem Mc Donald**

To adjourn this meeting; motion carried meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.