

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

**SEPTEMBER 5, 2017**

Council convened at 7:07 p.m. with Council President Patrick presiding.

Present: Council Pro Tem McDonald, Councilmember Woodard, Councilmember Lewis,  
Councilmember Marshall and Council President Patrick (5).

Absent: (0).

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Councilmember Lewis  
Supported by Council Pro Tem McDonald

To approve the agenda. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Council Pro Tem McDonald  
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

To approve the minutes of the Regular meeting held August 21, 2017. Yeas (5), Nays (0),  
Absent (0).

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**PUBLIC HEARING**

**09-5-17 Va**

The Clerk stated this was the place and time to hold a public hearing to receive comments  
from citizens on the proposed rates for Permit and Building fees.

Council President Patrick opened the public hearing with Chief Building Official Jack  
Williams explaining how the fee schedule was derived. Mr. Williams and Community  
Development Director Yvette Robinson answered questions from the audience and Council.

Moved by Councilmember Lewis  
Supported by Council Pro Tem McDonald

To close the Public Hearing. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0). Public Hearing closed at 8:20 p.m.

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**09-5-17 Vb**

The Clerk stated this was the place and time to hold a public hearing to receive comments from citizens regarding the FY 2018 Water Department budget and Water and Sewer fees.

Council President Patrick opened the public hearing. There were no questions or comments from the audience or Council.

Moved by Council Pro Tem McDonald  
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

To close the Public Hearing. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0). Public Hearing closed at 8:23 p.m.

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**CITY COUNCIL**  
**09-5-17 VI**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**ESTABLISHMENT OF LOCAL OFFICERS COMPENSATION COMMISSION**

Moved by Councilmember Lewis  
Supported by Councilmember Woodard

WHEREAS, as per Highland Park Ordinance Chapter 276.02 Local Officers Compensation Commission the Highland Park City Council;

NOW HEREBY BE IT RESOLVED that City Council establish the activation of the Local Officers Compensation Commission. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**DISTRICT COURT**  
**09-5-17 VII**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

Moved by Councilmember Marshall  
Supported by Council Pro Tem McDonald

At a meeting of the Highland Park, Michigan City Council held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 with an opportunity for the District Judge to be heard and questions to be posed, and the council being otherwise informed, the council finds the following:

WHEREAS the 30<sup>th</sup> District Court handles most traffic violations, all civil cases with claims up to \$25,000, landlord-tenant matters, most traffic tickets, all misdemeanor criminal cases, felony arraignments, felony probable cause conferences, and felony preliminary examinations. In addition, small claims cases are heard by a division of the district court

WHEREAS the funding unit is responsible for funding its district court to ensure that it complies with its responsibilities as outlined by the Michigan Constitution

WHEREAS four line items in the 30<sup>th</sup> District Court's budget have been underbudgeted and will not meet the courts reasonable and necessary needs to function, specifically: the medical opt-out line-item which saves the local funding unit in health care expenses for the courts full-time employees, technical support needed for the court's numerous electronic platforms, salaries for the court's employees which if not modified will not meet the court's audit guidelines as it relates to the reorganization/hiring plan accepted by the State Supreme Court Administrative Offices, and optical benefits for those full-time employees who are eligible to receive.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Highland Park City Council, amends the 30<sup>th</sup> District Court's budget line-items as follows: salaries- \$422,059, Medical Opt-out- \$3,600, Tech Support- \$2,000, Optical Benefits- \$737.52 for a total increase from the present 30<sup>th</sup> District Court budget of \$22,847. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **09-5-17 VIIIa**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

#### **RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE 3 JOHN DEERE TRACTORS/3 JOHN DEERE MX6 ROTARY HIGH BRUSH CUTTERS FOR THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK**

Moved by Council Pro Tem McDonald  
Supported by Councilmember Marshall

**WHEREAS**, The City of Highland Park has experienced rapid and excessive grass overgrowth in excess of 12 inches, which is in violation of City Charter ord. 694.01 *Cutting Required*; and

**WHEREAS**, high grass and noxious weed growth can cause visibility, allergy and health problems; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is in immediate need of commercial high brush cutting equipment that is designed for heavy commercial use; and

**WHEREAS**, at the City Council’s referral and after utilizing the bid process by following the guidelines of the City Charter, the City of Highland Park has accepted and reviewed all incoming bids forwarded to Legal/DPW from the City Clerk; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sell’s Equipment Quote ID#15878210, to provide the City of Highland Park with three 5055E Utility Tractors and 3 MX6 Lift-Type Rotary Cutters for the sum of \$66,397.05, represents the best value in equipment and provides significant savings when compared to all other bids submitted.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that funding is approved in the amount of \$66,397.05 to purchase the 5055E Utility Tractors and MX6 Lift-Type Rotary Cutters from Sell’s Equipment for the City of Highland Park, Department of Public Works. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**09-5-17 VIIIb**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**USED CREW CAB 2 WHEEL DRIVE CHEVROLET PICKUP TRUCK FOR THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK**

Moved by Councilmember Woodard  
Supported by Councilmember Marshall

**WHEREAS**, the City of Highland Park had placed a bid following the City Charter guidelines for a used dump truck to pull Department of Public Works equipment trailers and received no responses; and

**WHEREAS**, the department of Public Works has located a used 2005 Chevrolet Crew Cab pickup truck VIN: 1GCH23U25F813610 with the capacity and accessories needed to pull a DPW equipment trailer safely for the sum of \$6,500.00 from vendor Great Lakes Auto Sales located at 138 Manchester St. Highland Park, MI.; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Highland Park Public Works must petition the City Council for vehicle purchases of this matter.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that funding is approved in the amount of \$6,500.00 to purchase the used 2005 Chevrolet Crew Cab pickup truck VIN: 1GCH23U25F813610 from Great Lakes Auto Sales for the City of Highland Park, Department of Public Works. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**WATER**  
**09-5-17 IXa**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018 WATER DEPARTMENT WATER  
AND SEWER RATES**

Moved by Councilmember Lewis  
Supported by Councilmember Marshall

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 Council has received and reviewed the Water Department Director's recommended water and sewer rates for FY 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park City Council has received comments on the recommended water and sewer rates from citizens at a duly advertised public hearing on August 21 and September 5, 2017; and

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

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Water Department Director that rates shall adhere to the proposed budget funds for FY 2018; and

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

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**09-5-17 IXb**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2018 WATER DEPARTMENT  
BUDGET**

Moved by Councilmember Lewis  
Supported by Councilmember Marshall

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 Council has received and reviewed the Water Department Director's recommended water and sewer rates for FY 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Highland Park City Council 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 approved rates shall adhere to the proposed budget funds for FY 2018; and

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Water Department Director is authorized to take all necessary actions to give this resolution effect. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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**OUTSIDE COMMUNICATION**  
**09-05-17 X**

The following communication was received from Louise Tutt regarding 65 W. Buena Vista.

Greetings,

This email is to get an issue addressed at the next city council meeting Sept 5th 2017.

I need to purchase a lot in HP. I am the owner of an adjacent property and I was denied. I was able to acquire 4 lots in area and 5 in Detroit, each one taking no more than a few days to get from the State or County. I'm in the process now of getting the deeds. I've never seen a process like the one in HP. Also, the Wayne County tax office told me that its Not transparent (by Highland Park) that its legal to deny me for the reasons listed. I was told to contact the state Attorney General about this process.

I just want the property approved to be released to me and I would like for all city information, charters, and processes to be public information on the website.

There is no legitimate reason I should have any issues with this city, when I was able to accomplish the same things with larger cities and counties in less time.

My address is 67 W Buena Vista. The gate to my yard technically surrounds 65 W Buena Vista, even though it looks like one yard. I want to start working on the yard and I want to legal own the space.

Wayne County has a process and I was able to get a few properties in a matter of days. Most people I speak to around the nation are able to do a process that is transparent and easy. The Highland Park process was on hold with little to no explanation.

Problem:

I was denied the 65 W Buena Vista lot purchase. Its not in the cities best interest to prevent me from getting the lot.

Two reasons listed for being denied are- I don't own 67 W Buena and there is Taxes owed on the property.

- 1) You don't have to own the house to purchase a lot.
- 2) I do own the house and turned the deed into the Housing Window in the city building.
- 3) I went to Wayne County to make a Tax plan. The home isn't in foreclosure. When I spoke with Wayne County they said its not legal to deny based on that and I should contact the state AG.
- 4) I only recently purchased the home, so I am paying taxes owed at the moment.
- 5) I have the deed to 63 W Buena Vista and 67.... So its in my interest and the citie's interest to sell me the lot in the middle of my property.

Solution: Sell me the lot immediately. I will not be filling out (and paying for) another application.

Moved by Councilmember Marshall  
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

To receive and file the above communication. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0).

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## **CITY COUNCIL AFFAIRS**

### **09-05-17 XI**

Moved by Councilmember Woodward  
Supported by Councilmember Lewis

To hold the 2<sup>nd</sup> Citizens Participation before recessing into Closed Session. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0). 2<sup>nd</sup> Citizens Participation was held at 8:46 p.m.

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Moved by Councilmember Lewis  
Supported by Councilmember Marshall

To recess into Closed Session. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0). Recessed into Closed Session at 9:21 p.m.

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Moved by Councilmember Lewis  
Supported by Councilmember Marshall

To reconvene regular meeting. Yeas (5), Nays (0), Absent (0). Regular meeting reconvened at 10:08 p.m.

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## **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Councilmember Lewis

Supported by Council Pro Tem McDonald

To adjourn the meeting, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.



**CERTIFICATE**

I, hereby certify that the attached is a copy of the proposed minutes of the Regular Meeting held the 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017 and that said proposed minutes are available for public inspection at the address designated on the posted public notice.



Cidia Wicker-Brown, Deputy City Clerk