

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

SEPTEMBER 16, 2019

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

Present: Council Pro Tem McDonald, Councilmember Woodard, Councilmember Bates and Council President Patrick (4).

Absent: Councilmember Lewis (1) excused.

A quorum being present, Council was declared in session.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Council Pro Tem McDonald

To approve the agenda with the addition of 1 item from City Council *Resolution to execute an invoice payment to The Sanders Law Firm, PC in the amount of \$6,520* and 1 item from the City Clerk *letter requesting permission to place election notice banners regarding the November 5 election at 4 city owned locations*. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Councilmember Woodard
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To approve the minutes of the Workshop Meeting held September 3, 2019. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

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Moved by Councilmember Woodard
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To approve the minutes of the Regular meeting held September 3, 2019. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

CITY CLERK
09-16-19 V

The following request was submitted for approval.

Dear Honorable Council:

I am requesting permission to place banners with the following language on several city-owned fences:

- 1- City Hall -12050 Woodward Ave. front flower bed
- 2- Monterey Playground - Hamilton & Monterey
- 3- Ernest T. Ford -10 Pitkin fence facing Hamilton Ave.
- 4- High School fence facing Oakland Ave.

Attached, is a sample of the banner that will be printed on a 3x6 outdoor weather resistance canvass. If you have any questions, please contact my office.

Moved by Council Pro Tem McDonald
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To allow the City Clerk to place election notice banners regarding the November 5 election at 4 city owned locations. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

CITY COUNCIL
09-16-19 VI

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION TO EXECUTE AN INVOICE PAYMENT TO THE SANDERS LAW FIRM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$6,520

Moved by Councilmember Woodard
Supported by Council Pro Tem McDonald

WHEREAS, Mayor Hubert Yopp filed a frivolous lawsuit against the Highland Park City Council and this lawsuit cost the City of Highland Park, \$6,520 .00, and,

WHEREAS, the aforementioned amount does not include the cost of attorneys that represented Mayor Hubert Yopp, and,

WHEREAS, the Highland Park City Council was forced to defend itself against this frivolous lawsuit and executed an engagement Resolution to retain the representative services of the Sanders Law Firm, PC, and,

WHEREAS, the Sanders Law Firm has yet to receive its rightful compensation for defending the Highland Park City Council through an Invoice #00009 submitted September 9th, 2019 in the amount of \$6,520.00, (see attached), NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Highland Park City Council resolves that the aforementioned invoice payment be made to the Sanders Law Firm, PC in the amount of \$6,520.00 for legal representation of the Highland Park City Council on this date, of September 16, 2019. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
09-16-19 VII**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO SELL CITY-OWNED VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOTS TO
SHAMAYIM HARRIS**

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Councilmember Woodard

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 3-1 of the City of Highland Park Charter, "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 lots located at 37, 39, 43, and 47 Avalon; and

WHEREAS, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, Highland Park resident Shamayim Harris, who lives at 24 Avalon, submitted an application to purchase the vacant lots at 37, 39, 43 and 47 Avalon; and

WHEREAS, a Development Plan has been submitted and approved by Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, Shamayim Harris paid the \$25.00 fee prior to April 6, 2017, in order that she would be permitted to purchase said lots for \$500.00 each; and

WHEREAS, the Community and Economic Development Department recognizes that Shamayim Harris meets all requirements for purchasing property in Highland Park.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorizes the Department of Community and Economic Development to sell city-owned properties located at 37, 39, 43 and 47 Avalon to Shamayim Harris for the price of \$500.00 each. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

**ENGINEERING
09-16-19 VIII a**

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION FOR FY20 FOR THE CITY OF HIGHLAND PARK

Moved by Council Pro Tem McDonald
Supported by Councilmember Bates

WHEREAS, the City Engineering Department received a notice of available funding from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Urban and Community Forestry FY20 Grant Program for the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, based on the total pool of applications received, as part of the application, the City of Highland Park may receive up the following amounts as part of the Michigan DNR, Urban and Community Forestry FY20 Grant Program

- Management, Planning and Innovation projects - \$20,000
- Education and Training projects - \$10,000
- Arbor Day Celebration projects - \$500

; and

WHEREAS, maintenance projects such as tree trimming, removal, etc are not eligible to be reimbursed as part of the Michigan DNR, Urban and Community Forestry FY20 Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineering Department is requesting approval to submit for funding for the Michigan DNR, Urban and Community Forestry FY20 Grant Program due on September 20, 2019; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highland Park City Council **APPROVES** the submission of the Michigan DNR, Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program FY20 application. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

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09-16-19 VIII b

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION FOR THE SEMCOG
INFRASTRUCTURE ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF
HIGHLAND PARK**

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Councilmember Woodard

WHEREAS, the City Engineering Department received a notice of available funding to assist municipalities with asset management of its water, sewer, and storm sewer infrastructure below Federal Aid eligible and local roads within the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, as part of the application the City of Highland Park is not required to have matching funds available; and

WHEREAS, Highland Park may be eligible and approved to receive the following for the management of the water, sewer, storm sewer assets:

	Drinking Water Distribution	Sanitary Sewer Collection	Storm Sewer Collection
Provide existing data in SEMCOG data schema format	\$100/hr		
Digitize as-built plan/construction drawings, etc.	Up to \$1,000/mile	Up to \$1,000/mile	Up to \$1,000/mile
GPS field verification of existing digitization	Up to \$2,000/mile	Up to \$2,000/mile	Up to \$2,000/mile

; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineering Department is requesting approval to submit for funding for the SEMCOG Infrastructure Asset Management Program Grant application due on September 30, 2019; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Highland Park City Council APPROVES the submission of the SEMCOG Infrastructure Asset Management Program Grant application. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

FINANCE
09-16-19 IX a

The monthly financial statement for August 31, 2019 was received and filed.

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09-16-19 IX b

The proposed Operating and Capital Budget for fiscal year 2019/200 was received and filed.

PUBLIC WORKS
09-16-19 X

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

**RESOLUTION TO SOLICIT QUOTES TO REMOVE DEAD/DYING TREES AND
MAINTENANCE OF SELECT TREES IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY**

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Council Pro Tem McDonald

WHEREAS, the City of Highland Park is responsible for the health and welfare of its citizens as well as the maintenance of its infrastructures including roads and water/sewer infrastructures; and

WHEREAS, the City Engineering Department, including their ecological, GIS and engineering teams, along with the Department of Public Works, has identified 370 trees (marked with yellow) that are in the public right-of-way that are either dead (40) or dying (330) (see attached listing by street); and

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2018, the City approved a resolution to allow DPW to post a RFP for Professional Tree Trimming/Arborist Services to service the tree pruning and tree removal needs of the City of Highland Park; and

WHEREAS, one bid was received but the price was cost prohibitive; and

WHEREAS, these trees pose a tremendous hazard to the public as well as to the roads and water/sewer infrastructures and need to be removed; and

WHEREAS, trees will be removed in three phases: Phase 1 - removal of dead trees, Phase 2 - removal of dying trees as determined by City Engineering/DPW (the amount of phases depend on available funds), and Phase 3 - maintenance of select trees as funds become available; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City authorizes the Engineering Department along with the Department of Public Works to solicit bids for the removal of

dead/dying trees over a phased period of time and maintenance of select trees in the public right-of-way utilizing Act 51 funds as they become available. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

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09-16-19 X b

The following resolution was submitted for approval.

RESOLUTION TO UPDATE 20 MERCURY VAPOR LIGHTS TO LED IN THE RECREATION CENTER GYMNASIUM

Moved by Council Pro Tem McDonald
Supported by Councilmember Bates

WHEREAS, the mission of the Highland Park, Parks & Recreation Department is to create recreational and lifelong wellness opportunities for growth and development by providing an array of diverse, affordable, and cultural events that promote community and environmental awareness while meeting the physical, mental and social needs of our city; and

WHEREAS, the Recreation Center Gymnasium is the principal gathering place for many of the community events; and

WHEREAS, many of the 20 overhead mercury vapor light fixtures have burned out, leaving many areas in the dark or with insufficient lighting; and

WHEREAS, due to the inefficient nature of mercury vapor light fixtures, the DPW is recommending that the gym lighting be upgraded to LED; and

WHEREAS, due to the nature of the problem and public events continuing to be scheduled, three quotes were solicited: 1) CNS Electric at \$8,668, 2) Be Energy Solutions at \$9,244 and 3) Interactive Energies Group at \$7,508; and

WHEREAS, Interactive Energies Group provides a 10-year warranty for the LED fixtures and DTE will provide a rebate of approximately \$600 for the energy-saving conversion; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City approves entering into a contract with Interactive Energies Group, LLC, 23235 Dequindre, Madison Heights, MI 48071 to replace 20 mercury vapor lights with LED lights for a cost of \$7,508. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

Moved by Council Pro Tem McDonald
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To recess into Closed Session. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis.

Meeting recessed at 8:35 p.m.

Moved by Councilmember Bates
Supported by Council Pro Tem McDonald

To reconvene Regular Meeting. Yeas (4), Nays (0), Absent (1) Councilmember Lewis. Meeting reconvened at 9:14 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Pro Tem McDonald
Supported by Councilmember Bates

To adjourn the meeting, motion carried, meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

CERTIFICATE

I, hereby certify that the attached is a copy of the minutes of the Regular Meeting held the 16^h day of September, and that said minutes are available for public inspection at the address designated on the posted public notice.



Cidia Wicker-Brown, Deputy City Clerk