CITY OF STERLING HEIGHTS

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019

IN CITY HALL

1. Mayor Michael C. Taylor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Mayor Taylor led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Melanie D. Ryska, City Clerk, gave the Invocation.

   Also Present: Mark Vanderpool, City Manager; Marc D. Kaszubski, City Attorney; Melanie D. Ryska, City Clerk; Carol Sobosky, Recording Secretary.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
   Moved by Koski, seconded by Ziarko, to approve the Agenda as amended.
   Yes: All. The motion carried.

5. REPORT FROM CITY MANAGER
   Mr. Vanderpool stated there is a new exciting program in Sterling Heights that will be a topic of discussion tomorrow at the North American International Auto Show. He explained the Robotics Center in Sterling Heights has a new initiative to create a research and implementation facility that will enhance current STEM initiatives for the entire region. He noted the center will be made available to all first robotic teams, post-first graduates, career technical education centers, start-ups needing access to resources for robotics innovation, other high school students and other post-high school individuals.
He explained the goal is to engage students to have a passion for combining informational technology and manufacturing technology, and they have been working on this for a couple of years, with the attention shifting towards implementation and start up of a not-for-profit organization. He noted the Macomb County Planning and Economic Development Department, through a grant from the Michigan Defense Center, also located in Sterling Heights, has retained Miller Canfield and public sector consultants to assist in creating this organization, with their goal to work with industry, academia, K-12 education in a flexible, creative and innovative way. He advised that tomorrow, potential stakeholders consisting of funders, supporters and board members of the new organization will gather at the auto show to discuss this opportunity, and they hope by the end of this year, the organization will be created, the board will be in place, Sterling Heights will have representation on the board and funding will be secured. A few renderings of what the center will look like were shown. He stated they are very confident that it will be successful, and school superintendents are excited about the program. He advised more information will be forthcoming.

Mr. Vanderpool stated they are excited about new software that will help the public better understand the City’s budget process and what they go through each year to balance the budget. There will be some interactive options available to citizens to use from home, and he invited Ms. Jennifer Varney, Finance and Budget Director, to give a presentation.
Ms. Varney explained two upcoming additions to the City’s website that will increase budget transparency and allow residents to provide feedback on budget priorities. The software program, “Balancing Act,” is an interactive budget simulation that offers a simplified graphical representation of the General Fund budget. She provided some information on navigating the site, and how clicking on any section of the graph will provide information on how it is broken down, while proceeding to click on the information icons will provide more information on each line item. Residents are able to look at “Where the Money Goes,” which represents the General Fund expenses, and “Revenue,” depicting the breakdown of revenue sources for the City. She explained that whether the budget is in a surplus or deficit is reflected at the top of the screen. Residents can provide feedback by clicking on the plus or minus signs next to each spending item and submit what they would like to see in the budget, but she cautioned that the budget must balance; otherwise, it will not accept the input submittal, and if expenditures are increased, revenues would also have to be increased or other expenditures would have to be decreased. There are limits on the simulation, such as taxes cannot be shown at an increase that exceeds the limits placed on the City by the Headlee Amendment. She explained that once feedback is submitted, it goes back to the City through a dashboard, which shows how many people have looked at this tool, the average time they spent on it, the number of submissions and the demographics of those who submitted feedback. She informed that “Balancing
Act” will go live on the City’s website on February 1, 2019. She added that in the future, it can be used to obtain resident input on certain issues and concerns, noting specific questions can be added. It can be used as an educational tool for the Safe Streets millage renewal.

Ms. Varney explained the second tool being added to the City’s website is called “Taxpayer Receipt,” where residents can enter their address and their tax amount to see a breakdown of how their tax dollars are spent. It also shows a summary of the non-city taxes that are collected on behalf of the schools and the County. She indicated the bottom line comes within about one dollar of the actual summer/winter tax bill for that address in 2017. She believes these are two new powerful tools for residents to learn more about how their tax dollars are used and to provide input into City priorities.

Mr. Vanderpool thanked Ms. Varney for the presentation, and added he is looking forward to everyone’s feedback when they use the software.

Mr. Vanderpool stated that cities across the country are in the midst of an opioid crisis, fueled in large part by illegal drugs made available by drug dealers. He stressed this crisis has become overwhelming and is exhausting local resources. He informed that Sterling Heights has been on the leading edge of developing a more collaborative approach required to attack this crisis, and he invited Police Chief Dale Dwojakowski to discuss a new task force announced yesterday.
Police Chief Dwojakowski provided information on a couple of new initiatives at the Police Department, adding he is very proud of these changes and upgrades. He explained there is a three-prong test for any initiatives considered at the Police Department, asking the following questions: 1) Does it keep Sterling Heights any safer; 2) Does it increase services to the public; and 3) Does it maintain fiscal responsibility. He assured that both of these new programs pass this three-prong criteria, and he explained that the first initiative, the new DEA Task Force announced yesterday in Warren, is a collaboration with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and five local Macomb County police departments, including Chesterfield, Macomb County Sheriff, Warren, Sterling Heights and Clinton Township. He explained that he worked with the City of Warren’s Police Chief Dwyer and the DEA this past summer to talk about a new concept group that would fight large-scale narcotics in Macomb County. It took months of negotiation to get to this point, and he is proud to say they were able to accomplish the formation of this task force. The name of this group is FANTOM, which stands for Federal Anti-Narcotics Team of Macomb. It will be comprised of a representative from each of the five local police departments, along with three DEA agents, and will be supervised by a Lieutenant from the Warren Police Department. He stressed this is highly unusual for a task force to be run by someone from one of the local police departments, but it is a huge benefit because the local departments will have more input. This task force will work
on large-scale narcotics cases, including money laundering, insurance fraud, foreign drug cartels, and other issues that exceed the scope of any local department. He showed graphs depicting the drugs involved in U.S. overdose deaths, citing synthetic opioids as having the most dramatic increase and far exceeding all other types of drugs in deaths. He stated drug overdoses are killing more people than car accidents for the first time ever. He explained in taking the three-prong approach, the keys to combat this crisis are education, enforcement and treatment, and he elaborated on these measures, including a new educational ten-week anti-drug program in nineteen elementary schools. He stated that, with regard to treatment, they started the Sterling Heights Drug-Free Coalition, and they will be advocating for treatment support. They also have a partnership with Families Against Narcotics and the Hope Not Handcuffs program. He claimed they have an average of two to three addicts who show up in their lobby every month asking for help, and he explained the details of how they get that person help within an hour of when they show up. Police Chief Dwojakowski reviewed their second initiative, ICAC, which stands for Internet Crimes Against Children, which is a Federal Department of Justice program, with federal money going throughout the United States for this initiative. He informed there are 61 different agencies participating, and the Michigan State Police is the participating agency in this state. The large task force consists of 4,500 federal, state and local law enforcement officers and this unit focuses on crimes against children using the internet. There are 56 state
troopers and 50 local officers throughout the State of Michigan on that task force, and Sterling Heights Detective Lindsey Pappas from the Youth Bureau will be spending half of her week in Livonia at the ICAC offices going over large-scale child predator cases, and the other half will be spent here on Sterling Heights cases. He stressed this group will provide unbelievable resources, and ICAC will provide training, equipment, ICAC overtime, and they have access to Michigan State Police computer and technical units. He outlined the ways in which this initiative meets the three-prong test, and concluded by saying he is excited to get these two new initiatives off the ground.

Mr. Vanderpool commended the Chief for his work in this area, and also thanked the Mayor and City Council for their support of the task force, particularly the DEA and the drug-free coalition. He felt they are headed on the right path to attack this problem.

Mr. Vanderpool concluded his report by stating that at the end of tonight’s agenda, he is requesting the City Council convene a Closed Session pursuant to Section 8H of the Open Meetings Act to consult with the City Attorney regarding a confidential written legal opinion.

6. PRESENTATIONS
   A. Mayor Taylor stated the first presentation this evening is the swearing-in of new Sterling Heights City Council member, Henry Yanez. He invited Judge Douglas P. Shepherd from the 41-A District Court in Shelby Township.
Judge Shepherd introduced the newest judge for Sterling Heights, Judge Annemarie Lepore. Judge Shepherd proceeded to swear in Councilman Henry Yanez, and he took his place at his council seat.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sierawski welcomed Councilman Yanez, adding she respects and admires his knowledge in government. She was confident he will bring the City a lot of help from the State, and she is happy he is on City Council.

Councilwoman Ziarko welcomed Councilman Yanez, also feeling he will be a great addition to the Council. She looks forward to working with him on some of the ongoing projects, and she thanked him for accepting the challenge.

Councilwoman Schmidt welcomed Councilman Yanez, and she is confident he will “hit the ground running” and that it will be an easy transition because of his experience at the state level. She looks forward to working with him.

Councilwoman Koski welcomed Councilman Yanez, adding they have known each other for a long time. She is confident he will contribute a great deal to the Council.

Councilman Radtke expressed confidence that Councilman Yanez will do a great job on the Council, and he appreciates the work he will do for the City.

Mayor Taylor stated he is pleased to have Councilman Yanez on board, commenting he supported Councilman Yanez in his race for the State Senate. He acknowledged that although the bid for State Senate did not work out, Councilman Yanez’s loss is the City’s gain, adding he is confident Councilman Yanez will be a tremendous asset for the residents of Sterling Heights. He
commended him for his six years as State Representative, and his years serving this community as a firefighter. He welcomed him to City Council.

Councilman Yanez stated he is excited to be part of this team, and although he lost his last election, he felt this is a positive thing for him. He noted he has been serving the City of Sterling Heights in various ways since 1995, and he looks forward to working with the Mayor and Council members to do great things for the City. He had always bragged as a State Representative that he represented the third and fourth largest cities in the State of Michigan, and he felt that the positive growth of Sterling Heights reflects how thoughtful the City Councils have been over the years. He also referred to the Police Chief’s comment that Sterling Heights is the sixth safest large city in the country, which he felt is amazing and shows the strong work the employees of the City have done. He stressed it is about investing in people, and he felt the City does that well. He recognized his wife, Jane, his daughter, Allison, and stepdaughter Cassidy, as well as many friends, including those from the Fire Department who are in the audience this evening. He appreciated the support and stated he is happy to be here.

B. Mayor Taylor stated second presentation this evening is the sixteenth recipient of a Sterling Heights Fire Department’s Survival Coin. He invited Fire Chief Chris Martin to give the presentation.

Fire Chief Martin relayed an incident that occurred on November 8, 2018, Mr. John Coppins, a 41-year resident of Sterling Heights, went to the Kroger at 18
Mile and Dequindre, and while he was shopping, he collapsed in cardiac arrest. Luckily for Mr. Coppins, eight feet behind him was Mr. Darin Inda. Chief Martin provided some background on Mr. Inda, who has been an employee of Universal Macomb Ambulance Service since 1990, became a paramedic in 1992, and in 1996, Mr. Inda became a critical care paramedic and instructor. Since then, has trained more than 250 medics in critical care paramedic work and has also coordinated the first aid for many Sterlingfests, in addition to spending most of his field career on one of the four ambulances in the City. Chief Martin proceeded to outline the details of the incident that occurred on November 8, noting that when Mr. Coppins collapsed, Mr. Inda was able to start CPR on him within seconds. He invited Mr. Inda to speak.

Mr. Darin Inda stated in the 28 years he worked with EMS, there are many incidents such as this that do not have a happy ending, but that was not the case for Mr. Coppins. He thanked God that Mr. Coppins has done well and is here today, and he thanked God that he was in the right spot at the right time because timing is everything when suffering from a cardiac arrest. He continued treatment until the Fire Department arrived on scene and took over care, and he commended them on their five-star quality care, referring to it as “top-notch.” He commended Lt. Schwartz and his crew for the effort they gave to save Mr. Coppin’s life, and he thanked all of the providers at Beaumont Troy and the I.C.U. He stressed that EMS starts in the field with CPR and early defibrillation, and early activation of the Emergency Response System, and he
encouraged anyone in the audience not trained in CPR to get that training. He stressed that becoming certified in CPR is one way a resident can help their community.

Chief Martin relayed details that took place from the time Mr. Inda responded all the way through Mr. Coppins’ four-week hospital stay until he was released, and the Chief acknowledged and thanked all involved. He stated it was remarkable, and the team spent 39 minutes at Kroger working on Mr. Coppins, completing twelve defibrillations, which is unheard of. He invited Lt. Vincent Schwartz to present the Survivor Coin.

Lt. Schwartz, on behalf of the City of Sterling Heights, presented Mr. Coppins with the sixteenth Survivor Coin.

Mr. John Coppins stated he has been a resident of Sterling Heights for over forty years, and although he is honored to be here tonight, he added he is honored to be anywhere. He stressed he is not here to be honored but rather to honor the Sterling Heights Fire Department and the first responders, most of all Mr. Inda. He thanked them all very much.

Ms. Wanda Coppins, wife of the recipient, stressed her husband’s story could have had a different ending if he had not gone to Kroger to do shopping on November 8, and when he walked into that store, he had no idea that a man eight feet behind him would be responsible for starting the process of saving his life. She thanked Mr. Inda, an off-duty paramedic, for going into action and performing CPR on her husband until the Sterling Heights Fire Department
arrived. They rushed him to Beaumont Hospital, working nonstop to keep his heart beating and maintaining blood flow to his brain and vital organs. He spent four weeks in the hospital and had outstanding doctors and nurses who took care of him and brought him back to good health. She stressed they have never forgotten he may not have survived this incident if he had not been fortunate enough to be where he was when it happened, with Mr. Inda starting CPR immediately after his collapse and the defibrillator used to keep his heart beating. She highly commended the first responders who work in the City of Sterling Heights for the excellent job they do, and she thanked them from the bottom of her heart for saving her husband’s life.

Mr. Shawn Coppins, son of the recipient, commented that so many people were involved in helping his father, but it all started with Mr. Inda and his quick administration of CPR. He echoed Mr. Inda’s comments that everyone can be trained in CPR and a life can be saved. He stressed it is important for everyone get the CPR training to be able to help someone if they are in that situation. He added that he and his mother are going to be signing up for classes to be able to “pay it forward” by having the training to possibly save a life with CPR.

Councilman Radtke stated this is the sixteenth presentation of a Survival Coin, and every day they see the impact Universal Ambulance and the Fire Department have had on the residents of Sterling Heights. He thanked the Fire Department for everything they do, and he added when they have a survivor
come here to receive a coin, everyone can see the lives they touch through the work they do every day. He thanked them for their great public service.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sierawski thanked the Fire Department, adding she is grateful to live in this community. She was confident Mr. Coppins feels the same way, and she is glad he and his family here tonight. She offered her congratulations, she agreed it is extremely important to learn CPR because it is something anyone can do to possibly save a life.

Councilman Yanez referred to his comment earlier about investing in people, and when he joined the Fire Department in 1995, they stressed the importance of training. He commended this City for investing in its people. Police and Fire have taken their training seriously. The investment in the training budget is very important, and they could do even better. He stressed they need to keep the skills up for results like this, and he commended the Fire Department.

Mayor Taylor congratulated the Chief on a wonderful presentation. He noted there are so many layers of protection that someone needs, including a first response from those around, especially residents. He agreed with Mr. Shawn Coppins’ recommendation for residents to get the CPR training so they can respond in a situation like this. Mr. Coppins was fortunate to have someone like Mr. Inda in the immediate vicinity, and the community is lucky to have a company like Universal Ambulance because they have always been there for the City. He commended the Fire Department for being the best in the State of Michigan. He stated they are lucky to have Mr. Coppins here, and thanked him
and his family for coming here tonight to share their story. He thanked the Fire
Chief and medical professionals for being here tonight, giving a lot of credit to
the medical care professionals who take care of these patients.

Chief Martin presented the Coppins family a gift card for free CPR training for
the entire family.

A recess was called at 7:46 p.m., and the meeting reconvened at 7:52 p.m.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Taylor indicated this item is consideration of the Consent Agenda, and
he opened the floor to the public.

There were no comments from the audience.

Moved by Koski, seconded by Ziarko, **RESOLVED**, to approve the Consent
Agenda as submitted:

A. To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 2, 2019, as
   presented.

B. To approve payment of the bills as presented: General Fund -
   $393,562.74, Water & Sewer Fund - $2,900,076.74, Other Funds -
   $2,641,329.74, Total Checks - $5,934,969.22.

C. **RESOLVED**, to award the bid for the purchase and installation of vinyl
   flooring at the Sterling Heights Senior Center to Conventional Carpet,
   Inc., 7155 19 Mile Road, Sterling Heights, MI 48314, at a cost of $11,800.

D. **RESOLVED**, to award the bid for turf and concrete restoration services
   to Luigi Ferdinandi & Son Cement Company, 16481 Common Road,
   Roseville, MI 48066, at unit prices bid through November 30, 2019, and
   authorize the City Manager to extend the bid award one (1) additional
   year at unit prices bid.

E. **RESOLVED**, to award the bid for utility structure and concrete repairs to
   Galui Construction, Inc., 33805 Harper Ave., Clinton Township, MI 48035,
   at unit prices bid through November 30, 2019, and authorize the City
   Manager to extend the bid term one additional year at the same terms
   and conditions.

F. **RESOLVED**, to purchase a cybersecurity overlay program from Access
   Interactive, LLC, 46635 Magellan Drive, Novi, MI 48377, at a total cost of
$196,413.25 and authorize the City Manager to annually renew the software subscription services.

G. RESOLVED, to authorize the Community Relations Department to proceed with contracts for the 2019 Sterlingfest Art & Music Fair headliner performances on Friday, July 26th and Saturday, July 27th, 2019 and authorize the City Manager to sign all documents required in conjunction with this approval, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney.

H. RESOLVED, to suspend Governing Body Rule of Procedure No. 2 and hold the second regular meeting of the Sterling Heights City Council in March 2019 on Monday, March 18, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. and direct the City Clerk to provide the appropriate notice as required by Michigan Open Meetings Act.

Yes: All. The motion carried.

8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS
   • Mr. Charles Jefferson – drug education in schools; golden ring on Hall Road; procedure to fill vacant council seat; policy for amending City Charter.
   • Ms. Jazmine Early – condominium development on 14 Mile between Mound and Ryan.

11. REPORTS FROM CITY ADMINISTRATION AND CITY COUNCIL
    Mr. Vanderpool referenced the concern about the condominium development mentioned by Ms. Early, and he assured the developer has to comply with the City’s Tree Preservation ordinance, which is not something that can be waived. Trees will be saved where possible, and where not possible, the developer will be required to replant and/or contribute to the City’s Tree Preservation Fund, in which trees will be planted elsewhere around the City. He explained that, as a tree preservation city, they replant trees and plant thousands of new trees every year. He cited some of the roadway projects, which have hundreds of trees along them. He reminded that City Council passed a very strict
tree/landscape ordinance a few years ago, and that is having a very positive impact on the community.

Councilwoman Ziarko referenced a comment made by Mr. Jefferson, which claimed she had complained about the City Charter. She emphasized that she was not complaining, but she was stating a fact. She has no problems with the way appointments are made, and she reiterated she has no complaints with the City Charter.

Councilman Radtke agreed with Ms. Early that the City has to do more to replant some of the trees in the City. He has talked with Administration to try to come up with some ideas because the Emerald Ash Borer destroyed a lot of the trees in the 14 Mile/Van Dyke area. He went down his street recently and counted only seven large sidewalk trees. It is a problem in Sterling Heights because of nature, and they are going to work to fix it.

Mayor Taylor clarified that the Council does not have any direct input into the City Charter. They cannot change the Charter but can create a Charter question that would then go to the voters, and he recalled they may need a super majority vote for that. They cannot amend the Charter by themselves, and there is a process for any resident who would like to get a ballot initiative going to amend the Charter.

12. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
   There was no unfinished business.

13. **NEW BUSINESS**
    There was no new business.
14. **CLOSED SESSION**
   Mr. Kaszubski stated there is one item for Closed Session this evening.

15. **ADJOURN**
    Moved by Ziarko, seconded by Schmidt, to adjourn the meeting and go into
    Closed Session at 8:05 p.m.

    Yes: Sierawski, Taylor, Yanez, Ziarko, Koski, Radtke, Schmidt.

    No: None. The motion carried.

    The meeting adjourned from Closed Session at 9:58 p.m.

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    MELANIE D. RYSKA, City Clerk