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.

   Mayor Taylor explained that Mayor Pro-Tem Sierawski apologizes for not being here, she had an unavoidable work conflict and will be back for the next meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
   Moved by Koski, seconded by Ziarko, to approve the Agenda with the deletion of Item 6A and moving Item 7G from the Consent Agenda to Consideration Item 8A.


5. REPORT FROM CITY MANAGER
   Mr. Vanderpool stated the City offices will be closed on Monday, February 18, 2019 for President’s Day, and this will be an in-service training and award
recognition day for the employees. He advised the offices include City Hall, Library, Parks and Recreation Center, Senior Center and the Nature Center, and added that normal business hours will resume on Tuesday, with refuse collection not being affected.

Mr. Vanderpool introduced Economic Development Advisor Luke Bonner and invited him to provide an update on the Robotics Collaboration Center.

Mr. Bonner stated for the past twenty-four months, the City and Macomb County have been working together on a Robotics Collaboration Center to be housed at the Velocity Collaboration Center. The purpose of the Robotics Collaboration Center is all about talent, and creating a long-term pipeline that will fuel the companies in the region, as well as fueling innovation for years to come. He provided a PowerPoint presentation with a lot of background on the research the County and City have done together. In 2016, Automation Alley provided a tech report, serving their technology company CEOs, of the outlook in Michigan for tech innovation growth, and all of those CEOs were optimistic about the growth plans in Michigan, with the rationale that Southeast Michigan has a much better environment for business and tech professionals than their rival, Silicon Valley. He explained the cost of talent and real estate in Southeast Michigan is cheaper, and it is less likely that the talented workforce will be hopping between companies. He stressed there is a lot going on in this area, especially from a higher education perspective, and named some of the universities in the area, especially Lawrence Tech and Oakland University,
which have very prominent robotics programs. This Robotics Collaboration Center will be helpful moving forward as the City of Sterling Heights, in their partnership with Oakland University and the Macomb OU Incubator, is continuing to advance their relationship with Oakland University. He explained there is not a shortage of regional STEM initiatives and events, and the State of Michigan overall leads the nation in terms of First Robotic Teams, but Macomb County only has sixteen teams due to a lack of mentors and funding. They studied several benchmarks, and he named several of them. It is difficult to get young people interested in manufacturing because they do not see it as an exciting career. Part of this Robotics Collaboration Center is setting up a private non-profit that will be able to link industry with grades K-12, with the purpose of putting the emphasis on software, its core educational component, and that will lead into building robots. There is a lot of technology in a robot, including sensors and software, electrical parts, mechanical engineering, machining and manufacturing of the robot to make it do something. The center is focused on using the robot as the vehicle, but it is about all of the technology that goes into it. They feel it will help make sure that kids have other opportunities outside of school, either at night or during the day in the summer when there is no school, and they can continue to work on their skill set. He addressed some of the technology types, including sensors, vision systems, software, collaboration between robots and human beings, fabrication and prototyping.
There is as high of a demand in software capabilities to program C & C machines and automation systems as there is in the skilled trades.

Mr. Bonner summarized the status of the Center today, noting that Macomb County is working with a consulting team out of Lansing, Public Sector Consultants, and Miller Canfield to put together the structure of the non-profit, and to seek out industry partners that are board members and funders of this initiative. They are also looking at space requirements at Velocity to determine if alterations are necessary. After those multiple steps are taken, hopefully by the end of the year, they will be hiring an Executive Director. They have been working on this for the past 24 months and have received a lot of support from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) and will be seeking support from other entities such as foundations, federal grants and private sector donations from industry partners that are going to collaborate with the school system on the K through 12 STEM education programs.

Mr. Vanderpool concluded his report by stating they will be hearing much more about the Collaborative as it comes together, the structure is formed and the build-out begins.

Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Vanderpool and Mr. Bonner for the presentation.

6. **PRESENTATION**
   A. This item was deleted from tonight’s agenda.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**
   Mayor Taylor indicated this item is consideration of the Consent Agenda with the omission of Item G, 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 amended:

A. To approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 15, 2019, as presented.
B. To approve payment of the bills as presented: General Fund - $1,020,276.67, Water & Sewer Fund - $115,528.15, Other Funds - $2,990,641.80, Total Checks - $4,126,446.62.
C. RESOLVED, to award the bid for medical and physical evaluations of Sterling Heights firefighters to Bio-Care, Inc., 1778 Holloway Drive, Suite A, Holt, MI 48842, at unit pricing bid, and approve a budget amendment in the amount of $37,620 from General Fund Reserves.
D. RESOLVED, to award the bid for the mosquito control program to Mosquito Pro, 4103 Grand Oak Drive, Suite B103, Lansing, MI 48109, for a three-year period based on unit prices bid.
E. RESOLVED, to award the bid for large diameter fire supply hose to Apollo Fire Equipment, 12584 Lakeshore Drive, Romeo, MI 48065, for a one (1) year period at unit prices bid.
F. RESOLVED, to purchase five (5) Sharp 60" Aquos Boards including delivery, implementation, and training, from UTEC, 1995 Highland Drive, Suite C, Ann Arbor, MI 48108, at unit prices available through a Sourcewell cooperative RFP, Contract #083116-SEC, in the cumulative amount of $19,995.
G. This item was moved to Consideration Item #8A.
H. RESOLVED, to adopt the resolution approving the 2019 Real Property Tax Hardship Guidelines for Tax Relief under Section 211.7u, Public Act 206 of 1893.
I. RESOLVED, to adopt the resolution designating the meeting place for the Sterling Heights Board of Review for 2019.
J. RESOLVED, to set a public hearing on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the application by HHC Hospitality, LLC and Tower 17, LLC, for a Planned Unit Development on approximately 7.5 acres situated on the north side of 17 Mile Road, west of Van Dyke, PPCM-1198.
K. RESOLVED, to approve final payment to Galui Construction, Inc., 33805 Harper Avenue, Clinton Township, Michigan 48035, in the amount of $133,511.92, plus interest on retainage, for the 2016 Local Road Concrete Restoration Program, City Project #16-283, and City Center Parking Lots Reconstruction, City Project #16-287.
L. RESOLVED, to approve final payment to Galui Construction, Inc., 33805 Harper Avenue, Clinton Township, Michigan 48035, in the amount of
$126,837.34, plus interest on retainage, for the 2017 Concrete Sectional Replacement Program, City Project #17-294, and Arlingdale Drive Reconstruction, City Project #16-290.

M. RESOLVED, to approve final payment to Spectrum Neon Co., 1280 Kemper, Madison Heights MI 48071, in the amount of $8,101.40, plus interest on retainage, for fourteen (14) new park signs, City Project #18-320.


8. CONSIDERATION
A. Mayor Taylor stated this item was removed from the Consent Agenda and is to adopt a Notice of Intent Resolution for Public Works Facilities Capital Improvement Bonds.

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

Moved by Radtke, seconded by Taylor, RESOLVED, to adopt the Notice of Intent Resolution for Public Works Facilities Capital Improvement Bonds.

Councilman Radtke requested Mr. Vanderpool make a brief presentation about why they are going out for bonding for the DPW Facilities. He noted the nearly 50-year-old facility has several problems.

Mr. Vanderpool stated he would be happy to summarize the needs for this building. He explained the Intent Resolution being considered for approval by the Council this evening establishes the intent to sell the bonds that will be necessary to fund this building replacement. The building is 43 years old and has had very minimal upgrades, adding both the facility and grounds do not comply with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and the
Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) requirements. He provided some background, noting this building is the Public Works facility, located on 18 Mile Road, between Van Dyke and Mound. He detailed many of the problems with the building. The walls are not insulated but are comprised of cinderblock, with many areas cracking, which is not something that mortar or caulking will solve, and in addition, daylight can be seen through many of these cracks. There is a manhole cover connected to the sewer system inside the office, resulting in emission of noxious odors and bulk material storage outside is uncovered. There was a major fire inside the building and the electrical circuit breakers are no longer produced because they have a history of causing fires. Both the Teamster’s Field Unit employees and AFSCME supervisors reside in the shop, where the offices are in the center and they are surrounded by vehicles, including plows, tractors, front-end rotors emitting diesel fumes and other exhaust, and the ventilation is not ideal by today’s standards. More than half of the equipment and vehicles are stored outside, decreasing the useful life of that equipment, and the shop floor drains are undersized, resulting in backups. The ceiling leaks even though the roof has been maintained to the best of their ability, and the vehicle hoists are continuously filling up with water. The largest training room can only hold about one-third of the department, which creates logistical problems for training. There is no emergency ingress and egress for the office staff located in the Administrative Office. He summarized the building has outlived its useful life, and it does not lend itself to
renovations, so there is a need to replace the building. He stressed the good thing is that there will be no tax increase for residents because they have a debt that is “clicking off” to being retired, so the bonds being sold to fund this project would be replacing that debt, eliminating the need for a tax increase. He pointed out that, in terms of the City’s overall debt, this does not make much difference. He cited the example of the City’s legal debt limit, according to the Charter, is 10% of the State Equalized Value (SEV). The City could incur debt up to $551 million, which is 10% of their SEV. Their current debt equates to $118 million, or about 21.5% of their legal debt limit. The City is still in very good shape in terms of their debt, and he emphasized this project is very much needed. He anticipates looking forward to the design work being completed over the summer, getting through bidding in late summer/early fall, and under construction by this time next year.


9. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS**
   - Mr. Charles Jefferson – excellent job on snow removal last week; Golden Ring on Hall Road.

10. **REPORTS FROM CITY ADMINISTRATION AND CITY COUNCIL**
    Mr. Vanderpool stated he had nothing further to report.

Councilwoman Ziarko stated that Mr. Kyle Langlois, Director of Parks and Recreation, was awarded the 2019 MParks Recreation Leadership Award. She stressed with all of the improvements made to the parks over the last couple of years, he has been a great leader in coordinating the efforts and bringing
everyone together as a team to accomplish what they have done so far, and he
is still working hard to complete the new Rec Center currently underway across
the street. She congratulated him for this recognition. She also felt it needs to
be clarified that the bond that is coming off of the tax rolls is not for Safe
Streets, adding that Safe Streets is a millage and not a bond. She requested that
Mr. Vanderpool explain that to the residents.
Mr. Vanderpool explained the Safe Streets millage was approved by the voters
six years ago and will be up for renewal in November. The Safe Streets millage
provides $7 million in operational money to sustain staffing levels in the Police
and Fire Departments. He reminded that the City had to eliminate 200 full-time
positions during the Great Recession, although they tried to avoid reductions
in Police and Fire, although there were some minimal reductions in those
departments. He noted the $7 million per year, with $42 million total over the
six years, enabled them to maintain the staffing levels and there is a need to
continue that millage in November to sustain the current levels in Police and
Fire for a period of time. He added that Safe Streets millage also provides $3
million annually to fund neighborhood road repairs, and he stressed they have
made significant progress in their road repair program, largely due to Safe
Streets. They have been fortunate to fund and continue to fund many other
roadway projects, including M-59, Dequindre, Schoenherr, 14 Mile Road, 18
Mile Road, Utica Road, 19 Mile Road and Canal Road. He explained that many of
their roads, by the end of this construction season, will have been redone,
resurfaced or improved in one way or another. He reiterated that was a very specific millage approved by the voters, and the City will not be asking for an increase in that millage, but only the ability to renew it under the current parameters of that millage. He stressed it is not a bond and is completely different and unrelated to the Public Works Building Bond or any other bonds the City has issued.

Councilwoman Ziarko inquired as to which bond the City is retiring.

Mr. Vanderpool stated there are a number of bonds being retired, and although he does not have it in front of him, there are a number of bonds nearing retirement, and the DPW Building will replace those bonds, so there will be no net increase.

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

12. **NEW BUSINESS**
   There was no new business.

13. **CLOSED SESSION**
   Mr. Kaszubski stated there are no items for Closed Session this evening.

14. **ADJOURN**
   Moved by Ziarko, seconded by Schmidt, to adjourn the meeting.


   The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

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MELANIE D. RYSKA, City Clerk