



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 7, 2020

Romulus City Hall Council Chambers, 11111 Wayne Rd, Romulus, MI 48174

MEETING HELD ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM MEETING/TELECOMMUNICATION

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Councilperson Wadsworth

Roll Call

Present: Kathy Abdo, John Barden, Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley, William Wadsworth, Eva Webb, Virginia Williams

Absent / Excused:

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

LeRoy Burcroff, Mayor

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk

Stacy Paige, Treasurer

Administrative Staff in Attendance:

D'Sjonaun Hockenhull - Deputy Clerk; Julie Wojtylko - Chief of Staff; Stephen Dudek - Technology Director; Gary Harris - Purchasing Director; Stephen Hitchcock - City Attorney; Robert Pfannes - Public Safety Director; Roberto Scappaticci - DPW Director; Kathy Hood - Deputy DPW Director; Gregg Schultz - Labor Attorney; Carol Maise - City Planner; Julie Albert - Director of Assessing & Financial Services; Michael Laskaska - Director of Communication

1. Agenda

- A.** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to accept the agenda as presented

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

2. Minutes

- A. Res. #20-318** Moved by **Kathy Abdo**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on November 23, 2020

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Webb, Williams

Nays - None

Abstain - Wadsworth

Motion Carried

- B. Res. #20-319** Moved by **Kathy Abdo**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting - Study Session held on November 23, 2020 @ 7:00pm for discussion of amendment to Section 8-20 of the City Code of Ordinance

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Webb, Williams

Nays - None

Abstain - Wadsworth

Motion Carried

3. Petitioner

No petitioners/petitions at this meeting

4. Chairperson's Report, John Barden, Mayor Pro-Tem

- A. Res. #20-320** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to concur with the administration and the Human Resources Director's recommendation to approve the Letter of Agreement with Teamsters Local 214 for the protection of the active employees who are currently covered by Michigan Conference of Teamsters Welfare Health Care Benefits, if the employee were to revert to a non-paid status, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb,
Nays - Williams

Motion Carried

Councilperson Abdo acknowledged and congratulated Recreation Coordinator, Tanya Cofield, and the Recreation Department for receiving the Michigan's Innovators award for the unique approach to this year's Daddy-Daughter Dance.

Councilperson Wadsworth thanked everyone for the prayers and well wishes as he and his wife recovered from COVID-19. He further warned of the dangers of the disease and encouraged everyone to wear a mask.

Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Approval of the Chairperson's Report

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams
Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

5. Mayor's Report – LeRoy D. Burcroff, Mayor

- A. Res. #20-321** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Eva Webb** to concur with the administration and authorize the Mayor and Human Resources Director to sign the Michigan Employees Retirement System Agreement Addendums due on or before December 15, 2020

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams
Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- B. Res. #20-322** Moved by **Eva Webb**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to concur with the administration and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the Pass Through Agreement with Southeast Michigan Council of Governments accepting the awarded \$40,000.00 grant, which includes a federal share of \$32,740.00 and a local share for the City of Romulus of \$7,260.00 for the creation of a pathway system master plan. This plan will include corridor studies for sidewalk and future connections to the Turtle Cove Water Park as well as the Metro Parks.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams
Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- C. **Res. #20-323** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to concur with the administration and consent to piggyback on the Omnia Partners Public Sector Contract #R180903, with Weather Proofing Technologies Inc., to perform necessary repairs to the roof at Romulus City Hall totaling \$50,485.00

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- D. **Res. #20-324** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to concur with the administration and award ITB 20/21-07 to the most responsive bidder Ritter GIS Inc., for a five (5) year contract for professional services for the maintenance, enhancement, and continued development of the geographical information systems (GIS) of the City of Romulus and existing Cityworks databases. Costs for this will be budgeted for each fiscal year and will not exceed the budget.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- E. Stephen Hitchcock, City Attorney, summarized his written communication with City Council around the term "general circulation" as defined in the City Charter.

David Willet, president of Associated Newspaper and publisher of the Romulus Roman, requested to speak to City Council before action was taken.

Gina Steward, CEO and publisher of Telegram News, requested to speak to City Council before action was taken.

Res. #20-325 Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to award Bid ITB 20/21-10 Official Publications Newspaper for the publication of all City notices to Associated Newspaper for the calendar year 2021 at a per column inch price of \$4.75 per inch.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth

Nays - Webb, Williams

Motion Carried

- F. **Res. #20-326** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to concur with administration and introduce budget amendment 20/21-11 to recognize Grant Contribution from SEMCOG and reducing General Fund Balance of \$7,260.00

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- G. **Res. #20-327** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to concur with the administration and introduce budget amendment 20/21-12 to recognize grant revenue and expenditures for the grant awarded on September 23, 2020 for CTCL, Safe and Secure Election

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

6. Clerk's Report – Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk

- A. **Res. #20-328** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Second Reading, Final Adoption of Budget Amendment 20/21-10 Water & Sewer fund, introduced at 11/23/20 regular City Council meeting

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- B. **Res. #20-329** Moved by **Eva Webb**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to concur with the recommendation of the Executive Advisory Committee to appoint Gary Harris and Jill Lambert to serve as "alternate members" to the Romulus Board of Review with the same terms as the regular member(s) beginning 12/08/2020 and ending 12/31/2021

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb

Nays - Williams

Motion Carried

- C. **Res. #20-330** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **William Wadsworth** to approve the Study Session Request from Mayor's Office for 12/14/20 @ 6:00pm for the Midyear Financial Presentation

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

7. Treasurer's Report – Stacy Paige, Treasurer

Treasurer Paige congratulated Tanya Cofield and the Recreation Department on their recent award and communicated to Councilperson Wadsworth her happiness that he made a speedy recovery. She reminded the everyone that the winter tax bills were mailed out and residents should have already received them. She also wanted the listening audience to know that if there are any questions or concerns to contact her office.

8. **Public Comment** - Citizens are to limit their comments to three (3) minutes. All citizens wishing to speak will be heard.

A reporter asked campaign finance related questions to the Mayor.

A resident from Oakbrook Subdivision spoke on the increase in violent crimes near his residence and what could be done to preserve the peace in the subdivision

CEO of the Telegram News objected to the bid submitted by Associated Newspaper as not accurate according to the bid requirements and wanted to verify if the information on the bid sheet was correct

A resident spoke to a correction on a motion entered under item 6b of the Clerk's Report

Another resident from Oakbrook Subdivision spoke to how dangerous the subdivision is getting and that it is making him rethink living in the city.

Another resident from Oakbrook subdivision inquired as to what other resources are available to help the residents in the subdivision feel safe

Another resident from Oakbrook Subdivision spoke on the lack of assigned officers to the subdivision and on patrol.

Another resident from Oakbrook Subdivision inquired on the possibility of establishing a neighborhood/block watch.

9. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business at this time

10. New Business

No new business at this time

11. Communication

Councilperson Talley offered her appreciation and delight that Councilperson Wadsworth and his family recovered from COVID-19. She thanked the Fire Department and specifically Bryan O'Connor for coordinating the distribution of face masks to churches in the surrounding areas, through the Mask Up Initiative, with the recent distribution of 750 face masks. Police Chief Pfannes assured residents that Oakbrook subdivision is on the top of the Police Department list and wanted to work with each of the residents in making the subdivision better and safer. Councilperson Williams requested that the Mayor consider a moratorium of the water shut offs since the pandemic is continues. She also offered face masks, gloves, and hand sanitizers to those who need it. Councilperson Williams moved for a congratulatory resolution to recognize Judge-Elect Lisa Martin.

Res. #20-331 Moved by **Virginia Williams**, seconded by **William Wadsworth** for a congratulatory resolution to Judge-Elect Lisa Martin

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams
Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

Councilperson Roscoe thanked the residents at Oakbrook Subdivision for the concern of the neighborhood and fellow neighbors; as well as, bringing it to City Council's attention. She assured the residents that their pleas has not fallen on deaf ears. She further states that City Council is equally concerned about the safety of the residents will work hard to clean up the neighborhood.

12. Adjournment

Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Eva Webb** to adjourn the meeting at 9:24pm

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth, Webb, Williams
Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

I, Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk for the City of Romulus, Michigan do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Romulus City Council held on December 7, 2020.



Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, City Clerk
City of Romulus, Michigan