



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

December 23, 2024

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

Mayor Pro Tem John Barden called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Kathy Abdo, John Barden, Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley, William Wadsworth, Allen Wilson
Absent / Excused: Virginia Williams (in Memoriam)

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

Robert McCraight, Mayor

Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk

Stacy Paige, Treasurer

Administrative Staff in Attendance:

D'Sjonaun Hockenhull - Deputy Clerk; Stephen Hitchcock - City Attorney; Kevin Krause - Economic Development Director; Julie Albert - Director of Assessing & Financial Services; Jerome Frayer - DDA Director

1. Agenda

- A.** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to accept the Agenda as presented.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

2. Minutes

- A. Res. #24-346** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- B. Res. #24-347** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Minutes from the Special Meeting - Study Session held on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Quarterly Investment Report.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

3. Petitioner – None

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

Res. #24-348 Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to adopt a memorial resolution for the family of Councilwoman Virginia Williams.

Councilwoman Roscoe offered her condolences to the family of Councilwoman Williams and spoke on her contribution to the residents of the City.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

Res. #24-349 Moved by William Wadsworth, seconded by **Tina Talley** to adopt a resolution in accordance with Council Resolution 24-243 appointing Harry Crout to fill the vacancy to Councilman Allen Wilson's seat when it becomes vacant on January 2, 2025 (provided he is sworn into the role of Wayne County Commissioner) serving until the end of the current term, which expires in November 2025.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

- A. Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to accept the Chairperson's Report.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

5. Mayor's Report – Robert A. McCraight, Mayor

- A. **Res. #24-350** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to concur with the Administration and approve the appointment of Gary Harris to the Property Disposition Committee with a term expiring 1/25/28.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

Res. #24-351 Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to concur with the Administration and approve the re-appointment of Tracy Leininger to the Property Disposition Committee with a term expiring 1/25/28.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

- B. **Res. #24-352** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth** to concur with the Administration and adopt the Resolution for the City of Romulus Poverty Exemption for 2025 to be used by the Board of Review to review or approve poverty exemptions.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

- C. **Res. #24-353** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to concur with the Administration and the Property Disposition Committee and authorize the City to transfer, via quit claim deed, the following excess City-owned properties to the Wayne County Land Bank:

80 030 01 0001 300 / 80 030 01 0013 000 / 80 030 01 0131 000
80 030 01 0142 000 / 80 030 01 0150 300 / 80 030 01 0281 000

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

- D. Res. #24-354** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to concur with the Administration and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the Master Agreement to Acquire and Provide Street Lighting Services between DTE Electric Company and the City of Romulus for DTE to take over responsibility of the pedestrian lighting system in the Merriman Road Special Assessment District (on Merriman from Flynn north to Approximately Leonardo's) at no cost.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- E. Res. #24-355** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **William Wadsworth** to concur with the administration and grant authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the Lease Agreement with Detroit Metro Airport Center L.L.C., for 3,125 square feet of temperature-controlled storage space for the City Clerk's Office and the Police Department, for five years beginning January 1, 2025 and ending December 31, 2029.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- F. Res. #24-356** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth** to concur with the Administration and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the Professional Services Agreement with Best Practices Consulting Services for Phase Three of the program to help with Economic gardening, Business Development, Technical Assistance for small businesses and to help promote existing and new Romulus businesses from March 8, 2025, through December 12, 2025, in the amount of \$46,500.00.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- G. Res. #24-357** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to award Bid ITB 24/25-05 Official Publications Newspaper for the publication of al City notices to Associated Newspapers for the 2025 calendar year at a price of \$4.75 per column inch.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

Mayor McCraight offered his condolences to the family of Councilwoman Williams and read a proclamation naming December 15th Councilwoman Virginia William's Day.

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

- A. Res. #24-358** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Second Reading and Final Adoption of Budget Amendment 24/25-10 in the amount of \$61,500.00 to recognize the MCOLES Continued Professional Education (CPE) funding and corresponding allowable expenses.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- B. Res. #24-359** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to schedule a public hearing, in accordance with Chapter 14, Section 14.2 of the Romulus City Charter, for Monday, January 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. to hear comments or objections to the partial street vacation of Lorman Avenue.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- C. Res. #24-360** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to approve the Study Session Request for Monday, January 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. for the Audit Presentation from Plante Moran for audit ending fiscal year June 30, 2024.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- D. Res. #24-361** Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the 2025 Citywide Spring Yard Sale for Thursday, May 15th through Sunday, May 18th with rain dates of Thursday, May 29th through Sunday, June 1st.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

Res. #24-362 Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the 2025 Citywide Fall Yard Sale for Thursday, September 25th through Sunday, September 28th with rain dates of Thursday, October 2nd through Sunday, October 5th.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- E. Res. #24-363** Moved by **Kathy Abdo**, seconded by **Celeste Roscoe** to adopt a resolution approving the 2025 Regular Council Meeting Schedule in accordance with Resolution #24-068.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- F. Res. #24-364** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth** to approve the Study Session Request for Monday, January 13, 2025, at 6:00 pm to discuss the proposed amendment for storage of recreational vehicles, commercial vehicles, and automobiles in residential districts.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- G. For Your Information:** 2025 Boards & Commissions Meeting Calendar

- Romulus Board of Review
- Romulus Library Board
- Police Fire & Safety Commission
- Cemetery Board of Trustees
- Planning Commission

Clerk Bragg offered her condolences to the family of Councilwoman Williams and spoke on Councilwoman Williams positive impact on the City and surrounding communities.

7. Treasurer's Report – Stacy Paige, Treasurer

Treasurer Paige offered her condolences to the family of Councilwoman Williams. She reminded residents that taxes are due on February 14th. She further informed the public that those who had questions regarding the Veterans Memorial Monument or who wished to purchase a brick should contact her office. Finally, she gave information regarding income tax assistance for seniors.

8. Public Comment

A resident addressed the City Council regarding commercial equipment on residential property and the proposed zoning text amendment.

9. Unfinished Business – None

10. New Business

Councilman Wilson commented on the passing of Councilwoman Williams and gave a farewell address to the residents.

11. Warrant

Res. #24-365 Moved by **Kathy Abdo**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve Warrant #:24-24 for checks presented in the amount of \$874,633.61.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

12. Communication

Councilwoman Talley commented on the passing of Councilwoman Williams and offered condolences to the family. She bid farewell to Councilman Wilson and commented on previous community events.

Councilman Wadsworth commented on the passing of Councilwoman Williams. He further commented on the need for donations for the Animal Shelter and the deadline to donate. He further inquired about the RFP for the old animal shelter on Goddard Road.

Councilwoman Abdo offered condolences to the family of Councilwoman Williams.

Councilman Barden offered condolences to the family of Councilwoman Williams and encouraged everyone to hold their loved ones close. Finally, he bid farewell to Councilman Wilson.

13. Adjournment

Moved by **Allen Wilson**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

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

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 23, 2024.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ellen L. Craig-Bragg".

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