



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR ROMULUS CITY COUNCIL MEETING
January 27, 2025

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, Harry Crout, Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley, William Wadsworth
Absent / Excused:

Administrative Officials in Attendance:

Robert McCraight, Mayor
Ellen L. Craig-Bragg, Clerk
Stacy Paige, Treasurer

Administrative Staff in Attendance:

D'Sjonaun Hockenhull - Deputy Clerk; Julie Wojtylko - Chief of Staff; Stephen Hitchcock - City Attorney;
Robert Pfannes - Chief of Police; Jeff Kemp - Director of Building & Planning; Roberto Scappaticci - DPW
Director

1. Agenda

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

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

2. Minutes

- A. Res. #25-014** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Minutes from the Regular Meeting held on Monday, January 13, 2024, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- B. Res. #25-015** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Harry Crout** to approve the Minutes from the Special Meeting - Study Session held on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 6 p.m. to discuss the proposed amendment for storage of recreational vehicles, commercial vehicles, and automobiles in residential districts; and the Special Meeting - Executive Session held on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 6:45 p.m. to discuss an attorney opinion.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

3. Petitioner - NONE

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

- A.** The Council conducted the first round of voting via ballot and produced the following results: David Jones (2); Mark Wilhide (1); Isaiah Warren (1); Dale Justice (1); Jeff Kotlarek (1)
The Council conducted a second round of voting via ballot and produced the following results: David Jones (2); Mark Wilhide (1); Isaiah Warren (1); Dale Justice (1); Jeff Kotlarek (1)
The Council conducted a third round of voting via ballot and produced the following results: David Jones (2); Mark Wilhide (1); Isaiah Warren (1); Dale Justice (1); Jeff Kotlarek (1)

Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to concur with the ballot results as determined by the City Council's vote in accordance with Council Resolution #25-005, and appoint David S. Jones to fill the vacant City Council seat. The appointment shall be effective immediately and shall continue until 12:00 noon on the 2nd Monday in November 2025, as per Chapter 4, Section 4.1 of the Romulus City Charter.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - John Barden, Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley
Nays - Kathy Abdo, Harry Crout, William Wadsworth
Motion Failed.

Councilwoman Abdo suggested that the Council postpone appointing an individual to fill the vacant council seat until the charter deadline of January 29th in fairness to everyone who came out. Councilman Wadsworth objected to the suggested and argued that the results will stay the same because no council member is changing their vote. He further argued that the business of the City needs to be conducted, and he is willing to change his vote.

Res. #25-016 Moved by **Celeste Roscoe**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to concur with the ballot results as determined by the City Council's vote in accordance with Council Resolution #25-005, and appoint David S. Jones to fill the vacant City Council seat. The appointment shall be effective immediately and shall continue until 12:00 noon on the 2nd Monday in November 2025, as per Chapter 4, Section 4.1 of the Romulus City Charter.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - John Barden, Celeste Roscoe, Tina Talley, William Wadsworth
Nays - Kathy Abdo, Harry Crout
Motion Carried.

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

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Crout, Roscoe, Talley, Wadsworth
Nays - None
Motion Carried Unanimously

For the record, Councilwoman Roscoe was excused for the remainder of the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

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

- A. Res. #25-017** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Harry Crout** to concur with the Administration and adopt the resolution to incorporate the street system in the Creekside Subdivision (north of Pennsylvania Rd.) and Legacy Subdivision (east of Hannan Rd.) into local road network. Upon this action, the street systems would become public, and the City would collect Act 51 revenue from the State of Michigan, and the City could legally begin snow plowing as required.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Crout, Talley, Wadsworth
Nays - None
Motion Carried Unanimously

- B. Res. #25-018** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth** to approve the reappointment of Phillip Franklin, Frederick Hay, Sheldon Chandler, and Richard Rutherford to the Construction Board of Appeals with two (2) year terms to expire on February 1, 2027.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Crout, Talley, Wadsworth
Nays - None
Motion Carried Unanimously

- C. Res. #25-019** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Harry Crout** to concur with the Administration and grant authorization for the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the First Amendment to the Lease Agreement between the Detroit Metro Airport Center, LLC and the City of Romulus, for the purpose of storing city and

police records.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- D. Res. #25-020** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to concur with the Administration and adopt the resolution authorizing the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the Inter-Governmental Agreement with Wayne County for the 2024 Justice Assistant Grant funding program award to the city of Romulus and accept monies from Wayne County in the amount of \$14,326.00.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- E. Res. #25-021** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Harry Crout** to concur with the Administration and authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into the contract with the State of Michigan, for the receipt of a legislative sponsorship grant, in the amount of \$1,000,000.00. This appropriation has been allocated for road repairs to Swan Lake Drive, in the Gateway Subdivision.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- F. Res. #25-022** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth** to adopt a resolution for moratorium directing the City Planner and Planning Commission not accept nor process any requests for fueling stations for a period of one (1) year from today's date except: 1.) for applications filed and fees paid to the City prior to the date of this resolution; and 2.) any existing operating fuel stations on the date of this resolution.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- G. **Res. #25-023** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth** to concur with the Administration and introduce Budget Amendment 24/25-13 to fund the dispatcher overtime GL to cover costs from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

<u>FUND/DEPT. ACCOUNT NO.</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>CURRENT BUDGET</u>	<u>AMENDMENT</u>	<u>AMENDED BUDGET</u>
101-325 General Fund - Dispatch				
<u>Expense</u> 101-325-710.000	Repair & Maintenance	\$-	\$97,800.00	\$97,800.00
<u>Fund Balance</u> 101-000-390.000	Fund Balance	\$13,469,299.00	\$97,800.00	\$13,371,499.00

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

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

- A. **Res. #25-024** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Harry Crout** to approve the Second Reading and Final Adoption Budget Amendment 24/25-11 in the amount of \$473,773.00 to recognize expenses for the installation of street lighting along Wick and Vining Roads.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

- B. **Res. #25-025** Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve the Second Reading and Final Adoption of Budget Amendment 24/25-12 in the amount of \$15,000.00 to cover costs associated with a cable studio camera package and an equipment maintenance contract for existing audio/visual equipment in the council chambers.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

- C. **Res. #25-026** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth** to approve the First Reading and Introduction to Chapter 36, Article III, adding Section 36-35 - Detention for purpose of identification to the City of Romulus Code of Ordinances.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

- D. **Res. #25-027** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Harry Crout** to approve the First Reading and Introduction of TA-2024-002; a proposed text amendment to Section 3.06 Parking and Storage of Recreational Vehicles, Commercial Vehicles and automobiles in Residential Districts, of the City of Romulus Zoning Ordinance.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

- E. Res. #25-028** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Harry Crout** to approve the First Reading and Introduction of amendments to Chapter 6 - Animals, Article III - Dogs and Dangerous or Rabid Animals, Division 1, Section 6-92 - Dog or Cat at-large, of the City of Romulus Code of Ordinances.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- F. Res. #25-029** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Kathy Abdo** to concur with the recommendation of the City Attorney and adopt a Resolution declaring the adoption of amendment to the Leash Law as an Emergency Ordinance pursuant to Section 7.3(b) of the City of Romulus Charter.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- G. Res. #25-030** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **William Wadsworth** to vacate a portion of Lorman Avenue, east of Middlebelt Road between Hyde Park Avenue and Loraine Avenue, abutting Lots 99, 100–113 inclusive, Lot 119, Lots 120–123 inclusive, and lots 127–128, located in the S.W. 1/4 Section 13 of the City of Romulus, retaining all utility easements of record and a 12-foot utility easement.

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- H. Res. #25-031** Moved by **Tina Talley**, seconded by **Harry Crout** to approve the Study Session Request from Mayor McCraight for Monday, February 10, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss amendments to the Animal Ordinance (Chapter 6 of the Romulus Code of Ordinances).

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

Nays - None

Motion Carried Unanimously

7. Treasurer's Report – Stacy Paige, Treasurer

Treasurer Paige reminded residents that property taxes are due February 14th and to contact her office with any questions. She also mentioned that the names of veterans with bricks for the Veteran's Memorial Monument are listed on the city's website and to contact her office to confirm that the information on the bricks is correct, to collect the previous bricks, or purchase additional bricks.

8. Public

A resident expressed her displeasure with the Council's appointment determination and announced her intention to run for City Council.

Two residents expressed their disappointment with how the Council determined its vacancy appointment. A resident expressed his disappointment in the Council's vacancy appointment decision and the need to revise the City Charter.

A resident expressed his disappointment in the Council's vacancy appointment decision and preferred that Council appoint the next person in line from the previous local election.

A resident addressed the City Council to thank them for passing a leash law.

9. Unfinished Business

Councilman Wadsworth addressed statements made under public comment.

10. New Business - NONE

11. Warrant

- A. **Res. #25-032** Moved by **Kathy Abdo**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to approve Warrant #: 25-2 for checks presented in the amount of \$1,338,075.49.

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

Motion Carried Unanimously

12. Communication

Councilwoman Talley commented on previous community events.

Councilwoman Abdo announced the Forgotten Harvest Program was continuing after a one-week hiatus due to the weather.

13. Adjournment

Moved by **William Wadsworth**, seconded by **Tina Talley** to adjourn the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes - Abdo, Barden, Crout, Talley, Wadsworth
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 January 27, 2025.



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