

City of Southgate

Regular City Council Meeting

April 5, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Southgate was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 in the Southgate City Hall Council Chambers and was called to order at 7:00 PM by Council President Zoey Kuspa.

This meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was given in Memory of Longtime Councilman Dale Zamecki, followed by Roll Call.

Present: Priscilla Ayres-Reiss, Bill Colovos, Karen George, Greg Kowalsky, Christian Graziani, Zoey Kuspa, Phil Rauch

Absent:

Also Present: Mayor Joseph G. Kuspa, City Attorney Ed Zelenak, City Administrator Dan Marsh, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Doug Drysdale, City Clerk Janice Ferencz, City Treasurer Chris Rollet, City Engineer John Hennessey, Fire Chief Marc Hatfield, Public Safety Joe Marsh, Police Chief Mark Mydlarz, DPS Director Kevin Anderson, Building Inspections Director Tim Leach, Parks & Recreation Director Julie Goddard

Minutes:

Moved by Rauch, supported Colovos, RESOLVED, that the minutes of the City Council Work Study Session dated March 15, 2023 be approved as presented. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Rauch, supported by Ayres-Reiss, RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting dated March 15, 2023 be approved as presented. Carried unanimously.

Consideration of Bids:

1. Letter from Mayor; Purchase of Water System Supplies – Copper Tubing moved by Colovos, supported by George, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council awards the bid for purchase of Copper Tubing to Core and Main, LP (4901 Dewitt, Canton, MI 48187) in the amount of \$4,313.

Motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled Hearings:

1. Memo from Administrator; Re: Public Hearing Regarding Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) – Barberry Relief Sewer Project moved by Rauch, supported by George; resolved that the Southgate City Council hereby enter into a public hearing at 7:03 p.m. to entertain comments/questions on the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) – Barberry Relief Sewer Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Tiffany Neubig, Hennessey Engineers, gave a brief presentation of the project. Councilman Colovos asked how old the current system, with it being stated it was built in the 1950's or 1960's. The project will take about 2 years to complete.

Moved by George, supported by Rauch, RESOLVED that the Southgate City Council closes the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Regular City Council Meeting

April 5, 2023

Communications "A":

1. Memo from Administrator; Re: Barberrly Relief Sewer Resolution moved by Colovos, supported by Rauch, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council hereby adopt a resolution for the Project Planning Document, implement the project and authorize the City Administrator as the designate authorized representative for all activities associate with the Barberrly Relief Sewer. The resolution is as follows:

WHEREAS, the **City of Southgate** recognizes the need to make improvements to its existing wastewater treatment and collection system; and

WHEREAS, the City of **City of Southgate** authorized Hennessey Engineers, Inc. 13500 Reeck Road, Southgate, MI 48195) to prepare a Project Planning Document, which recommends the construction of a sewer relief project in the Old Homestead Neighborhood to construct the Barberrly Relief sewer from Brest Street to the South side of Eureka (approximately 7,940 Linear feet) at a depth of 19.5 to 26 feet deep. A 40-foot-deep drop/access structure over the Eureka Tunnel at the south side of the Eureka Road right-of-way in Barberrly Street to connect the Barberrly Relief Sewer outlet to the Eureka Tunnel. Two (2) overflow structures on the existing Howard combined sewer connected to Two (2) sewers from the existing Howard combined sewer to the Barberrly Relief Sewer.

WHEREAS, said Project Planning Document was presented at a Public Hearing held on April 5, 2023, at 7:00 PM and all public comments have been considered and addressed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Southgate (legal name of applicant) formally adopts said Project Planning Document and agrees to implement the selected alternative Barberrly Relief Sewer.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Administrator, a position currently held by Dan Marsh, is designated as the authorized representative for all activities associated with the project referenced above, including the submittal of said Project Planning Document as the first step in applying to the State of Michigan for a Clean Water State Revolving Fund Loan to assist in the implementation of the selected alternative.

Yeas: Ayres-Reiss, Colovos, George, Graziani, Kowalsky, Kuspa, Rauch

Nays none

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Memo from Administrator; Re: Council Resolution to Request State Legislature/Governor Include Funding in 2023 Budget for Communities Following Pension Best Practices moved by Rauch, supported by Kowalsky, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council adopt the attached resolution to request that the legislature/governor include funding in the 2023 budget for communities with pensions funded above 60% and following pension best practices established by the State:

WHEREAS, The City of Southgate has taken financially difficult steps to stabilize its pension program and get its pension costs and liabilities under control; and

WHEREAS these steps followed best practices established by the State of Michigan and kept the City of Southgate operationally viable in the face of enormous financial pressure; and

WHEREAS, HB 5054 of 2022 would have divided \$250 million between the City of Southgate and other communities like it, that made the tough decisions and followed those best practices; and

WHEREAS, the City of Southgate and others like it are ineligible for \$750 million in pension relief allocated by the State in 2022 despite experiencing the same pension-related financial stresses as those who will receive that relief; and

WHEREAS, these stresses have been amplified by market losses in 2022 and a volatile market in 2023; and

Regular City Council Meeting

April 5, 2023

Scheduled Hearings:

1. Memo from Administrator; Re: Barberry Relief Sewer Resolution moved by Colovos, supported by Rauch, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council offers the following resolution:

WHEREAS, this \$250 million would have immeasurable impact on our ability to address our pension liabilities, maintain employment levels, and provide the services our taxpayers depend upon; and

WHEREAS, both the \$750 million allocated and the \$250 million requested here had broad, bipartisan support in the House a year ago; and

WHEREAS, HB 5054 created an equitable balance between those with pensions the House considered substantially underfunded and those who had followed best practices to achieve a higher funding ratio; and

WHEREAS, unallocated revenues are available to the State in 2023 to again make this pension assistance equitable by helping those communities struggling with pension costs, but ineligible for the \$750 million;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City Council of the City of Southgate asks the State of Michigan Legislature and Governor's Office to revisit HB 5054; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature and Governor give bipartisan support to the inclusion of the \$250 million in the 2023 State budget to be divided between communities including the City of Southgate that meet the best practices required in that Bill.

The resolution was adopted by a vote of 7, with Members Ayres-Reiss, Colovos, George, Graziani, Kowalsky, Kuspa, Rauch voting yes, Members 0 voting no, and Members None absent.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Memo from Administrator; Re: Request to Amend Resolution No. 20-23 to Reschedule Budget Process Dates for FY 2023-2024 moved by Rauch, supported by George, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council amend Resolution No. 2023 to reschedule the public hearing for the FY 2023/24 Budget to the April 19, 2023 Council Meeting at 7:00 pm and to reschedule the adoption of the budget by City council to the May 3, 2023 City Council Meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Letter from Mayor; Re: Purchase of Two (2) Dump Trucks (Waiver of Bid) moved by Colovos, supported by George, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council waives the bid procedure and authorizes purchase of two (2) dump trucks to Wolverine Truck Sales, Inc. (107 S. Groesbeck Hwy, Mount Clemens, MI 48043) for the amount of \$401,671 for delivery of vehicles in approximately two years from order date.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Letter from Mayor; Re: Approval of Agreement with Electronic Tech Solutions, LLC for IT Software Services (Waiver of Bid) moved by Rauch, supported by Ayres-Reiss, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council waives the bid procedure and authorizes approval of the one-year agreement with Electronic Tech Solutions, LLC (Southgate, MI) for a monthly charge of \$2,878.20.

Motion carried unanimously.

Regular City Council Meeting

April 5, 2023

Claims and Accounts:

Moved by Graziani, supported by George, RESOLVED, that Claims and Accounts be paid as outlined on Warrant #1470 for \$5,916,565.22.

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

Moved by Colovos, supported by Rauch, RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of the Southgate City Council be adjourned at 7:22 P.M. Carried unanimously.

Zoey Kuspa
Council President

Janice M. Ferencz
City Clerk