

MINUTES DECEMBER 19, 2023
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE DEARBORN HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL

23-581 The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Council Chairman Dave Wassim Abdallah.

Roll Call showed the following:

Present: Council Chairman Dave Wassim Abdallah, Council Chair Pro Tem Mo Baydoun, Councilman Zouher Abdel-Hak, Councilman Hassan Ahmad, Councilwoman Nancy Bryer, Councilman Robert Constan, Councilman Tom Wencel.

Absent: None.

Also Present: City Clerk Senia, Mayor Bazzi, Treasurer Hicks-Clayton, Chief of Staff Hernandez, City Engineer Dib, Comptroller King, Corporation Counsel Farinha, Fire Chief Brogan, Human Resource Director Hazlett.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the current members of the Council and former Councilman Ray Muscat.

23-582 Motion by Councilman Baydoun, seconded by Councilwoman Bryer to approve the Amended Agenda for the Special Meeting of December 19, 2023, as submitted.

After further discussion, the motion was amended to reflect the following:

Motion by Councilman Baydoun, seconded by Councilwoman Bryer to approve the Amended Agenda for the Regular Meeting of December 19, 2023, as submitted, with the addition of the following two (2) items:

- 9-B Hassan Ahmad – City Council Special Legal Counsel
- 9-C Tom Wencel – DHPEA/TPOAM Union Members Compensation

Motion unanimously adopted

23-583 Motion by Councilman Constan, seconded by Councilwoman Bryer to authorize the necessary budget amendments to create the following three (3) new positions: City Engineer, Director of Asset Management, and Director of Community Relations (Ombudsperson), as outlined in 8-A. Per Mayor Bazzi communication dated December 14, 2023.

Ayes: Council Chairman Abdallah, Councilman Constan.

Nayes: Council Chair Pro Tem Baydoun, Councilman Abdel-Hak, Councilman Ahmad, Councilwoman Bryer, Councilman Wencel.

Absent: None.

Motion defeated

23-584 Motion by Councilman Abdel-Hak, seconded by Councilman Baydoun to authorize the following budget amendment to increase the Deputy Comptroller's salary for the purpose of filling the Deputy Comptroller's position that has been vacant, as outlined in 8-B. Per Mayor Bazzi communication dated December 14, 2023.

Account	Account Name	Current Budget	Amended Budget	Amendment or Change
101-223-706.000	Salaries	\$399,895.00	432,895	\$33,000.00
Increase/(Decrease)				\$33,000.00

Motion unanimously adopted

23-585 Motion by Councilman Baydoun, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak to expand the use of city-issued cell phones and issue to seven (7) City Councilmembers, through the City's current approved vendor, AT&T First Net Primary, and for IT Director Cooper to facilitate this request. In addition, authorize the Mayor and Comptroller or Clerk to sign the necessary warrants, and the Treasurer to issue payment for the cost of the service out of Account #101-200-853.000 and a one-time payment for the equipment out of account #101-258-981.000., as outlined in 9-A. Per Clerk Senia communication dated December 18, 2023.

Ayes: Council Chairman Abdallah, Council Chair Pro Tem Baydoun, Councilman Ahmad, Councilwoman Bryer, Councilman Constan.

Nayes: Councilman Abdel-Hak, Councilman Wencel.

Absent: None.

Motion adopted

23-586 Motion by Councilman Ahmad, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak that the City Council hereby sets aside \$50,000.00 to cover the legal fees for the special matter to be specified.

After further discussion, the motion was amended to reflect the following:

Motion by Councilman Ahmad, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak that the City Council may retain special legal counsel to appear of counsel to the Corporation Counsel for the purpose of assisting the Corporation Counsel for a special matter and for such limited time and purpose as the Council shall specify. The City Council hereby sets aside \$50,000.00 to cover the legal fees for the special matter to be specified.

Motion unanimously adopted

23-587 Motion by Councilman Wencel, seconded by Councilman Ahmad that the City Council recommend or approve a signing bonus separate from their contract that they got, well I'll call it a bonus, not a signing bonus, a bonus given to the TPOAM workers, nothing to do with the contract or the specifics of the contract, but a bonus to those workers in the amount of \$500.00 to be paid out by this Friday's paycheck.

After further discussion, the motion was amended to reflect the following:

Motion by Councilman Wencel, seconded by Councilman Ahmad to give a one-time holiday bonus of \$500.00 based on a budget amendment for this fiscal year to be paid to all TPOAM employees no later than December 31, 2023.

Ayes: Council Chairman Abdallah, Council Chair Pro Tem Baydoun, Councilman Abdel-Hak, Councilman Ahmad, Councilman Constan, Councilman Wencel.

Nayes: Councilwoman Bryer.

Absent: None.

Motion adopted

23-588 Motion by Councilman Abdel-Hak, seconded by Councilman Ahmad to approve the following resolution, as outlined in 11-A. Per Councilman Abdel-Hak communication dated December 19, 2023.

WhereAs: The Mayor shall follow the Charter in all his decisions related to the City of Dearborn Heights.

WhereAs: Mayor Bazzi has ignored the rules of Act 78 by suspending the meetings of Act 78 commission.

WhereAs: Mayor Bazzi has cost the City of Dearborn Heights cost the city over \$2.5Million in the way he handled the Warren Valley Golf Course (WVGC) contract.

WhereAs: Mayor Bazzi Hired two police directors without following Act 78 rules.

WhereAs: Mayor Bazzi falsely claimed that Act 78 was never approved by the city electorates in 1964, and he confirmed later that it exists in his contract negotiations with the police supervisors which he signed next to the union representative.

WhereAs: Mayor Bazzi disregarded several City Council resolutions.

Mayor Bazzi has shown disrespect to the Charter and rules of the office which he is holding and committed several violations since he took office, for all the above-mentioned reasons,

Let it be resolved, that the City Council of Dearborn Heights, passed a vote of (NO CONFIDENCE) In Mayor Bill Bazzi.

After further discussion, Councilman Abdel-Hak took his motion off the table; a vote was no longer required.

23-589 Motion by Councilman Ahmad, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak to adjourn the Dearborn Heights City Council Special Meeting.

Motion unanimously adopted

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

LYNNE M. SENIA
CITY CLERK

DAVE WASSIM ABDALLAH
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

GEORGANNE SEMENIUK
COUNCIL SECRETARY