

MINUTES DECEMBER 12, 2023
REGULAR MEETING OF THE DEARBORN HEIGHTS CITY COUNCIL

23-554 The meeting was called to order at 6:08 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, CEDD Director Jamal, Comptroller King, Corporation Counsel Farinha, DPW Director Conrad, Fire Chief Brogan, IT Director Cooper, Ordinance Enforcement & Animal Control Director Dishroon, Police Chief Hart.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Randa Abdallah.

Councilwoman Elect Denise Malinowski Maxwell and Councilman Elect Hassan Saab took the oath of office, as administered by Judge Plawecki.

Councilman Hassan Ahmad and Councilman Mo Baydoun presented certificates of appreciation to residents Vince Drapkowski and Angela Venegas.

Council Chairman Abdallah, in honor of his last regular meeting as a City Councilman, was presented with several certificates, proclamation, and displays of gratitude by Councilman Hassan Ahmad and Councilman Mo Baydoun, State Representative Erin Byrnes, County Commissioner David Knezek, and Congresswoman Tlaib (via Councilman Hassan Ahmad).

Councilman Zouher Abdel-Hak, in honor of his last regular meeting as a City Councilman, was presented with a certificate of gratitude by County Commissioner Knezek.

23-555 Motion by Councilman Baydoun, seconded by Councilman Ahmad to approve the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2023, as submitted.

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

Motion by Councilman Baydoun, seconded by Councilman Ahmad to approve the Agenda for the Regular Meeting of December 12, 2023, as submitted, with the removal of Item 8-F New Full Time Positions, and the addition of the following two (2) items:

- 9-I Hassan Ahmad – Eton Center Employment
- 9-J Hassan Ahmad – City Council Attorney

Motion unanimously adopted

23-556 Motion by Councilman Baydoun, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak to approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of November 28, 2023, as outlined in 4-A.

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

Motion by Councilman Baydoun, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak to approve the Minutes for the Regular Meeting of November 28, 2023, as outlined in 4-A, with the exclusion of Council Motion 23-539, that it be tabled until the final approved contract by the union and administration is brought forward to the City Council.

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

Nayes: Councilwoman Bryer, Councilman Constan.

Absent: None.

Motion adopted

23-557 Motion by Councilman Baydoun, seconded by Councilman Constan to approve Current Claims and ACH/Wire Transfers 6-1 through 6-48 as submitted.

1	AJAX MATERIALS CORPORATION	\$6,107.50
2	ALLIED BUILDING SERVICES OF	\$5,528.90
3	AMD ENGINEERING	\$15,375.00
4	BEST EQUIPMENT CO, INC	\$6,705.00
5	DIVERSIFIED EXCAVATING	\$13,400.00
6	DOMINION VOTING SYSTEMS, INC.	\$3,680.00
7	DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTH	\$58,719.20
8	DUKE'S ROOT CONTROL INC.	\$13,204.63
9	DUKE'S ROOT CONTROL INC.	\$24,315.23
10	DUKE'S ROOT CONTROL INC.	\$10,435.30
11	ENTERPRISE FM TRUST	\$6,082.10
12	FERGUSON WATERWORKS #3386	\$2,210.40
13	TIMOTHY FIFER	\$1,518.75
14	FOREMOST PROMOTIONS	\$2,334.95
15	HEALTHJOY	\$1,644.50
16	HENNESSEY ENGINEERS, INC	\$1,560.00
17	HENNESSEY ENGINEERS, INC	\$1,600.00
18	HOME DEPOT CREDIT SERVICES	\$2,296.66
19	JOHNSON CONTROLS, INC.	\$5,580.00
20	LINDA VERNIER	\$2,100.00
21	MADONNA UNIVERSITY	\$2,805.00
22	MICHIGAN HUMANE SOCIETY	\$5,033.25
23	MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL RISK	\$10,123.12
24	MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL RISK MGT AUTH	\$330,460.75
25	PERFECT POWER WASH	\$1,994.00
26	PLANTE MORAN	\$25,400.00
27	PLANTE MORAN	\$5,124.00
28	PLANTE MORAN	\$5,199.83
29	PLANTE MORAN	\$18,294.75
30	PLANTE MORAN	\$25,400.00
31	PLANTE MORAN	\$26,580.75
32	PLANTE MORAN	\$29,234.25
33	PLANTE MORAN	\$60,481.50
34	PLETKOVIC LAW PLLC	\$1,679.00
35	PROFESSIONAL POLICE TRAINING.COM	\$3,000.00
36	QUAD-TRAN OF MICHIGAN, INC.	\$7,684.00
37	QUAD-TRAN OF MICHIGAN, INC.	\$2,695.77

38	SHIELD LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE	\$2,790.00
39	SHRADER TIRE & OIL	\$1,676.26
40	STAPLES	\$2,394.75
41	TOMASSI CEMENT	\$17,500.00
42	THE W.W. WILLIAMS COMPANY, LLC	\$1,988.20
43	WAYNE COUNTY	\$476,294.79
44	WAYNE COUNTY	\$4,500.00
45	WEST SHORE SERVICES, INC.	\$3,547.50
46	WESTBORN CHRYSLER DODGE JEEP RAM	\$3,771.65
47	WHITLOCK BUSINESS	\$11,951.58
48	Alan C. Young	\$11,350.00

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-558** Motion by Councilman Ahmad, seconded by Councilman Baydoun to concur with the Mayoral reappointments of Ms. Robin Massey and Ms. Sada Hojaj to the Board of Review, terms to expire January 2027 and January 2026 respectively, as outlined in 8-A. Per Mayor Bazzi communication dated December 5, 2023.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-559** Motion by Councilman Constan, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak to concur with the Mayoral appointments of Mr. Valentine Peppers and Mr. John Burke to the Ecorse Creek Commission, terms to expire January 2025. These appointments are to replace Ms. Loretta Reichardt and Ms. Nancy Bryer. In addition, appoint Ms. Nancy Bryer as the Council Liaison to the Ecorse Creek Commission, as outlined in 8-B. Per Mayor Bazzi communication dated December 5, 2023.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-560** Motion by Councilman Baydoun, seconded by Councilman Constan concur with the Mayoral appointment of Mr. Bilal Hammoud to the Community & Cultural Relations Commission, term to expire August 2026. This appointment is to replace Gary Barkoff, as outlined in 8-C. Per Mayor Bazzi communication dated December 5, 2023.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-561** Motion by Councilwoman Bryer, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak to concur with the Mayoral reappointments of Mr. Richard Fetzer, Mr. Donald Willis and Ms. Cheryl Wojciechowski, terms to expire December 2027, and Mr. William Davis, term to expire December 2026, to the Tax Increment Finance Authority (TIFA) and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board, as outlined in 8-D. Per Mayor Bazzi communication dated December 5, 2023.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-562** Motion by Councilman Constan, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak to concur with the Mayoral reappointments of Mr. Johnny Vidinovski, Mr. Joseph Persiconi, and Mr. Michael Rudzinski to the Zoning Board of Appeals, terms to expire May 2026, as outlined in 8-E. Per Mayor Bazzi communication dated December 5, 2023.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-563** Motion by Councilman Baydoun, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak to authorize Annual Publication of the Amended Notice of Meetings as required under Public Act No. 267 Public Act of 1976, with the Amended Notice of Meetings to be published Wednesday, December 13, 2023, as outlined in 9-A. Per Clerk Senia communication dated December 5, 2023.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-564** Motion by Councilman Baydoun, seconded by Councilman Wencel to extend the moratorium on used car lots in the City of Dearborn Heights for an additional period of 180 days, immediately following the last day of the current moratorium, December 24, 2023, as outlined in 9-B. Council Chairman Abdallah communication dated December 5, 2023.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-565** Motion by Councilman Wencel, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak to extend the same healthcare benefits and pension benefits provided to the City Mayor, Treasurer and Clerk to the seven current and future city council members with the effective date of the healthcare benefits taking effect on the approval date of this resolution and pension benefits retroactive to the date they started their current term(s). Furthermore, direct and authorize the City Human Resource Director and Comptroller to complete the necessary steps, as outlined in 9-C. Per Councilman Wencel communication dated December 6, 2023.

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

Motion by Councilman Wencel, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak to refer to a study session agenda item 9-C – Extension of Benefits to City Council.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-566** Motion by Councilman Ahmad, seconded by Councilman Baydoun to approve the Michigan Avenue Innovation Network (MAIN) Proposal and confirm that the City of Dearborn Heights is able to pay the \$1,821.07 portion of the initiative, as outlined in 9-D. Per Chief of Staff Hernandez and City Engineer Dib communication dated December 5, 2023.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-567** Motion by Councilman Constan, seconded by Councilman Ahmad approve Phase 3 of the Bank Closures proposal presented by Plante Moran on March 7, 2023. The closure of the following Bank Accounts will be completed by April 30, 2023:

RESCINDED
01-23-24
VIA MOTION NO.
24-041

- American Relief Plan Act Cash XXXX7452
- Act 345 XXXXX7344
- PEG Fees XXXXXX9696
- Major Streets XXXX5439
- Local Streets XXXX7429
- Escrow @Chase XXXXXXXX1158
- CDBG @Chase XXX-X-XXX938-7

Further, authorize the Treasurer to move the funds to the Comerica General Fund XXXXXXXX7191, as outlined in 9-E. Per Comptroller King communication dated December 5, 2023.

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

Nayes: Councilman Abdel-Hak, Councilman Ahmad, Councilman Wencel

Absent: None.

Motion adopted

- 23-568** Motion by Councilman Ahmad, seconded by Councilman Constan to approve the Fire Department's acceptance of the MIOSHA MIWISH grant and approve the purchase and payment of Thermal Imaging Cameras (TICs). This grant will cover half the cost of the TICs at a total cost of \$10,680.00 to be paid from Capital Outlay (101-335-981.000) upon receipt. The City will be reimbursed \$5,000.00 as part of the grant, as outlined in 9-F. Per Fire Chief Brogan communication dated December 5, 2023.

Ayes: Council Chair Pro Tem Baydoun, Councilman Abdel-Hak, Councilman Ahmad, Councilwoman Bryer, Councilman Constan, Councilman Wencel

Nayes: None.

Absent: Council Chairman Abdallah.

Motion adopted

- 23-569** Motion by Councilwoman Bryer, seconded by Councilman Constan to approve the acceptance of the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning Grant in the amount of \$930,000.00. In addition, authorize the purchase and payment of a Crash Response Vehicle, the cost of which will be completely covered by this grant. Further, authorize the Comptroller to create new revenue and expense General Ledger Numbers to track the grant, as outlined in 9-G. Per Fire Chief Brogan communication dated December 5, 2023.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-570** Motion by Councilman Ahmad, seconded by Councilman Baydoun to approve the reappointment of Mr. John Riley and Mr. Vince Macari to the General Government Pension Committee, terms to expire December 2025, as outlined in 9-H. Per Pension Administrator Kupchick communication dated December 4, 2023.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-571** Motion by Councilman Baydoun, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak that the City of Dearborn Heights moves forward with amending the budget to support the Eton Center as a full-time position coordinator and to publish the information online effective immediately by no later than December 31.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-572** Motion by Councilman Ahmad, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak that the City Council allocate a budget of \$50,000.00 for the appointment of a special legal counsel. This budget will be sourced either from the Corporate Counsel or the General Budget as deemed appropriate by the City Council and to go ahead and direct the City Clerk to take the necessary steps to facilitate the allocation and disbursement of the specified budget for the special legal counsel.

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

Motion by Councilman Ahmad, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak that the City Council allocate a budget of \$50,000.00 for the appointment of a special legal counsel. This budget will be sourced either from the Corporate Counsel or the General Budget as deemed appropriate by the City Council. The special legal counsel shall be chosen by the City Council body through a transparent election process. The appointed legal counsel will exclusively answer to and provide independent legal advice to the City Council. The purpose of this allocation is to ensure that the City Council has access to unbiased legal counsel enabling us to make well-informed decisions and navigate legal matters effectively. The \$50,000.00 budget allocation for the special legal counsel shall be disbursed from either the Corporate Counsel or the General Budget with the determination to be made based on the Council's financial priorities. The City Clerk is directed to take the necessary steps to facilitate the allocation disbursement of the specified budget for the special legal counsel. Subject to final revisions and approval per the Charter from Corporation Counsel by next Tuesday.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-573** Motion by Councilman Abdel-Hak, seconded by Councilman Wencel to approve the resolution regarding police department employment, that the City Council eliminate the two director's positions from the police budget and to follow the Act 78 rules in any future hiring to the police department, as outlined in 11-A. Per Councilman Abdel-Hak communication dated December 4, 2023.

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

Motion by Councilman Abdel-Hak, seconded by Councilman Wencel to refer to a study session the resolution regarding police department employment.

Motion unanimously adopted

- 23-574** Motion by Councilman Abdel-Hak, seconded by Councilman Baydoun to approve the resolution Establishing a City Charter Review Committee, that the Committee will consist of seven (7) registered voters who will be nominated by the electorates and chosen by a special election which will be decided by the proper authorities in the state, county and city. Further, after the Committee is chosen, they will have six (6) months to complete the review, the City Attorney will be the advisor to this Committee, all the cost of this process will be paid from the General Fund of the City. The Committee members will choose a chairperson, vice chair, and a secretary in their first meeting after they swear in. All the documents will be in the possession of the City Clerk's office, as outlined in 11-B. Per Councilman Abdel-Hak communication dated December 4, 2023.

Motion unanimously adopted

Councilwoman Bryer excused herself at 11:07 p.m.

- 23-575** Motion by Councilman Constan, seconded by Councilman Baydoun to approve the resolution authorizing the submission of a Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Infrastructure Grant Application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation requesting \$9,000,000.00 in funds. In addition, designate the Chief of Staff Mariana Hernandez as the Environmental Review Certifying Officer, the person authorized to certify the Michigan CDBG-DR Application, the person authorized to sign the Grant Agreement and payment requests, and the person authorized to execute any additional documents required to carry out and complete the grant. Further, that the City of Dearborn Heights Mayor and City Council hereby authorize the submission of a grant application to the CDBG-DR Infrastructure program for Ecorse Creek improvements, as outlined in 11-C. Per Chief of Staff Hernandez and City Engineer Dib communication dated December 11, 2023.

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

Nayes: None.

Absent: Councilwoman Bryer.

Motion adopted

- 23-576** Motion by Councilman Constan, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak to approve the resolution authorizing the submission of a Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Infrastructure Grant Application to the Michigan Economic Development Corporation requesting \$9,000,000.00 in funds. In addition, designate the Chief of Staff Mariana Hernandez as the Environmental Review Certifying Officer, the person authorized to certify the Michigan CDBG-DR Application, the person authorized to sign the Grant Agreement and payment requests, and the person authorized to execute any additional documents required to carry out and complete the grant. Further, that the City of Dearborn Heights Mayor and City Council hereby authorize the submission of a grant application to the CDBG-DR Infrastructure program for CSO improvements, as outlined in 11-D. Per Chief of Staff Hernandez and City Engineer Dib communication dated December 11, 2023.

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

Nayes: None.

Absent: Councilwoman Bryer.

Motion adopted

- 23-577** Motion by Councilman Constan, seconded by Councilman Abdel-Hak to renew the business licenses for Mexican Fiesta at 24310 Ford, Walker's Speakeasy at 8701 N. Beech Daly, the Polish Legion of American Veterans #16 at 25222 Warren, and MHS International at 20475 W. Warren, as outlined in 13-A.

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

Nayes: None.

Absent: Councilwoman Bryer.

Motion adopted

23-578 Motion by Councilman Ahmad, seconded by Councilman Constan to approve the Temporary Food Truck/Tent/Cart License Renewal Application for Catrina Mia, as outlined in 13-B.

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

Nayes: None.

Absent: Councilwoman Bryer.

Motion adopted

23-579 Motion by Councilman Abdel-Hak, seconded by Councilman Baydoun to suspend the rules to consider a new item regarding flags flown on City property.

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

Nayes: None.

Absent: Councilwoman Bryer.

Motion adopted

23-580 Motion by Councilman Baydoun, seconded by Councilman Constan to adjourn the Dearborn Heights City Council Regular Meeting.

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

Nayes: None.

Absent: Councilwoman Bryer.

Motion adopted

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 a.m.

LYNNE M. SENIA
CITY CLERK

DAVE WASSIM ABDALLAH
COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

GEORGANNE SEMENIUK
COUNCIL SECRETARY