

**City of Hazel Park  
City Council Meeting Minutes: April 27, 2021**

A City of Hazel Park Regular City Council meeting was held on Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 in Council Chambers, 111 E. Nine Mile Rd., Hazel Park, MI 48030. Mayor Webb called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Present: Mayor Webb, Mayor Pro Tem LeCureaux, Councilmember Sullivan, Councilmember McFall, Councilmember Londo

Absent: None

Also present: City Manager Klobucher, City Attorney Schwartz, Deputy City Attorney Campbell, Assistant City Attorney Mason, Finance Director Laci Christiansen

Councilmember Sullivan was attending remotely from Hazel Park, Oakland County, MI.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**CO-04-052-21 Motion to approve Revised Agenda:** Motion by LeCureaux, second by McFall, to approve the Agenda. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

County Commissioner Charlie Cavell thanked attendees of the recent local government summit regarding COVID relief funds. To date, 8.5 million vaccine doses have been delivered to Michigan, with 978,000 going to Oakland County residents. Forthcoming County resolutions will seek to address source-of-income discrimination.

City Manager Klobucher advised of a local parks cleanup to take place on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approve City Council Meeting Minutes 4/13/2021
2. Hazel Park Historical Commission Minutes 3/18/2021 (Informational)
3. Approve Business License for 23053 S. Chrysler Dr. – Chrysler Subs DBA Tubby’s
4. Approve Business License for 22842 John R Rd. – My Exquisite Extensions
5. Pending Business Licenses (Informational)
6. Invoice Approval List
7. Approve Two-Year Extension of MAPE Contract
8. Approve Business License for 11 E. Eight Mile - John R Fuels LLC: gas station
9. Approve Business License for 124 E. Ten Mile – Kern Enterprises: Painting co.

**CO-04-053-21 Motion to approve Consent Agenda Items #1-9:** Motion by Londo, second by LeCureaux, to approve the Consent Agenda. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Lisa Franklin of disability advocacy group Warriors on Wheels of Metropolitan Detroit spoke regarding a pending court case.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. Approve upgrades to Cable Vision system

**CO-04-054-21 Motion to approve upgrades to Cable Vision system:** Motion by McFall, second by Sullivan, to approve upgrades to the City's Cable Vision system. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Approve Ordinance & Bylaws establishing Beautification Commission, 1<sup>st</sup> Reading.

**CO-04-055-21 Motion to approve Ordinance & Bylaws establishing Beautification Commission:** Motion by McFall, second by LeCureaux, to approve the Ordinance & Bylaws establishing Beautification Commission upon 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

## BOARDS & COMMISSIONS – None

## TABLED ITEMS – None

## NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Webb raised the topic of formally addressing whether or not a Memorial Day fair will be held in 2021.

**CO-04-056-21 Motion to decline Mr. Skerbeck's request to hold fair in Hazel Park on Memorial Day Weekend:** Motion by Londo, second by LeCureaux, to decline to hold a Memorial Day fair in 2021 due to public health concerns and practical limitations, following discussion. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

1. Budget Study Session

Finance Director Christiansen spoke before Council regarding the FY 2021-22 City of Hazel Park Budget. City Manager Klobucher added information regarding the interaction of the Headlee Amendment of 1978 and Proposal A of 1994 and how it creates inequitable taxes for property owners without providing any additional tax revenue to municipalites. Additionally, the housing market crash of the late 2000s reduced Hazel Park's property tax base by more than 50%, which can only be regained at the lesser of the rate of inflation or 5% per annum. Questions from Council related to budgetary expenditures, federal grants, street maintenance, bike lanes, departmental funding increases, the Municipal Employees' Retirement System funding plan, Hazel Park Ice Arena repairs, staffing levels, pension costs, pursuit of grants, and ad valorem taxes.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS – None

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY ATTORNEY – None

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY MANAGER

City Manager Klobucher stated that Hazel Park was the only municipality of comparable taxable value to have not been taken over by the State of Michigan in the wake of the

housing market crash, due to sacrifices by residents and employees. Hazel Park's own Exlterra, Inc. has successfully begun to remediate radiation contamination in the Chernobyl Exclusion Zone. Lastly, there will be a "For Bruce" fundraising walk-a-thon for pancreatic cancer research at Hazel Park High School on May 8<sup>th</sup>. City Attorney Schwartz thanked the Administration and Council, the Hazel Park School District, Jared Gajos, Linda Yono, and everyone else who has supported this event for her late husband, Bruce Schwartz. It is part of a \$25 million effort to create a pre-screening or early detection test for pancreatic cancer.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS FROM MAYOR & COUNCIL**

Councilmember Sullivan expressed appreciation for the Budget Study Session and ensuing discussion of the tax process. She praised the recent memorandum of understanding with Common Ground regarding mental health services and offered a reminder about the upcoming parks cleanup in conjunction with Eight Mile Boulevard Association on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember McFall encouraged everyone to patronize local businesses, either through carry-out or in-person service. Drivers should watch out for mini-bikes and bicycles, which are increasingly common in the nicer weather.

Councilmember Londo likened the City's budget to its heart, reflecting the priorities, desires and beliefs of Council and residents. He believes the current budget reflects a progressive, forward-thinking vision and advocated for continued support for local businesses.

Mayor Pro Tem LeCureaux emphasized the lack of control over revenue sharing, unexpected expenses, etc., meaning that it requires a lot of work on the part of many people to keep the City afloat. He advised that the main concern for mini-bikes is getting run over by cars, and reminded everyone about the Hazel Park Casual Bike Club.

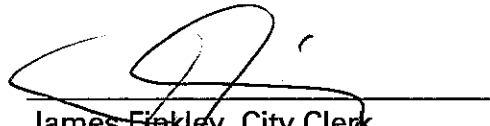
Mayor Webb stated municipal employees at all levels work hard to provide high quality community services, and how residents need to look out for each other in order to get through another year in the time of COVID.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – None**

#### **ADJOURNMENT – 7:05 p.m.**

**CO-04-057-21 Motion to Adjourn:** Motion by Londo, second by LeCureaux, to Adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mayor Michael Webb

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 James Finkley, City Clerk

(The preceding minutes are a synopsis of the City Council Meeting and do not represent a verbatim record).