

**Pontiac Local Officers Compensation Commission**  
**Minutes**  
**May 7, 2013**

**Call to order**

The regular meeting of the Local Officers Compensation Commission, the fifth meeting of 2013, was called to order on Tuesday, May 5, 2013 at 6:07 p.m. by Chair Richard Taylor.

**Roll call**

Members present: Cheryl Crandell, Susan Loveland, Kathie Henk, Richard Taylor, and Kent Piatt.  
Member absent: John Smith and Don Woodward.

A quorum is noted.

**Approval of agenda**

Moved by Loveland, supported by Piatt, to approve the agenda (Attachment A). **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**Public comment**

No members of the public were present.

**Comments by elected officials**

Council member Randolph Carter was recognized. Council member Carter began by inquiring when the Commission held its first meeting [April 11, 2013], requested the terms of office for each member of the Commission [all expiring October 1: Cheryl Crandell, 2013; Susan Loveland, 2014; Kathie Henk, 2015; Richard Taylor, 2016; Don Woodward, 2017; Kent Piatt, 2018; John Smith, 2019], and inquired when the last time this commission met [unable to locate any records]. Council member Carter suggested to keep things simple, just use the compensation level identified in the charter and address the committee meetings separately. He also stated that clearly no benefits should be offered. He questioned when and how the previous compensation levels of \$15,000 plus a car or health insurance was established and wondered how he could determine if prior elected officials may be receiving benefits upon retirement [not within the jurisdiction or knowledge of the sitting Commission]. Chair Taylor explained the process the Commission used in determining the salary levels – comparing to other similar communities and considering the City's finances and stated that the Commission did not receive any direction from the Emergency Manager, but considered the current compensation level established by the Emergency Manager during their deliberations.

The Commission had an email received from Council member Mary Pietila read into the record (Attachment B).


**Approval of minutes**

Moved by Henk, supported by Piatt, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 2, 2013. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

**Adjournment**

Moved by Piatt, supported by Loveland, to adjourn. **Motion carried by unanimous vote.** Meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph M. Sobota, M.P.A.", written in a cursive style.

Joseph M. Sobota, M.P.A.  
Assistant to the Emergency Manager

**Attachment A**  
**Pontiac Local Officers Compensation Commission**  
**Regular Meeting Agenda**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Commission in 2013**  
**May 7, 2013**

1. Call to order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of agenda
4. Public Comment (2-minute limit per person)
5. Comments by Elected Officials ( 5-minute limit per official)
6. Approval of minutes
7. Adjournment

**Joseph Sobota - LOCC proposal**

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**From:** Mary Pietila <marypietila@gmail.com>  
**To:** <CLCrandell@comcast.net>, <KP59@AOL.com>, <dwwodward@gracecenterofhope.o...>  
**Date:** 5/5/2013 8:13 PM  
**Subject:** LOCC proposal  
**CC:** Joseph Sobota <jsobota@pontiac.mi.us>, Lee Jones <lee.jones@uaw-gm.org>,...

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May 5, 2013

Dear Esteemed Members of the LOCC;

Thank you for the opportunity to give you some input. Forgive me for using my personal email. but I am unable to access the City email from home as well as my colleagues. I'm a bit disappointed at your reduction in our weekly compensation to 80.00 a week. To think you feel we are not worthy of a greater amount, but a lesser amount than what the school board receives (86.00) for both their Regular and subcommittee meetings, is an insult. But more importantly, to know that the Home Rule Charter states on page 4 section 3.110 "A council member may be paid a sum of \$100.00 for each official meeting attended by the member. However no member may be paid more than \$5200.00 in any one year" and you are willing to disregard the governing document of this City is upsetting.... There is one clarification to be made, however, considering a former LOCC body had increased the council's pay in the past (15,000.) and the included benefits, I would believe you would be able to increase the pay from the \$5200.00; but to decrease it would be to usurp the charter and that requires a vote of the People of the City of Pontiac.

Please don't be mistaken; which you are if you think our weekly meetings and monthly subcommittee meetings are all we attend to during an average week.

Just so you have a realization of what life as a part time Pontiac City Council member can be like. I'd like to give you some indication of what my week has been like, since Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>. First off. I am employed full time, and do work 7 days a week , as well as representing my district. In addition to fulfilling my employment obligations, this week alone the following matters were encountered and addressed by this part-time council person, you feel is worth \$4.00 an hour (if I were to limit it to 20 hours a week), as much as I could within 24 hours.,

1. Sunday afternoon while out walking, I was stopped and approached by some seniors, who asked me to help them with an illegal car repair and paint business in the immediate area. I asked them to explain, afterwards, I observed what the complaint was, as it only happens on the weekend or evenings when Community Development was closed. With that information, I can assure you it will not be addressed by that department, who operating hours are M – F 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. So I gather as much accurate information as I can from the neighbors, which I email to the Captain of our Sheriff Substation to address it.

2. Monday I spent time on the phone explaining to community service the issue of concern, verifying if this business is a registered one or not, and do they have a License from the state for painting, which is another matter.

- a. Monday night, at 10:00 p.m. I received a call from a constituent about a dog barking, which had started their dog barking and woke the kids; the resident stated they called Dispatch but was told they don't handle dogs, unless someone was bit.
3. Tuesday, I received a call from an ROC employee about pot holes which he called in the week before, yet hadn't been addressed and were quite dangerous. Although I was at a funeral dinner, I did contact Highway maintenance, as this was not the first call, and late last week I was told the City potholes were all taken care of except my district... Golf Drive is not in my district.
4. Wed I intentionally left my phone at home; it was a day of meetings at work. However; there were ten messages on it... which had to be returned at another time.
5. Thursday on my way home from the City Council meeting, I did notify dispatch to address a car parked in the middle of a turn lane on W. Kennett with no driver in it, they were visiting a resident in 102 W. Kennett. Which if continued to be ignored could very well result in a head on collision with this being a 3 lane road one East bound and one West Bound lane and a turn lane, when you have traffic obeying the laws of emergency vehicles and pulling over to the right... Fortunately I was the car going west bound the direction of the ambulance... and I disobeyed the law to move my vehicle allowing it to pass. Not all people would have known this was an empty van... yet it took 10 minutes to explain to the dispatcher, I would address it myself with his supervisor beings he didn't feel it necessary to send a deputy to advise the occupant of the home their guests could not park in the turn lane as they do regularly. The dispatcher refused, and I spent another 9 minutes on a call with Captain Atkins who called me about another matter and I explained what had happened a few minutes earlier... He assured me he will be following up with it.
6. Friday I spent 3.5 hours throughout the afternoon on the phone with 5 men who either worked for the City via independent service contracts or recently retired; to resolve an issue I came across as I drove down Cesar Chavez, one of Asphalt blocking a City road (Myrtle Drive) which is prohibiting emergency vehicles access to residents. 3.5 hours because there were conflicts from different departments as to whether or not it was private, or a city road and trying to determine when it was first noticed, yet not reported. It is a City road, and the time frame would be March 31, 2013. Seems one neighbor told the other 4 the City approved of his placing the asphalt there.... That statement was fabricated and it will be addressed to resolve the week of May 6, 2013.
7. Saturday, Several Abandoned houses concerning safety hazards that had been called in to community development last year, were found to be either in the same state of disrepair or worse, which needed to be called in again when that office is open. I was also stopped by a resident who has concerns about the chickens being raised and allowed to roam...again a violation which was turned in last year, obviously not followed up with.
8. Sunday, on my way home, I passed two homes which were demolished on Friday, with no security fence around it. Open to children walking in the neighborhood which would/ could result in endangering children or anyone who approached it, as there was no indication to stay away.... Community development is closed... I seen it I stopped and I took pictures to present to community development when they open obviously either the contractor is unaware of the requirement to fence it off or chooses to ignore it, either way he needs to be held accountable. But again, Community Development is not open on the weekend nor do we have a number to contact someone about it.

So although our Charter says Council Operates by ordinance and resolution, and each one of these fall within that category, this is well beyond the scope of our attending meetings.

So although you may think these items I addressed are trivial, each one is a Safety concern, and not all will be able to be addressed with departments you would think because of hours that they operate....

This does not include our attending press releases, education meetings or events we are invited to.... In the future, if I am elected to the 9<sup>th</sup> council; a reduction in our pay would result in an RSVP declining the invitation offering an explanation that I would not be in a position to make financial adjustments to my pay as the LOCC made that adjustment with a decrease already.

Again, thank you for the opportunity for input to your pending decision.

Respectfully,

Mary E. Pietila, Councilwoman

District 3, City of Pontiac.

[mpietila@pontiac.mi.us](mailto:mpietila@pontiac.mi.us)

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Respectfully,

Mary E. Pietila, Councilwoman

District 3,

City of Pontiac, Mi

Phone; 248-758-3019

Fax: 248-758-3164