

October 4, 2022 Approved Minutes

**Official Proceedings  
Pontiac City Council  
53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Eleventh Council**

**Call to order**

A Meeting of the City Council of Pontiac, Michigan was called to order at the City Hall Council Chambers, 47450 Woodward Ave Pontiac, MI 48342 on Tuesday, October 4, 2022 at 6:03 p.m. by Council President Pro-Tem William Carrington.

**Invocation** – Pastor Kathy Dessureau, Boulevard Church, Pontiac Michigan

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States**

**Moment of Silence**

**Roll Call**

**Members Present** – William Carrington, Mikal Goodman, Kathalee James, Brett Nicholson and William Parker, Jr.

Mayor Greimel was present.  
Deputy Mayor Stephens was present.  
A quorum was announced.

**Excuse Councilmembers**

**Motion to excuse Council President Mike McGuinness and Councilmember Melanie Rutherford for personal reasons.** Moved by Councilperson Goodman and second by Councilperson Nicholson.

Ayes: Goodman, James, Nicholson, Parker and Carrington  
No: None

**Motion Carried**

**Amendments to and Approval of the Agenda**

**Motion to remove item #3 (Resolution to approve Contract ESRI ArcGIS Enterprise (Geographic Information System) Software Licensing for \$23,000 in year one and \$10,500 the following years. Will be used by both Public Works and Planning) from the agenda.** Moved by Councilperson Goodman and second by Councilperson Parker.

Ayes: James, Nicholson, Parker, Carrington and Goodman  
No: None

**Motion Carried**

**Motion to remove item #5 (Resolution to Authorize the City Clerk to publish the proposed Budget Amendment to increase the appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 to the Capital Improvement Fund 445-447-806-002 – Asset Management account) from the agenda.** Moved by Councilperson Goodman and second by Councilperson Nicholson.

Ayes: Nicholson, Parker, Carrington, Goodman and James  
No: None

**Motion Carried**

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**Motion to approve the agenda as amended.** Moved by Councilperson Parker and second by Councilperson Goodman.

Ayes: Nicholson, Parker, Carrington, Goodman and James

No: None

**Motion Carried**

### **Consent Agenda**

22-263 **Resolution to approve the consent agenda for October 4, 2022.** Moved by Councilperson Goodman and second by Councilperson Parker.

Whereas, the City Council has reviewed the consent agenda for October 4, 2022.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City Council approves the consent agenda for October 4, 2022 including the September 23, 2022 Facilities & Property Subcommittee Meeting Minutes, September 26, 2022 Law & The Courts Subcommittee Meeting Minutes, September 26, 2022 Parks, recreation & Public Works Subcommittee Meeting Minutes and September 27, 2022 City Council Meeting Minutes.

Ayes: Parker, Carrington, Goodman, James and Nicholson

No: None

**Resolution Passed**

**Recognition of Elected Officials** – Kermit Williams, Vice Chair, Charter Revision Commission

### **Agenda Address**

1. Chuck Johnson addressed item #4
2. Dr. Deirdre Waterman addressed items #6 & #43

### **Agenda Items**

#### **Resolutions**

City Council

22-264 **Resolution Recognizing Indigenous Peoples Day.** Moved by Councilperson Goodman and second by Councilperson Parker.

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples have lived upon this land since time immemorial and thrived as sovereign nations before the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus voyaged to the place now known as the Americas; and,

WHEREAS historians have largely agreed that Columbus did not “discover” the Americas as indigenous people were already here, nor was he the first European to reach the “New World”; and

WHEREAS, by resisting the occupation of sacred lands indigenous people were enslaved, murdered, and forcibly removed from ancestral lands; and,

WHEREAS, their populations were decimated through genocide, cultural erasion, and other unspeakable crimes, to support European colonization of the Americas, including the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade; and,

WHEREAS, the idea of Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations-sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and,

WHEREAS, in 1990, representatives from 120 Indigenous Nations at the First Continental Conference on 500 Years of Indian Resistance unanimously passed a resolution to transform Columbus Day into an opportunity to reveal historic truths about pre-existing Indigenous cultures and Peoples that have survived a violent colonization process and continue to exist and thrive in present day America; and

WHEREAS, the Tribal Council of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians has passed a resolution: (1) officially recognizing Indigenous People's Day on the second Monday in October; (2) stating that Indigenous People's Day shall be used to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of indigenous peoples on this land; and (3) to celebrate the thriving cultures and value that the Odawa, Ojibwe, Potawatomi and other indigenous peoples contribute to society; and,

WHEREAS, the United Nations Rights of Indigenous Peoples Declaration adopted in 2006 confirms the right of indigenous peoples to self-determination, recognizes subsistence rights and rights to lands, territories and resources; recognizes that indigenous peoples deprived of their means of subsistence and development are entitled to just and fair redress; outlaws discrimination against indigenous peoples; and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them, as well as their right to remain distinct and to pursue their own visions of economic and social development; and,

WHEREAS, the United States endorsed the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples on December 16, 2010, and Article 15 of that declaration states:

- Indigenous Peoples have the right to the dignity and diversity of their cultures, traditions, histories, and aspirations, which shall be appropriately reflected in education and public information.
  - States should take effective measures, in consultation and cooperation with the Indigenous Peoples concerned, to combat prejudice and eliminate discrimination and to promote tolerance, understanding, and good relations among Indigenous Peoples and all other segments of society; and,
- WHEREAS, the recognition and acknowledgement of Indigenous People's Day would officially acknowledge the atrocities, genocide and ancestral land displacement inflicted upon the original inhabitants of the land we now refer to as the City of Pontiac by the English, French, and American invaders; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pontiac acknowledges the occupation of the ancestral, traditional and contemporary lands of the Anishinabe-Three Fires Confederacy of Odawa, Ojibwe and Potawatomi Indigenous Nations; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Pontiac acknowledges the harms and irreplaceable loss to our collective humanity for the acts committed against our indigenous family; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Pontiac understands that government and other public institutions must include and reflect the experiences of Native Peoples and uplift our country's indigenous roots, history, and contributions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Pontiac officially acknowledges and affirms the sovereignty of these nations and the Seven Grandfather Teachings: Truth, Humility, Respect, Love, Honesty, Courage, and Wisdom; and,

WHEREAS, in honor of these 7 teachings as being dependent upon and inseparable from the health and survival of trees, water, soil, plants, insects, and animals the City of Pontiac will commit to sustaining the current natural woodlands, meadows, wetlands and greenspaces in our parks and trails; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Pontiac City Council and Mayor's understands colonization not as an historic event but as an ongoing structure predicated on the elimination of Indigenous life and land, and contends that the celebration of Christopher Columbus and his alleged "discovery" of Indigenous lands celebrates the colonization and dispossession of Indigenous peoples throughout the Americas; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pontiac City Council hereby recognizes the second Monday in October every year also as Indigenous Peoples' Day in the City Of Pontiac; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Pontiac shall strike from City calendars and websites all references to Columbus Day and replace them with Indigenous People's Day; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Pontiac shall utilize the second Monday in October as an opportunity to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of Indigenous people of this land, to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region, and to stand in solidarity with Indigenous peoples elsewhere; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Indigenous People's Day shall be used to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of indigenous peoples on this land and to celebrate and learn from the thriving cultures and

values that the Odawa, Ojibwe, Potawatomi, and other indigenous peoples contribute to communities throughout Michigan, the United States of America, and the world; and  
BE IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Pontiac encourages other businesses, organizations and public entities to recognize Indigenous People’s Day on Monday October 10, 2022.

Ayes: Carrington, Goodman, James, Nicholson and Parker

No: None

**Resolution Passed**

22-265        **Resolution Recognizing Diwali Festival of Lights.** Moved by Councilperson Nicholson and second by Councilperson Goodman.

Whereas, for millions of Indian-Americans, Diwali is a time for thanksgiving and prayer for health, knowledge, and peace; and,  
Whereas, Diwali, a festival of great significance to Indian-Americans, is celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, and others throughout the United States; and,  
Whereas, Diwali is a festival of lights, during which celebrants light small oil lamps, place them around the home, and pray for health, knowledge, and peace; and,  
Whereas, celebrants of Diwali believe that the rows of lamps symbolize the light within the individual that rids the soul of the darkness of ignorance; and,  
Whereas, Diwali falls on the last day of the last month in the lunar calendar and is celebrated as a day of thanksgiving and the beginning of the New Year for many Hindus; and,  
Whereas for Hindus, Diwali is a celebration of the belief that light triumphs over darkness, and good triumphs over evil; and,  
Whereas, for Sikhs, Diwali is honored as the day on which the sixth founding Sikh guru, Guru Hargobind, was released from captivity by the Mughal Emperor Jehangir; and,  
Whereas, for Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of Nirvana by Lord Mahavira, the last of the Tirthankaras (founders of the Jain philosophy); and,  
Whereas, Diwali is a celebration of great importance in Indian-American communities throughout the United States, Michigan, and Oakland County; now,  
Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Pontiac City Council recognizes Diwali the historical and cultural significance of Diwali; and,  
Be It Further Resolved, that in observance of Diwali, the festival of lights, Pontiac City Council expresses its deepest respect for Indian-Americans and the Indian diaspora throughout the world on this significant occasion.

Ayes: Carrington, Goodman, James, Nicholson and Parker

No: None

**Resolution Passed**

Department of Public Works (DPW)

22-266        **Resolution to approve Bid and Purchase of Two Pickup Trucks.** Move by Councilperson James and second by Councilperson Nicholson.

Whereas, the City of Pontiac DPW will bid to purchase 2 pickup trucks with a not to exceed amount of \$20,000 per truck, and  
Whereas, it is necessary to have vehicles for normal DPW operations,  
Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Pontiac City Council authorizes the DPW Director to actively bid and purchase needed pickup trucks with a not to exceed amount of \$20,000 per truck.

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Ayes: James, Nicholson, Parker, Carrington and Goodman

No: None

**Resolution Passed**

Mayor's Office

22-267

**Resolution Releasing Past Option to Purchase 825 Golf Drive Site, Recorded with Oakland County.** Moved by Councilperson Goodman and second by Councilperson Nicholson.

WHEREAS, A Memorandum of Option to Purchase Real Estate (the "Memorandum") was recorded at Libor 52123 Page 755 of the Oakland County Records.

WHEREAS, the City of Pontiac chose not to exercise the purchase option

WHEREAS, the City of Pontiac of Pontiac hereby wishes to release the Purchase Option and acknowledges that the Memorandum is null and void,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED the City of Pontiac authorizes the signature of the Release of Option to Purchase Real Estate.

Ayes: Nicholson, Parker, Rutherford, Carrington, Goodman and James

No: None

**Resolution Passed**

**Public Comment**

1. JoAnn Green
2. Quincy Stewart
3. M. Bill Maxey
4. Blair McGowan
5. Michael Kobylik
6. Billie Swazer
7. Jean Matthews
8. Dr. Deirdre Waterman
9. Darlene Clark
10. Gloria Miller
11. Kermit Williams
12. James Sabich
13. Chuck Johnson
14. Pastor Kathy Dessureau

**Communications**

City Council and Mayor's Office

**Mayor, Clerk and Council Closing Comments**

Mayor Greimel, Clerk Doyle, Councilman Nicholson, Councilman Goodman, Councilwoman James, Councilman Parker and Council President Pro-Tem Carrington made closing comments.

**Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn the meeting.** Moved by Councilperson Goodman and second by Councilperson Parker.

Ayes: Nicholson, Parker, Carrington, Goodman and James

No: None

**Motion Carried**

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Council President Pro-tem William Carrington adjourned the meeting at 8:04 p.m.

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Garland S. Doyle  
City Clerk