

March 8, 2022 Approved Minutes

**Official Proceedings
Pontiac City Council
10th 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, March 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. by Council President Mike McGuinness.

Invocation – Pastor Kathy Dessureau, 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, Mike McGuinness, Brett Nicholson, William Parker Jr. and Melanie Rutherford.

Mayor Greimel was present.
A quorum was announced.

Amendments to and Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda and add a resolution #4 Honoring the Life and Work of Neil Munro. Moved by Councilperson Parker and second by Councilperson Rutherford.

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

Motion Carried

Motion to move Special Presentation C – Pontiac United Black History Creative Contest Award Winners after approval of the Consent Agenda. Moved by Councilperson Rutherford and second by Councilperson Goodman.

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

Motion Carried

Motion to approve the amended agenda. Move by Councilperson Rutherford and second by Councilperson Goodman.

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

Motion Carried

Consent Agenda

22-76 **Resolution to approve the consent agenda for March 8, 2022.** Moved by Councilperson Rutherford and second by Councilperson Nicholson.

Whereas, the City Council has reviewed the consent agenda for March 8, 2022.

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Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the City Council approves the consent agenda for March 8, 2022 including the March 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes, February 25, 2022 Facilities & Property Subcommittee Meeting Minutes, February 25, 2022 Communication, Engagement & Operations Subcommittee Meeting Minutes and February 28, 2022 Parks, Recreation and Public Works Subcommittee Meeting Minutes.

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

No: None

Resolution Passed.

Special Presentation

- C. Pontiac United Black History Creative Contest Award Winners
Presentation Presenter: Traciee Hirsch, Pontiac United

Council President McGuinness gave point of privilege to Kermit Williams to ask Council to take pictures with the Students Award Winners

Council President McGuinness recess at 6:35 p.m.

Council President McGuinness reconvene meeting at 6: 45 p.m.

Subcommittee Reports

- A. Communications, Engagement & Operations – Chair Goodman
- B. Economic Development, Housing & Planning – Chair McGuinness
- C. Facilities & Property – Chair Carrington
- D. Finance & Personnel – Chair Nicholson
- E. Law & The Courts – Chair Parker
- F. Parks, recreation & Public Works – Chair James
- G. Public Safety, Health & Wellness – Chair Carrington

Special Presentations Cont.

- A. Resources for Pontiac Small Businesses
Presentation Presenter: Olga Martinez
- B. Amazon Hiring Opportunities in Pontiac

Recognition of Elected Officials – Gill Garrett, President of the Pontiac School Board

Agenda Address

1. Deirdre Waterman addressed Subcommittee Report C – Facilities & Properties
2. Pastor Kathy Dessureau addressed Discussion Item – Pontiac Skate Park Project

Discussion

Pontiac Skate Park Project Site Selection Process

Agenda Items

Resolutions

City Council

22-77

Resolution Reappointing James Walker and John White as Citizens Trustees to the GERS Board of Trustees. Moved by Councilperson Carrington and second by Councilperson Rutherford. Discussion.

WHEREAS, The Retirement System Ordinance vests with the Pontiac City Council the authority to appoint Citizen Trustees to the Retirement Boards; and,

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WHEREAS, the terms of two appointees, James Walker and John White will expire on March 31, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker and Mr. White are Pontiac citizens who have given of their time to effectively represent their fellow Pontiac citizens on the Retirement Boards; and,

WHEREAS, the Boards of the City of Pontiac General Employees' Retirement System (GERS) and the City of Pontiac Reestablished General Employees' Retirement System have recommended that both Trustees be reappointed; and,

WHEREAS, both Mr. Walker and Mr. White have expressed their willingness to continue serving the citizens of Pontiac on the Boards;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Pontiac City Council hereby reappoints James Walker and John White to serve as Citizen Trustees to the GERS and Reestablished GERS Boards for a four-year term beginning April 1, 2022 and expiring on March 31, 2026; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Pontiac City Council expresses our gratitude to Mr. Walker and Mr. White for their public service to the City of Pontiac and sincerely thanks them both for their willingness to continue serving.

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

No: None

Resolution Passed

22-78 Resolution Honoring Pontiac's First Black Female Attorney Eloise Williams.

Moved by Councilperson Rutherford and second by Councilperson Carrington. Discussion.

Whereas the month of March is National Women's History Month, which recognizes and spreads awareness of the importance of women in the history of the United States;

Whereas women were previously turned away from law school, but have made substantial strides in the field of law and now represent approximately half of law students in the United States, and there are many women in the Pontiac community who are thriving in the legal profession;

Whereas Ms. Eloise Williams grew up in Pontiac, Michigan and attended Pontiac's public schools, graduated from Pontiac Central High School in 1971, graduated from the University of Michigan in 1975, and graduated from Wayne State University Law School with her Juris Doctorate in 1978;

Whereas Ms. Williams became the first Black, female lawyer from Pontiac, Michigan and practiced law for 21 years with multiple prominent Pontiac law firms through the years;

Whereas Ms. Williams then successfully went through Oakland University's Accelerated Master of Education program, intentionally going back to teach in the same Pontiac schools she attended, including Jefferson Junior High School;

Whereas Ms. Williams consistently demonstrated a spirit of service, compassion, caring, giving, and uplifting others – especially children – and had a long track record of community involvement, political activism, active church engagement, and devoted love to all of her many family members;

Whereas Ms. Williams passed away in 2014 at the far-too-young age of 60, but continues to be remembered fondly for her trailblazing and awe-inspiring life;

Whereas the Pontiac City Council at our March 1, 2022 Council Meeting formally declared March 2022 as Women's History Month in the City of Pontiac, Michigan; now,

Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Pontiac City Council hereby celebrates the achievements of trailblazing attorney Eloise Williams; and further

Resolved, the City Council honors the contributions and sacrifices she made to uplift other Pontiac residents, inspire other women, and nurture the children throughout our community; and further

Resolved, the City Council wants her family and friends to know how enduring her impact has been on our community, and that her life continues to be celebrated even as the year's progress; and further

Resolved, the City Council encourages Pontiac residents to learn about Ms. Eloise Williams, to reflect on her legacy, and keep the spirit of her memory alive; and further

Resolved, the City Council welcomes additional opportunities for us as a community to better acknowledge, celebrate, and preserve the women of Pontiac who have made such a dynamic difference in our city through the generations.

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

No: None

Resolution Passed

22-79 **Resolution Acknowledging Mittens for Detroit Distribution to Pontiac Students.**
Moved by Councilperson Parker and second by Councilperson Goodman. Discussion.

Whereas the City of Pontiac, Michigan is benefited by many nonprofit organizations from our city and region that positively impact the lives of Pontiac residents and work to help others in need;

Whereas Mittens for Detroit is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in the State of Michigan with the purpose of collecting, purchasing, and distributing new mittens and gloves to children, teens, and adults in underserved communities throughout our region;

Whereas Mittens for Detroit generously partnered with the School District of the City of Pontiac to successfully, distribute free pairs of new gloves and mittens to every student in every school;

Whereas multiple businesses with operations in the City of Pontiac financially supported this initiative and enlisted their employees to help with distribution;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Pontiac City Council acknowledges the philanthropic efforts of Mittens for Detroit in providing free gloves and mittens to as many children throughout the Pontiac community as possible; and further

Resolved, the City Council sincerely thanks Mittens for Detroit, the School District of the City of Pontiac, and the multiple Pontiac businesses who participated for their continued work to bring resources to the children of Pontiac; and further

Resolved, we commend the School District of the City of Pontiac for consistently engaging with new community partners to benefit Pontiac students; and further

Resolved, we welcome future opportunities for our community to partner with Mittens for Detroit to provide gloves and mittens to even more Pontiac residents; and further

Resolved, the City Council shall deliver a copy of this Resolution to the School District of the City of Pontiac Board of Education and to the Mittens for Detroit leadership.

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

No: None

Resolution Passed

22-80 **Add-on Resolution Honoring the Life and Work of Neil Munro.** Moved by Councilperson Nicholson and second by Councilperson Goodman. Discussion.

Whereas the City of Pontiac, Michigan is benefited by many nonprofit organizations from our city and region that positively impact the lives of Pontiac residents and work to help others in need;

Whereas Mittens for Detroit is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization in the State of Michigan with the purpose of collecting, purchasing, and distributing new mittens and gloves to children, teens, and adults in underserved communities throughout our region;

Whereas Mittens for Detroit generously partnered with the School District of the City of Pontiac to successfully, distribute free pairs of new gloves and mittens to every student in every school;

Whereas multiple businesses with operations in the City of Pontiac financially supported this initiative and enlisted their employees to help with distribution;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Pontiac City Council acknowledges the philanthropic efforts of Mittens for Detroit in providing free gloves and mittens to as many children throughout the Pontiac community as

possible; and further

Resolved, the City Council sincerely thanks Mittens for Detroit, the School District of the City of Pontiac, and the multiple Pontiac businesses who participated for their continued work to bring resources to the children of Pontiac; and further

Resolved, we commend the School District of the City of Pontiac for consistently engaging with new community partners to benefit Pontiac students; and further

Resolved, we welcome future opportunities for our community to partner with Mittens for Detroit to provide gloves and mittens to even more Pontiac residents; and further

Resolved, the City Council shall deliver a copy of this Resolution to the School District of the City of Pontiac Board of Education and to the Mittens for Detroit leadership.

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

No: None

Resolution Passed

Public Comment

Six (6) individuals addressed the body during public comment.

1. Deirdre Waterman
2. Chuck Johnson
3. Pastor Kathy Dessureau
4. Billie Swazer
5. H. Bill Maxey
6. James Sabisch

Mayor, Clerk and Council Closing Comments

Mayor Greimel, Deputy Clerk Grandison, Councilwoman Rutherford, Councilman Nicholson, Councilman Goodman, Councilwoman James, Councilman Parker, Pro Tem Carrington and Council President McGuinness made closing comments.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Moved by Councilperson Nicholson and second by Councilperson Carrington.

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

No: None

Motion Carried

Council President Mike McGuinness adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.

Sheila R Grandison
Deputy City Clerk