

November 21, 2023, Approved Minutes

**Official Proceedings
Pontiac City Council
117th 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, November 21, 2023, at 6:03 p.m. by Council President Pro-Tem William Carrington.

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, Brett Nicholson, William Parker Jr., and Melanie Rutherford.

Mayor Tim Greimel was present.
A quorum was announced.

Excuse Councilmembers

Motion to excuse Council President Mike McGuinness for personal reasons. Moved by Councilperson Parker and second by Councilperson Rutherford.

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

Motion Carried

Amendments to and Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda. Moved by Councilperson Nicholson and second by Councilperson Parker. Discussion.

Motion to amend agenda to add a Special Presentation from Crestwood/Astorwood Neighborhood Association. Moved by Councilperson Rutherford and second by Councilperson Nicholson.

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

Motion Carried

The vote was taken to approve the agenda as amended.

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

Motion Carried

Consent Agenda

23-401 **Resolution to approve the consent agenda for November 21, 2023.** Moved by Councilperson Nicholson and second by Councilperson Parker.

WHEREAS, the City Council has reviewed the consent agenda for November 21, 2023.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council approves the consent agenda for November 21, 2023, including November 9, 2023, Finance and Personnel Subcommittee Minutes, November 13, 2023, Parks, Recreation, and Public Works Subcommittee Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2023, City Council Meeting Minutes, and Resolution Commending State Funding Decision Eliminating Pontiac Schools Debt.

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

No: None

Resolution Passed

23-401(D) **Resolution Commending State Funding Decision Eliminating Pontiac Schools Debt.**
Moved by Councilperson Nicholson and second by Councilperson Parker.

WHEREAS, the City of Pontiac is directly benefited from a stronger and more financially healthy School District of the City of Pontiac; and,

WHEREAS, the School District has received financial help from the State of Michigan to alleviate a portion of their debt, with the state legislature voting on November 2, 2023, as part of a \$615.6 Million supplemental spending bill that can be used to pay off emergency loans and other debt owed by local school districts; and,

WHEREAS, Pontiac's School District will receive up to \$18.4 million to pay an emergency loan balance, and in 2019, emergency loans for Pontiac schools totaled \$32.7 million; and,

WHEREAS, the other School Districts in Michigan receiving debt forgiveness relief are Ypsilanti, Benton Harbor, Inkster, and Muskegon Heights.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Pontiac City Council hereby welcomes and celebrates the favorable decision by the State of Michigan and the state legislature to elimination of \$18 Million in emergency loans debt for the School District of the City of Pontiac; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council also celebrates the elimination of other school districts' debt undertaken by the State of Michigan; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council expresses our deep appreciation to Pontiac's State Representative Brenda Carter and State Senator Jeremy Moss for strongly advocating for this state action and voting favorably for the supplemental budget legislation; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the City Council notes with great appreciation the long-term financial relief this means for all residents and taxpayers in the City of Pontiac.

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

No: None

Resolution Passed

Special Presentations

Inviting the Residents from the Pontiac Community to the Holiday Extravaganza Parade and Festivities taking place in Downtown Pontiac, Saturday, December 2, 2023.

Presentation Presenter: Portia Fields-Anderson

Crestwood/Astorwood Neighborhood Association (**Agenda Add-on**)

Subcommittee Reports

1. Communications, Engagement & Operations
2. Economic Development, Housing & Planning
3. Facilities & Property
4. Finance & Personnel

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5. Law & The Courts
6. Parks, Recreation & Public Works
7. Public Safety, Health & Wellness

Recognition of Elected Officials – Tameka Ramsey, Chairperson for Charter Revision Commission and Troy Craft – Pontiac School Board Trustee

Agenda Address

1. Carlton Jones addressed items #3 and #10
2. Beatrice Wright addressed items #3 and #7
3. Darlene Clark addressed item #16
4. Gloria Miller addressed items #5 and #10
5. Dr. Deirdre Waterman addressed items #5, #11, #12 and #13

Agenda Items

Resolutions

Grants and Philanthropy Department

23-402 **Resolution to approve the Budget Amendment for Fiscal year 2023-24 to establish budget revenue in the amount of \$432,386.88 to account 101-000-516.000 Federal Grants-Health.**

Moved by Councilperson Rutherford and second by Councilperson Nicholson.

WHEREAS, the City of Pontiac was awarded \$432,386.88 in funding from The State of Michigan Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Pontiac executed the deliverables of the grant agreement; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan State Police and the Executive Branch of the City of Pontiac have approved the sub-recipient agreement; and,

WHEREAS, the budget amendment will increase budgeted revenue in the amount of \$432,386.88.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby approves the proposed budget amendment to establish budget revenue in the amount of \$432,386.88 to account 101-000-516.000 Federal Grants – Health

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

No: None

Resolution Passed

Councilman Goodman was absent for the vote.

Mayor's Office

23-403 **Resolution authorizing the City Clerk to post notice of Budget Amendment for Fiscal Year 2023-24 Related to Creation of Two New Positions Related to Project Ceasefire Crime Prevention Initiative – “Project Manager” and ‘Support & Outreach Coordinator’.** Moved by Councilperson Rutherford and second by Councilperson Nicholson.

WHEREAS, the City of Pontiac was allocated \$37.7 million from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and;

WHEREAS, the funding provided under ARPA provides a unique opportunity for state and local governments to make strategic investments in long-lived assets, rebuild reserves to enhance financial stability, and cover temporary operating shortfalls until economic conditions and operations normalize in the wake of COVID-19, and;

WHEREAS, the City's Executive Administration worked to build a programming budget for the use of its \$37,700,000 in SLFRF funding that reflects the needs of the community, and;

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WHEREAS, the following budget amendment reflects funding for the Pontiac Group Violence Intervention (GVI) Program and associated costs, and;

WHEREAS, the budget amendment will increase the budgeted appropriations in the amount of \$165,569 representing the Pontiac Group Violence Intervention (GVI) Program expenditures in Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council hereby authorizes the City Clerk to publish the proposed budget amendment to establish budget appropriations in the amount of \$70,000 to account 285-301-702.000-GVI Salaries and Wages, \$5,355 to account 285-301-715.000-GIV F.I.C.A – City Contribution, \$11,775 to account 285-301-716.000-GIV Medical Insurance, \$2,800 to account 285-301-718.500-GIV MERS Employer Contributions, \$568 to account 285-301-719.001-GIV Dental, \$20 to account 285-301-716.011-GIV Hearing/Optical, \$928 to account 285-301-717.000-GIV Life Insurance, \$1,000 to account 285-301-719.000-GIV Workers Comp, \$673 to account 285-301-725.000-GIV Sick & Vacation Contribution, \$1,200 to account 285-301-707.003-GIV Cell Phone and \$71,250 to account 285-301-818.000-GIV Other Professional Services.

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

No: None

Resolution Passed

Public Comment

1. Carlton Jones
2. Beatrice Wright
3. H. Bill Maxey
4. Minister Veronica Taylor
5. Dr. Deirdre Waterman
6. Greg Muskovally
7. Iris Johnson
8. Mia Brooks
9. Bille Swazer
10. Paster Kathy Dessureau
11. Tameka Ramsey
12. Darlene Clark
13. Gloria Miller

Discussion

Small Business Saturday Initiatives in Pontiac Open to the Community, Residents Encouraged to Participate and Support Pontiac Entrepreneurs, including at the Small Business Saturday celebration (hosted by Councilwoman Melanie Rutherford and presented by Luminosity Naturals and Consult Chris) held at the Flagstar Strand Theatre, 12 N. Saginaw Street in Downtown Pontiac, as well as at Oakland Pointe Shopping Center and other retail locations throughout the City of Pontiac

Closed Session

23-404 **Resolution to proceed in Closed Session at 7:57 p.m. pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268 to discuss a confidential attorney-client legal opinion as permitted under Section 8(1)(h).** Moved by Councilperson Nicholson and second by Councilperson Goodman.

WHEREAS, the City Council seeks to adjourn into closed session in order to discuss a written legal opinion from the Clark Hill law firm; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Open Meetings Act Section 15.268(1)(h) provides that a public body may meet in Closed Session to consider an attorney-client privileged legal opinion, being material exempt from discussion or disclosure by state or federal statute.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council will proceed in Closed Session pursuant to Section 8(h) of the Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268 to discuss a confidential attorney-client legal opinion as permitted under Section 8(1)(h).

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

No: None

Abstain: Rutherford

Resolution Passed

Motion to come out of Closed Session at 8:19 p.m. Moved by Councilperson Parker and second by Councilperson Nicholson.

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

No: None

Abstain: Rutherford

Motion Carried

Resolution Continued

City Council

23-405

Resolution on whether to maintain or repeal Ordinance #2424 City of Pontiac Adult-Use Marijuana Business Ordinance in response to latest referendum signatures. Moved by Councilperson Nicholson and second by Councilperson Parker.

WHEREAS, on October 10, 2023, City Council passed Ordinance #2424 amending the City's Adult-Use Marihuana Business Ordinance, consistent with the settlement of case 2023-202360-AW in the Oakland County Circuit Court, and

WHEREAS, the City Clerk has received petitions and signatures protesting Ordinance #2424 as required by City Code Section 6.404; and

WHEREAS, Pontiac City Charter Section 6.405 authorizes the City Council to submit to electoral vote for adoption or rejection an ordinance or a proposed amendment of an ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that the issue should be presented to the voters in the upcoming February 27, 2024, primary election; and

WHEREAS, the City Council authorizes the City Clerk to prepare ballot wording for the proposal to appear on the February 27, 2024.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the question shall be submitted to an electoral vote at the upcoming February 27, 2024, election.

Ayes: James, Nicholson, Parker, and Carrington

No: Goodman

Abstain: Rutherford

Resolution Passed

Communications

City Council, and Mayor's Office

Mayor, Clerk and Council Closing Comments

Mayor Tim Greimel, Clerk Garland Doyle, Councilman Brett Nicholson, Councilman Willam Parker Jr., Councilman Mikal Goodman, Councilwoman Kathalee James, Councilwoman Melanie Rutherford, and Council President Pro-Tem William Carrington made closing comments.

Councilman Brett Nicholson left the meeting.

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Adjournment

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

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

No: None

Motion Carried

Council President Pro-Tem William Carrington adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Garland S. Doyle
City Clerk