

**MINUTES  
ST. CLAIR SHORES CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 5, 2010**

Regular Meeting of the City Council, held in the Council Chambers, located at 27600 Jefferson Circle Dr., St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

Present: Mayor Hison, Council Members McFadyen, Rubello, Rubino and Rusie

Absent & Excused: Council Members Frederick and Walby

Also Present: City Manager Hughes, City Clerk Kotowski, Directors D'Herde, Haney, Koto and City Attorney Albright

**1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Hison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Kotowski, City Clerk, called the roll with a quorum present and indicated Mr. Frederick and Mr. Walby asked to be excused. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those in attendance.

**Motion by McFadyen, seconded by Rubello to excuse Council Members Frederick and Walby from tonight's meeting.**

Ayes: All – 5  
Absent: Frederick, Walby

Mayor Hison noted that item #5 was removed from the agenda at the petitioner's request and will be rescheduled to April 19, 2010.

Mayor Hison welcomed new City Manager Benjamin Hughes.

Mr. Hughes said he is honored to be a part of this community. He served fourteen years in local government in New York and Wisconsin. He said he is a native of Michigan and is glad to be home. He stated he would never take for granted the trust that the Mayor, Council, and the residents gave him. He will never lose sight that he works for the residents. He will take their trust very seriously and work together to make a better community. He introduced and thanked his wife, Rachel, who attended the meeting. He stated that he and his wife's plan is to sell their home in Racine, Wisconsin and to buy a home in St. Clair Shores.

Mayor Hison said that everyone will work together and asked residents to give feedback on items of interest to them in order to allow him and Council to make decisions based on what the resident's want.

**2. PROCLAMATIONS & PRESENTATIONS – NONE**

**3. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS (2 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)**

Mr. Jim Goodfellow, 22476 Lakeland, spoke regarding agenda Item #6b. He asked if the City's insurance or the other driver's insurance is covering the damage to the police vehicle that was totaled in the accident.

**4. REQUEST FROM THE TRAFFIC LT. TO AMEND TRAFFIC ORDINANCE 21.482 ENTITLED STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN STREETS; SCHEDULE SECTION 15B-52 (F) NO STOPPING, STANDING, PARKING OF ANY MOTOR VEHICLE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF REVERE STREET FROM JEFFERSON TO GREATER MACK BE AMENDED TO RESTRICT ONLY THE SOUTH SIDE OF REVERE STREET FROM JEFFERSON WESTWARD TO THE EAST PROPERTY LINE OF 22440 REVERE**

Lt. Willette said he discovered that this ordinance went into effect in 1948 because there was a banquet hall at the corner of Revere and Jefferson. This banquet hall was demolished in 1988 and was replaced by the current Henry Ford medical clinic. The parking ban remained in effect. Lt. Willette said Mr. Decorte from the Traffic Improvement Association came to the City to provide his expert opinion. Mr. Decorte saw no reason for the parking ban to remain in effect.

Lt. Willette requested to amend Traffic Ordinance 21.482 entitled Stopping, Standing, Parking Restrictions on Certain Streets; Schedule 15B-52 (F) No Stopping, Standing, Parking of Any Motor Vehicle on the South Side of Revere Street from Jefferson to Greater Mack be amended to restrict only the south side of Revere Street from Jefferson



**4. REQUEST FROM THE TRAFFIC LT. TO AMEND TRAFFIC ORDINANCE 21.482 (Cont'd)**

I, Mary A. Kotowski, Clerk of the City of St. Clair Shores, hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was published by posting true copies of the same in each of the following places: Police Station, 27665 Jefferson Avenue, Fire Hall, 26700 Harper Avenue, and City Hall, 27600 Jefferson Circle Drive on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of April 2010.

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MARY A. KOTOWSKI, CITY CLERK

(ord. amendment eff. April 7, 2010)

Ayes: All – 5  
Absent: Frederick, Walby

**5. REQUEST TO AMEND SITE PLAN PC 06-23 AT 24401 HARPER, EL CHARRO MEXICAN RESTAURANT, TO ALLOW DRIVE THROUGH BUSINESS HOURS UNTIL 3:00 A.M., PETITIONER STEVEN SELLARS**  
(petitioner rescheduled to 4/19/10)

**6. BIDS/CONTRACTS/PURCHASE ORDERS**

**a. Request to approve purchase of 21704 Colony for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP)**

Ms. Koto requested approval to purchase 21704 Colony for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The property is foreclosed and owned by the Bank of New York. The City recognized certain issues, such as the basement not being of full height and there was mold in certain areas. The City's first offer of \$24,999 (no concessions) was rejected and they were informed the City was not the best offer. The City then submitted a second offer of \$26,900 plus \$2,000 concessions.

Ms. Rusie questioned that because the original bid fell through, why didn't we resubmit our original offer again. She asked why we should keep our offer at \$26,900.

Ms. Koto stated that we have come across similar situations in the past where the bid fell through. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) allows the City to appropriately "rehab" the house and sell it to someone who can maintain it.

Ms. Koto stated at the time it felt more important to get this home off the market, instead of to a homeowner who couldn't make the repairs, so we could rehab it and make it a livable home for a resident in the City, so we went with the asking price.

Ms. Koto explained that the architects first do a structural assessment and then they create a long list of necessary repairs and improvements that would make the house marketable. The City not only purchases the house, but also puts money into making the proper repairs. She said she is not positive of what the actual cost to rehabilitate this house is. The basement is neither a full basement nor a crawl space. We don't know the extent of the mold that is in certain areas throughout the house. It could possibly be black mold or it could be as simple as removing it with bleach. Structurally the home is safe, but there are other safety and code issues that need to be addressed. There is a possibility that these issues might not be addressed if purchased by someone other than the City.

Ms. Koto mentioned the "Buy It Down Program" that allows the City to purchase a portion of the amount that cannot be mortgaged by the purchaser. The funds from the program would be used and doing this will serve the purpose of putting a family in a home to maintain it.

It was discussed that the house was worth approximately \$90,000 in 1992.

There was direction from Council to require a home inspection prior to closing on this home.

Ms. Koto noted that this requires an addendum to the purchase agreement.

Mayor Hison stated that he and Mr. Hughes discussed the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and HUD program and there is a \$1.7 million grant to the City to rehabilitate the homes in order to put the homes back into the City as an occupied home. He suggested holding a Council Study Session on Monday, April 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the direction of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and the HUD \$1.00 homes. He clarified that it is not budget money that is being used for this program.

**6. BIDS/CONTRACTS/PURCHASE ORDERS – a. Request to approve purchase of 21704 Colony for the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) (Cont'd)**

Ms. Koto explained that Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) said they would start looking this month for funds that were not spent yet. Ms. Koto was informed that the City was one of the communities that made the best use of the funds from this program and spent the most. This June, Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) would look at each community to see if the funds were spent. If the funds weren't spent by then, they would look to recapture the funds. The City incurs the cost and then requests a check from Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA). Ms. Koto mentioned that the City closes on this house in May.

There was discussion about "The Buy It Down Program" that allows the City to purchase a portion of the amount that cannot be mortgaged by the purchaser. The intent of the program is to make the home a place of equity again. The purchaser must acquire at least a 15-year mortgage and remain in the house for at least 15 years.

**Motion by Rubino, seconded by McFadyen to approve the purchase of 21704 Colony, for the NSP Program, in the amount of \$26,900, subject to an home inspection prior to purchase closing.**

Ayes: All – 5  
Absent: Frederick, Walby

**b. Request to approve purchase of a Police Dodge Charger to replace a vehicle involved in an accident resulting in a total loss**

On February 28, 2010 one of the City's 2009 Dodge Chargers was in an accident that resulted in a total loss of the vehicle. The City has received \$24,425 for the vehicle less a salvage amount of \$1,800 from Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority. The City has elected to keep the vehicle for parts. We can purchase a new replacement vehicle under Macomb County bid pricing for \$23,061 from Slingerland Chrysler Dodge.

Mr. Hughes mentioned the accident was not at the fault of the Police Officer. He confirmed that both parties in the accident were not injured. He has reviewed this request with Mr. Haney and they are comfortable in bringing this request before Council.

Mr. Haney explained that we have the option of salvaging the vehicle for \$1,800 or keeping it. The decision was made to keep the vehicle because it has many good parts that we could salvage to use for our other vehicles.

Mayor Hison noted that the vehicle is being purchased from the same place the other vehicles were purchased, Slingerland Chrysler Dodge.

Mr. Haney noted that under Michigan no fault law it is our insurance company that will cover the repairs on our vehicle. There is tort law where we could go after the person responsible for the accident for up to \$500 in reimbursement.

**Motion by Rubello, seconded by Rubino to approve the request to replace one police vehicle that was a total loss (accident) under the Macomb County bid pricing from Slingerland Chrysler Dodge, with funds available through the reimbursement of the insurance claim.**

Ayes: All – 5  
Absent: Frederick, Walby

**7. CONSENT AGENDA** - All items listed on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion and approved by a vote of City Council. There will be no separate discussion of the items unless the Mayor and or a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered under the last item of the Consent Agenda.

**Motion by Rubino, seconded by McFadyen to approve the Consent Agenda items a – f as presented, which include the following:**

**a. Bills**

**February 16, 2010** **\$2,638,151.29**

**To approve the release of checks in the amount of \$2,638,151.29, of the report that is 24 pages in length and of the grand total amount of \$2,638,151.29, \$0 went to other taxing authorities.**

7. **CONSENT AGENDA (Cont'd)**

b. Fees - None

c. Progress Payments

Galui Construction Company, Inc.	\$ 2,000.00
Galui Construction Company, Inc.	\$ 3,000.00

To approve the above progress payments, subject to audit.

d. Approval of Minutes

To approve the following minutes:

<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>
City Council Workshop	February 27, 2010
City Council	March 1, 2010
City Council Special Meeting	March 6, 2010
City Council Special Meeting	March 8, 2010
City Council	March 15, 2010

e. Receive & File Boards, Commissions & Committee Minutes

To receive and file the following minutes:

<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>
Beautification Commission	January 13, 2010
Communication Commission	February 10, 2010
Cool Cities Committee	January 13, 2010
Council Sub-Committee on Bds. & Commissions	February 23, 2010
General Employees Pension Board	February 16, 2010
Library Board	February 18, 2010
Older Person's Advisory Committee	February 25, 2010
Parks and Recreation Commission	February 11, 2010
Planning Commission	January 12, 2010
Police & Fire Pension Board	February 9, 2010
Police & Fire Retiree Health Care Trust Board	February 9, 2010
Sign Arbitration Committee	February 25, 2010
Tax Increment Finance Authority	February 18, 2010
Waterfront Environmental Committee	February 16, 2010
Zoning Board of Appeals	February 4, 2010

f. To approve the Recommendations from the Council Sub-Committee on Boards, Commissions & Committees as follow:

1. Accept with regret the resignations of Norma Rusie (Board of Review) and Thomas Bugay (TIFA/Brownfield Re-Development Authority, Police and Fire Pension and Health Care Boards). *City Clerk sent letters of appreciation for service.*
2. Recommendation from Sub-Committee on Boards, Committees & Commissions to appoint the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Committee</u>	<u>Term Ending Date</u>
Larry Casler	Activities Committee (newly created additional seat)	September 30, 2010
Dennis Karwoski	Activities Committee (newly created additional seat)	September 30, 2011
Denise Carpenter	Election Commission (vacant seat of J. Paulun)	May 1, 2011
Peter Stellas	Zoning Board of Appeals, alternate (vacant seat of J. Zajac)	April 5, 2012

Ayes: All – 5  
Absent: Frederick, Walby

## **8. UPDATES AND FOLLOW-UPS FROM COUNCIL MEETING**

- **PCB's** – Mr. Hughes said he is aware of the importance of the situation with the PCB's. He and Mr. Podolski have discussed this on going issue. There are no updates at this time. He will continue to look into it thoroughly this month.
- **2010 City Calendar** – Ms. D'Herde noted that as of today, the City has not received a bill from the company that was hired to distribute the 2010 City calendars. She will contact them this week to find out if they intend to bill the City and if so, they need to do so within the next two weeks.
- **9 Mile Water Main** – Mr. Hughes noted that the 9 Mile Water Main project from Harper to Jefferson was completed last week. The contractor started repairing the sidewalks today and will continue into the spring. The 9 Mile paving will start in June.

Mr. Hughes mentioned that a public hearing for the Water Main Replacement Program would be held on April 19, 2010 at 3:30 at City Hall. Information is viewable on the City's website, at the Library and City Clerk's Office.

- **Beaconsfield Relief Sewer project** – Mr. Hughes mentioned that the project is underway and Downunder Municipal Services will be working using the television system for the project.
- **I-696 and I-94 project** – Mr. Hughes said the project will start this week and will continue throughout the summer. He stated that anyone who has questions should call Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) at 586-978 1935.
- **Department of Public Works** – Mr. Hughes noted that a full investigation by our Police Department continues and he expects an update in the next 14 to 21 days. He announced that he moved Jim Harbison to the acting Department of Public Works Director, for the time being.
- **Overhead projector** – Mayor Hison asked Ms. D'Herde to explain the rules of the Communications Commission regarding the overhead projector and other communication equipment.

Ms. D'Herde explained that a resident requested use of the overhead projector during meetings. She has informally surveyed other Cities rules on this subject. It was discovered that no other City, in the surrounding area, allows residents to use the communication equipment. The Communications Commission will review the current policy at next week's meeting and would then make a recommendation to Council for their review and approval.

## **9. COMMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL COUNCILPERSONS**

**Council Member Rubello** welcomed Mr. Hughes and his wife. He thanked Mr. Podolski for his helpfulness and for all his years of service. He announced upcoming events, such as disc golf, the Harper Business Expo, the Nautical Mile open house and the nautical coast clean up. He announced that the large brush removal program starts May 1<sup>st</sup> and the regular yard waste removal program started April 1st. He encouraged everyone to visit the Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum. He asked Ms. Koto about the bike path grant.

Ms. Koto said what we applied for was to host a series of workshops to evaluate the walk and sidewalk paths.

Mr. Rubello asked Mr. Hughes if he could look into implementing a program he read about in the newspaper entitled, "Award Local Bids First."

Mr. Rubello asked Mr. Haney about our insurance going out to bid.

Mr. Haney stated that 101 entities received the information to bid on the insurance and out of those, only eight entities downloaded it entirely. The bid deadline is May 4, 2010.

Mr. Rubello said he wants the property at Shorecrest Lanes kept up. There are tires and trash on the property and he thought that the property owner was expected to keep the property clean. He inquired as to what is being done with this property.

Mr. Rubello mentioned the traffic light on Harper and Beverly has an unusual sequence where it turns from amber to red and back to amber. He asked that it be looked into to make sure that something isn't wrong.

## **9. COMMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL COUNCILPERSONS (Cont'd)**

Mr. Rubello asked what some goals of the Community Development Department are.

Ms. Koto stated that she could only speak on behalf of the planning division. She mentioned two goals that she has right now. One goal is to spend all the Neighborhood Stabilization Program money appropriately and the other is implementing a plan for the energy efficiency block grant program.

Mayor Hison noted that each department would have their goals and plans of what they are planning for 2010 and 2011 during the budget hearings.

Mayor Hison said he asked the City Manager to schedule a meeting with the County regarding the different timing/light changes throughout the City, all being set different.

Mr. Hughes commented that all of our traffic signals are maintained by the Macomb County Road Commission and he would proceed on this request.

**Council Member McFadyen** welcomed Mr. Hughes and his wife. She thanked Mr. Podolski for all his help and support. She announced that the Kolping Banquet Center on Jefferson would be hosting a drive to benefit the soup kitchen. The Kolping Banquet Center will be having an open house to tour the facility. She congratulated the first lady Commander of the VFW Post 1146, Tara Perez. The VFW Post 1146 thanked the residents for their support with the fish fries on Fridays.

Ms. McFadyen asked how the VFW Post 1146 would go about having their name added to the sign at the entrance of the City.

Ms. Koto said for them to contact Mr. Rayes.

**Council Member Rusie** welcomed Mr. Hughes into the community. She wished Mr. Podolski a happy retirement. She was pleased to hear that the Communications Commission would be looking into their procedures when it comes to allowing residents to use the equipment.

Ms. Rusie asked if the Water Main Replacement Program public hearing time could be changed to a later time in order to allow more people to attend that won't get home from work by 3:30 p.m.

Ms. Kotowski stated that anyone could submit comments in writing to her office prior to the hearing. These comments would be forwarded to City Council prior to their action on this item.

Ms. Rusie congratulated the parents and students of the Lakeshore Color Guard on coming in first place. She said it took hard work, discipline and teamwork for them to accomplish this. She recognized each team member and coach.

Ms. Rusie mentioned that "All about Animals" rescue organization would be having an event on April 24<sup>th</sup> and for people to go to the website, [www.allaboutanimalsrescue.org](http://www.allaboutanimalsrescue.org) for more information. She mentioned a kitten named "Squirts" that needs a home and encouraged everyone to adopt a rescued animal.

Ms. Rusie said that it is not fair to the residents to have late items placed on the agenda. She understands that emergency agenda items would need to be placed on the agenda late. She said she would automatically deny any unnecessarily late item that is placed on the City Manager's Report.

**Council Member Rubino** welcomed Mr. Hughes and said that it is refreshing to hear him state that he is working for the residents. Mr. Rubino is pleased with the snow removal program. He said there was a point in the past when the City had to shovel about 1,000 properties sidewalks last season and in the recent snowfall, the City only had to shovel about 60 properties sidewalks. He mentioned that some residents are concerned with blight and vandalism of vacant homes in their neighborhood. He suggested that we could require the banks to remove the red stickers after a period of time.

Mr. Rubino asked Mr. Haney what next year's deficit is.

Mr. Haney said it is approximately \$3 million for 2011. He stated that the deficit would be around \$14 million by fiscal year 2012 if no changes were made.

Mr. Rubino clarified that he understands that Council taking a ten percent cut is not the same as the regular City employees taking a ten percent cut. It is a part time job for the Mayor and Council and this is the livelihood of the

## **9. COMMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL COUNCILPERSONS (Cont'd)**

regular City employees. He asked Mr. Hughes to address with staff the way we communicate with the media.

Mr. Rubino mentioned some of his concerns with having a sharing agreement with the surrounding cities because they are our competition. He doesn't think we should share amenities because amenities are used to attract people to purchase homes in the City.

Mr. Rubino encouraged everyone to return the census form.

Mayor Hison said that 69% of the census forms have been returned.

**Mayor Hison** stated that the sharing agreement with the surrounding cities should be discussed in detail. He mentioned that last year, we had quite a bit of cold and rainy weather, which caused fewer residents to be at the pool and this year, it could be different. He said he will be meeting with the Mayors from Roseville and Eastpointe and will have feedback to discuss during the budget hearings.

Mayor Hison announced the Belgium American Spring Concert on April 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church. He reminded everyone that it is cheaper to return the census form by mail than to have someone come to your house, which costs the government \$65 per house. He thanked Ms. Koto for a job well done as the Census liaison.

Mayor Hison reminded everyone about the Council Study Session on April 12, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and the \$1 HUD homes program. He announced that the State of the City Address will be aired under special programming and will encompass some goals and objectives going into 2011.

## **10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Hughes stated that the three items added under City Manager's Report could not wait for the April 19 meeting for Council action. His promise to the Mayor and Council is to minimize these types of items on the City Manager's Report. We have two very different programs that our City has approval to use in regards to housing programs (Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and \$1 HUD homes). The one similar goal for the housing programs is for getting abandoned and foreclosed homes occupied. The City has acquired homes through both of these programs. He said he is requesting Council's approval to move forward with these programs.

### **a. Request that Council grant the City Manager authority to renegotiate the sale price of the \$1 HUD house, 21230 Twelve Mile**

Ms. Koto requested Council approve the change in the sale price of 21230 12 Mile; the City acquired the property almost two years ago for one dollar plus closing costs. The City has made all necessary repairs and is now looking to sell the house. One offer was made for \$70,000 with \$4,200 in concessions. The purchaser had an appraisal done and the appraisal came in under that amount, so the purchaser made a second offer for less. Ms. Koto stated that we don't have the number yet of the lower offer and stated that she is asking for Council's approval to negotiate the lower offer in order to save the sale.

Ms. Koto noted they were asking approval to sell at a lower than approved price and with a floor amount for the sale to proceed.

Ms. Rusie noted that this house was only on the market for ten days and before a few repairs were completed. Since the first appraisal, the mold has been cleaned up and the air conditioner coils have been replaced. She said the first appraisal was in the mid to upper \$60,000 range. She said we wouldn't be doing the neighborhood justice for selling it for a lesser amount. She is curious to see what the new appraisal would come in at since the repairs were made.

Mr. Rubino stated that his concern is that we are already in April, and on April 30<sup>th</sup> the tax credits disappear, the interest rates are likely to rise and we could have another flood of foreclosures. He noted that this is all speculation, but if we hold onto this house for another month, we could risk losing more money on the house. He wants this house sold and doesn't want to be stuck with it.

Mr. Rubello said he understands the concept of selling the house for more than what you paid for it, but is not sure what would happen if we hold onto the house. The house was purchased for \$1 plus closing costs and is now appraised at \$70,000. He asked if a committee could be formed to handle the situation with these houses. He asked how much money was put into the repairs of the house.



**10. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT – a. Request that Council grant the City Manager authority to renegotiate the sale price of the \$1 HUD house, 21230 Twelve Mile (Cont'd)**

Mayor Hison confirmed that this would be discussed in the upcoming Study Session. The goal is to sell the house and to have someone move into the community and maintain the property. He said to hold out might cause us to get less. The point is not to make a huge profit, but to have the house occupied, and then possibly buy another home to rehab.

Ms. Koto said the City invested approximately \$3,000 worth of repairs into the property. There is a buyer now wanting to purchase this property now.

Ms. McFadyen asked how much the offer was for. She feels that if this needs Council's approval in order to move forward and sell the house, then she is for it.

Ms. Rusie clarified that she is not concerned with profitability, but re-iterated that the house was only on the market for ten days and we received an offer for \$70,000 with the issues. The offer was made without the repairs to the air condition coils and with mold in certain areas. She was concerned with abdicating our rights for final approval to grant the authority to enter into an agreement to sell this home without returning to Council for final action.

Mayor Hison said this has come before Council because of a time issue. He doesn't feel that we need to "micro manage" every house that comes before us from a \$1 HUD sale. Mayor and Council have to give the approval in order to move forward.

Ms. Rusie said that we could have another appraisal by this time and have it on the table. She doesn't feel that it's "micro managing", but feels that we should look into it more intently. She was concerned that there is a signed addendum that the buyer still wants concessions at a lower price. She asked why appraisal issues were not addressed for over a week and a half. She agrees that we need to hold a Study Session.

Ms. Koto said she spoke with the broker today and the amount is \$60,000 without concessions and would work on obtaining an addendum to the purchase agreement.

**Motion by Rubino, seconded by Rubello to approve a request to grant the City Manager authority to renegotiate the sale price of the \$1 HUD house, 21230 Twelve Mile.**

A roll call vote was taken.

Ayes: McFadyen, Rubello, Rubino, Hison

Nays: Rusie

Absent: Frederick, Walby

Motion passed.

**b. Request to approve, or deny, offers for 28100 Gladstone and 22709 Thirteen Mile Road, \$1 HUD homes**

Ms. Koto said she is requesting approval for \$55,000 plus \$1,000 closing costs concessions for the sale of the \$1 HUD house at 28100 Gladstone.

Mr. Rubello questioned why this house had a Gladstone Street address because the house does not face Gladstone. He mentioned that the neighbor next to this property is getting water from the way this house's yard is leveled and there are dangerous trees on the property that need to be addressed.

Mr. Rubello asked at what point do we level the house and not repair it.

The home on 13 Mile can only be sold for cash as it needs excessive repairs.

Mayor Hison said that we evaluate every house. He clarified that the "floor" would be the lowest amount that Council would accept for the sale of this house.

**Motion by Rusie, seconded by Rubino to approve the sale prices in the amount of \$55,000, for 28100 Gladstone, a \$1 HUD home and \$58,500 cash, for 22709 13 Mile Road, a \$1 HUD home.**

Ayes: All – 5

Absent: Frederick, Walby

## **11. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION (5 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)**

Mr. Hughes said he met with Fire Chief Kovalcik and Firefighters Mr. Campbell and Mr. Krotche concerning the File for Life program. He asked Mr. Campbell to explain the File for Life program.

Mr. Campbell mentioned some of the events that Firefighters Local 1744 Union hold and participate in. He explained that this year the Firefighters Local 1744 Union would like to add a new service to the residents called, File for Life. It is privately funded by the firefighter union. The purpose is to gain important information about residents in order to save lives. The resident fills the two-sided form out with general information and their medical information. This will allow the emergency response team to gather information quickly when responding to an emergency. The forms were handed out at the Senior Center. The forms can be picked up at the fire stations and will be updated periodically. Reminders will go out to notify residents to update their information.

Mayor Hison said this is a great program. It is private because the form stays in the resident's home. The extra minutes that are usually spent trying to gather information during an emergency can now be spent working to save the resident's life.

Ms. McFadyen mentioned that she worked at Blue Cross Blue Shield and they had a program called "Vile of Life", which saved many lives.

Mr. Hughes thanked Mr. Campbell, Mr. Krotche and Fire Chief Kovalcik. He stated that this program requires participation of the residents in order to keep updated records.

Joe Backus, 21904 Grand Lake, is pleased that the Mayor and Council are holding a Council Study Session to discuss the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) and the \$1 HUD homes because he has many questions. He asked whom should he send his questions to so they can be addressed at the Study Session.

Mayor Hison said he could send the questions to the City Clerk.

Rick Swanquist, 21815 Bon Brae, welcomed Mr. Hughes and stated that he is pleased to hear that there will be better cooperation with the City and the Chamber of Commerce. He stated that all equipment was purchased by the residents so the residents should be able to use the equipment. He does not agree with sharing amenities with other cities. He does not agree with the school of choice program. He felt the City should leave house flips to the professionals.

Raymond Debates, 34140 Jefferson Avenue, announced the Harper Avenue Business Association's fifth annual business expo on Saturday, April 17, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Bryan Mazey, Lac St. Clair Kiwanis Club, announced the third annual hockey game for charity. This year the funds raised will go to the Parkinson Foundation. He mentioned the Parkinson Foundation walkathon on May 22.

Kathy Hanson, 22436 Milner, welcomed Mr. Hughes. She reminded everyone that April is organ donation month. Michigan is the third worst state for organ donations. She encouraged everyone to go to the Secretary of State to have them add the organ donor heart to their driver's license. She thanked all organ donors.

James Kelly, 23142 N. Rosedale Court, stated that the biggest cost is the maintenance of the pool, although, some people would say that the biggest cost is the initial installation. He said that once you start doing something, it's hard to stop, so he disagrees with sharing amenities with other cities.

Chris Vitale, 28701 Grant, thanked Ms. Rusie for not supporting agenda items being added late. He encouraged everyone to fill out and return the census form. He addressed Mr. Hughes and told him that he has a chance to set this City apart. He mentioned some of the problems that would need to be addressed, such as, the situation of the misuse of funds, property values decreasing, and the Rental Housing Committee has not met in years. He mentioned how the City used to have a volunteer anti-blight committee and he feels this should be reinstated.

John Lossman, 22804 Barton, mentioned some ethical issues. He said Council should not be able to "call out" a resident publicly. He said Council members are residents first and are here to work for the residents. He stated that the Department of Public Works removed a dead ash tree on private property without permission at Martin and Greater Mack and he asked how that is acceptable.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion by Rubino, seconded by Rusie to adjourn at 9:50 p.m.**

Ayes: All – 5  
Absent: Frederick, Walby

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ROBERT A HISON, MAYOR

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MARY A. KOTOWSKI, CITY CLERK