

STATE OF MICHIGAN
CITY OF LINCOLN PARK
RECEIVERSHIP TRANSITION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 - 1:00 P.M.

LINCOLN PARK CITY HALL

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1355 SOUTHFIELD ROAD

LINCOLN PARK, MICHIGAN

* * * * *

RTAB MEMBERS PRESENT:

KEVIN BONDS
GENELLE ALLEN
JESSICA THOMAS
JOHN ZECH

RTAB MEMBERS ABSENT:

BRANDEN DUNLEAVY

ALSO PRESENT:

MATT COPPLER, City Manager
LISA GRIGGS, Finance Director

DREW VAN DE GRIFT
Michigan Department of Treasury

Reported by:

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CALLED TO ORDER AT 1:03 P.M.

MR. BONDS: Let's call the meeting to order.
We'll start off with roll call, please.

MR. VAN de GRIFT: Genelle Allen.

MS. ALLEN: Here.

MR. VAN de GRIFT: Kevin Bonds?

MR. BONDS: Here.

MR. VAN de GRIFT: Branden Dunleavy.

(No response.)

MR. VAN de GRIFT: Absent.

Jessica Thomas.

MS. THOMAS: Here.

MR. VAN de GRIFT: John Zech.

MR. ZECH: Here.

MR. VAN de GRIFT: A quorum is present.

MR. BONDS: Okay, thank you, Drew.

We need to have an approval of today's agenda.

MS. THOMAS: Chair, I'd like to make a motion to
add Judge Gregory Clifton to the new business portion of
the agenda.

MR. BONDS: Okay, a motion has been made. Is
there a second?

MS. ALLEN: Second.

MR. BONDS: And second.

Any discussion? Or any other changes to the

1 agenda?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, all those in favor
4 signify by stating aye for the new agenda.

5 MS. ALLEN: Aye.

6 MS. THOMAS: Aye.

7 MR. ZECH: Aye.

8 MR. BONDS: Okay, motion is passed.

9 Approval of the RTAB minutes.

10 This would be the regular meeting of August 16th,
11 2016, which is Attachment 1 of your packets. The Chair
12 will entertain a motion to approve the August 16th, 2016
13 RTAB minutes as presented.

14 MR. ZECH: So moved.

15 MR. BONDS: It's been moved.

16 MS. THOMAS: Support.

17 MR. BONDS: And supported.

18 Any discussion?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, all those in favor,
21 signify by stating aye.

22 MS. THOMAS: Aye.

23 MR. ZECH: Aye.

24 MS. ALLEN: Aye.

25 MR. BONDS: No opposed. Motion passes.

1 Old business. There is none.

2 New business. We're going to move right into
3 Judge Clifton. So we greatly appreciate you taking the
4 time. This actually came up in, I think it was two
5 meetings ago, where we were talking about the budget, and
6 in looking at the portion of the budget relating to the
7 courts it was shown how much of an impact of a positive
8 nature you have. And so we wanted to have kind of an
9 update from you of your operations today and moving
10 forward.

11 JUDGE CLIFTON: Great. And I very much
12 appreciate the opportunity to appear before the Board.
13 Thank you very much.

14 I guess there's three things I would discuss
15 today. First, a brief kind of history of the court and
16 how we got to where we're at today. Secondly, a
17 discussion of the history of the court revenue
18 projections, and then third, I want to talk a little bit
19 about our plan for a new court building.

20 So starting with the history, prior to 2012 the
21 25th District Court represented only the City of Lincoln
22 Park. The City of River Rouge and City of Ecorse each had
23 their own separate and distinct district courts. During
24 that timeframe before 2012 there was a total of four
25 judges representing those three cities: one in River

1 Rouge, one in Ecorse, and two in Lincoln Park.

2 2012, January, our legislature decided, you might
3 call it a shot-gun wedding, they decided to combine the
4 three cities into one district court. As of April 2012
5 River Rouge Court was closed. Thereafter in June of 2013
6 the Ecorse District Court was formally closed, such that
7 by July 1, 2013 all three cities were operating out of the
8 single court structure here in Lincoln Park, which is
9 right down the street from where we're located. The
10 reason Lincoln Park was chosen for the consolidated
11 location is that it was the only court between the three
12 cities that had two courtrooms, and also the security that
13 was available at the Lincoln Park Court was better than
14 the other two locations, primarily due to the number of
15 different entrances that could be gained both in River
16 Rouge and Ecorse to the courts in those locations, whereas
17 in Lincoln Park the court only has one single entrance.
18 So for security reasons, as well as the fact that there
19 was two courtrooms, it was decided the consolidation would
20 take place in Lincoln Park.

21 So the last full year -- so that's a brief
22 history of how we came together. And I guess I should
23 mention also that as a result of that consolidation by the
24 state which also took place during the time of several
25 judges retiring, the court went from a total of four

1 judges to now what's been the last several years a total
2 of two judges. Currently myself as the Chief Judge, and
3 also Judge David Zelenak who is the other District Judge.

4 Back in 2012/2013, the last full year that
5 Lincoln Park Court was in operation, the court budget at
6 that time was \$1,325,624. That represented a Lincoln Park
7 only caseload of 18,089 cases. And Lincoln Park was
8 responsible for that entire million-three budget.

9 In 2012/2013, the total revenue collected by the
10 court during that time was \$1,736,601. So the net, if you
11 will, revenue to Lincoln Park after paying for the court
12 budget, the net revenue in 2012/2013 was \$410,977.

13 Fast-forward to this past year, 2015/2016, the
14 total caseload for all three cities has gone up from the
15 18,000 that I mentioned for Lincoln Park in 2012/2013, the
16 total caseload for all three cities is now 32,944 cases.
17 Lincoln Park's portion of that caseload the past year was
18 24,580. So approximately six thousand some more cases in
19 the last three years.

20 MR. BONDS: Yeah.

21 JUDGE CLIFTON: The court budget for this past
22 2015/2016 year was \$1,524,222. So a couple hundred
23 thousand more than what it was back in 2012/2013.
24 However, because of the consolidation, Lincoln Park's
25 share of that budget, based on the number of cases that

1 came out of Lincoln Park, their share was 55 percent. So
2 Lincoln Park's portion of that \$1,524,222 budget was
3 \$838,322. So by -- I guess the good news from the
4 consolidation from Lincoln Park's standpoint was, although
5 there was a total more cases coming from Lincoln Park,
6 Lincoln Park's share of the budget actually went down
7 approximately \$500,000.

8 While that share went down, the revenue
9 skyrocketed. The total revenue collected by the court,
10 and this is for all three cities, for cases arising out of
11 all three cities last budget year 2015/2016, was
12 \$4,268,596. Of that amount, \$3,047,941 was generated by
13 Lincoln Park as a result of tickets and other cases coming
14 out of Lincoln Park; that 24,580 caseload that I mentioned
15 a moment ago.

16 So after you deduct Lincoln Park's share of the
17 budget, \$838,322 from that three million figure I
18 mentioned, the excess revenue to Lincoln Park in 2015/2016
19 was \$2,209,619. So as a result of the efforts of our
20 police department, and I'm a big supportive proponent of
21 our police department, I think they do a fantastic job,
22 particularly when you take into consideration the cuts
23 that they've experienced, they're doing a fantastic job
24 resulting in that excess revenue to the city this past
25 budget year of \$2,209,619.

1 Now, going forward this year, 2016/2017, the
2 court's budget has been increased modestly to \$1,612,118.
3 The principal reason for that increase was the addition of
4 a new line item for establishment of a court building
5 fund, approximately \$75,000 to get that process started,
6 and I'll come back to that new building fund in a moment.

7 So Lincoln Park's share of that current budget
8 for this year is now at 60 percent, given the increase in
9 cases that Lincoln Park has been involved with. Based on
10 that 60 percent share, Lincoln Park's share of the budget,
11 this year is \$967,271. So that's Lincoln Park's total
12 obligation to the court this year.

13 MR. BONDS: Okay.

14 JUDGE CLIFTON: Now, to put that in perspective,
15 so far this year the court has generated from all three
16 cities a total revenue of \$1,061,580. So since July 1 in
17 the last two-and-a-half months, the court has taken in
18 that sum of money in revenue. Lincoln Park's share of
19 that revenue based on the tickets generated out of Lincoln
20 Park to date is \$544,444. So if you think of the Lincoln
21 Park share after two-and-a-half months, they're already
22 more than halfway to meeting their share of the total
23 budget. I would project by no later than November that
24 Lincoln Park will have satisfied their total share of the
25 budget for the year, meaning that the last seven months,

1 December through the end of June, is basically pure
2 revenue to Lincoln Park.

3 Keep in mind, these are just very rough
4 projections, but as I said a moment ago, last year the
5 excess revenue to Lincoln Park was \$2.2 million. If these
6 numbers hold true, I think there's a strong likelihood
7 that Lincoln Park's excess revenue this year will be
8 approximately \$2.4 million when all is said and done. So
9 that's the revenue aspect.

10 The last thing I want to talk about is the new
11 court building. I was elected in November 2014. When I
12 came into the court I was a magistrate for a couple of
13 years before that. With the consolidation of Ecorse and
14 River Rouge and with Lincoln Park into a singular court
15 building in 2013 effectively, it, you know, immediately
16 became clear that the court is extremely overcrowded. We
17 average approximately 400 people a day coming through our
18 doors. I am somewhat embarrassed to say, although I don't
19 have a lot of power over it, but I am embarrassed to say
20 that the public parking available at our current building
21 is approximately 20 spaces if that; perhaps 15. There is
22 just not a big enough footprint where we're currently
23 located to expand the parking at all unless the building
24 across the street, the furniture store building, were tore
25 down; that could create a parking lot. But close to the

1 courthouse there are 15 public spaces, and there's
2 realistically not enough parking for handicapped people.

3 That aside, when you enter the building, although
4 as I mentioned earlier it's safer than the other two court
5 buildings in terms of security, it is still not an ideal
6 situation in terms of the way the court is laid out. You
7 know, back in I think 1989 or '90 when the courthouse was
8 built, the current courthouse was built, you know, in that
9 world we didn't have the same security issues that we have
10 today. And I can tell you that just in the last few
11 months we've had several instances where people have come
12 into the, entered the front doors with a gun in their
13 possession, creating a extremely dangerous situation for
14 the public because it's -- and I would invite you to come
15 over to take a tour of the court building at your
16 convenience -- but when you come in, the public area is
17 directly adjacent to where you come in the front doors.
18 So it's basically, excuse my analogy, but it's like a, you
19 know, a cattle -- I can't think of the word I'm looking
20 for, but --

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Cattle yard.

22 JUDGE CLIFTON: Cattle yard. Thank you.

23 So if something were to happen, the public is
24 right there in the line of fire, not to mention the fact
25 there's not enough room for the public to conduct their

1 business. It also creates a volatile situation in terms
2 of we often have opposing parties in cases, and they're in
3 close proximity to one another so something could break
4 out right there in the courthouse.

5 There's also a distinct lack of facilities for,
6 you know, conference rooms for attorneys to meet with
7 their clients, for advocates to meet with victims, for the
8 jury to assemble someplace when they are coming to the
9 court. So, just in general a very distinct lack of room.

10 We also would be in favor of adding another third
11 smaller courtroom so that we could perhaps have a
12 magistrate again.

13 As history, when I was the magistrate it was
14 still during the time when Ecorse had a court, so my
15 predecessor Judge, Judge Ciungan, he would go Ecorse and
16 conduct court on the dates when I was acting as a
17 magistrate in Lincoln Park. Now we have no other real
18 court to conduct business. We only have two courtrooms,
19 so it's really not practical to have a magistrate because
20 Judge Zelenak and I pretty much go from the beginning of
21 the day to the end of the day. So there's not -- through
22 lunch as well. So there's really not an opportunity for a
23 magistrate to come in and do anything.

24 So, also I would mention that the building itself
25 is in poor physical shape.

1 So as a result, we arranged for a study by a
2 national state court agency in December of this last year.
3 They came in and spent a week doing an analysis of the
4 court operations, and the conclusion was that, "You folks
5 need a new courthouse."

6 And so we moved forward with that report. I
7 appeared before the city council in each of the three
8 cities with a proposal that we establish a new court
9 building authority.

10 And for the purpose of going forward with the new
11 courthouse, as I mentioned the footprint where we're at
12 now is not feasible to modify or enlarge the current
13 courthouse, so we're going to have to find another
14 location, and we have to do so at a location that is
15 conducive or reasonable to all three cities.

16 So we have begun that process. We established a
17 new court building fund. We added, with the permission of
18 all three funding units, an additional \$20 to each civil
19 infraction and misdemeanor case that comes through the
20 court, and that for which a guilty plea is entered, and we
21 have started to accumulate money in that building fund.
22 At present there is \$62,702 in that building fund which
23 was started June 1, 2016. So we're making good progress
24 there.

25 Our hope is that within a couple years we will

1 have generated enough money in that building fund to at
2 least have the ability to go forward with the help of some
3 kind of additional financing or grants to constructing a
4 court building. And we are also in the process of looking
5 at other courts in the metropolitan area that are
6 relatively new to get some ideas on, you know, a good
7 approach.

8 So that's what I had to share with you today. If
9 there's any questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

10 MR. BONDS: Any questions from the Board?

11 Yes, sir.

12 MR. ZECH: Just a couple quick ones.

13 JUDGE CLIFTON: Sure.

14 MR. ZECH: When you said you're really short on
15 public parking spaces, your employees can park in one spot
16 and the public in another, or does the employees have to
17 take up spaces that would be for the public?

18 JUDGE CLIFTON: Very good question.

19 Actually the entire parking lot which is adjacent
20 to the court consists of a total of I believe 35 spaces.
21 Our staff, depending on the particular date because we
22 have some part-time people, typically takes between I
23 would say 16 to 18 of those, perhaps 20 of those spaces,
24 depending on the date.

25 So the court staff is parked in the same area as

1 the public, which I can say from personal experience is
2 not always beneficial, because I came out one day to find,
3 because I park at the end, the corner of my car was hit by
4 somebody going through the parking lot, and I suspect
5 because either they had not a valid license and/or no
6 insurance, they decided not to stay. So I got to pay that
7 \$1,000 repair bill out of my pocket. So we would -- that
8 would be something going forward we would like to have is
9 to separate, because seriously, our court staff is
10 concerned at times, you know, when they leave at the end
11 of the day, sometimes they go out individually, and, you
12 know, there's a real concern on their part about their
13 safety.

14 We're looking into adding some additional cameras
15 on the exterior of the building to provide some further
16 security to that end, because also our officers, our court
17 officers typically are transferring prisoners on a daily
18 basis from the court back to the City of Lincoln Park
19 jail, which is adjacent to the courthouse. And you just
20 don't know in today's world that, you know, somebody could
21 be lying in wait in that parking lot for, you know, a
22 friend or a family member of a person in custody to try to
23 help them escape, because we have, you know, and at the
24 district court level we conduct felony examinations, so we
25 have people charged with murders and similarly very

1 serious crimes that are potentially looking at long terms
2 of prison if convicted. So that's certainly a concern
3 going forward with regard to the parking.

4 MR. ZECH: That was the reason for my question
5 because I know a number of courts over the years have
6 segregated their employee parking from the public parking.
7 And also they're concerned about not only someone trying
8 to help someone escape, but they're also perhaps worried
9 about somebody being in the parking lot that would like to
10 get at somebody that is under arrest because they've
11 inflicted some harm on a loved one or something.

12 JUDGE CLIFTON: It's an ongoing concern, that
13 type of potential for an altercation.

14 MR. ZECH: Thank you.

15 MR. BONDS: I just have one question, Judge
16 Clifton. On the court staff that you have, do you have
17 representatives from each of the three city police
18 departments that aid in helping to move inmates and to
19 deal with the public and crowd control and other security
20 measures?

21 JUDGE CLIFTON: In terms of the court staff
22 itself, we believe, and I certainly believe that the court
23 staff should represent to the extent possible all three
24 cities that the court represents. So to that end, we
25 employ individuals who reside in all three cities.

1 The in-house or in-court security, we have our
2 own court officer staff, and I can't tell you off the top
3 of my head where those individuals all reside, but they
4 reside in the immediate Downriver area. But we provide
5 court security.

6 The City of Lincoln Park, River Rouge, and Ecorse
7 are not required to provide any in-court security, and to
8 add to that, one of the advances that we've made that I
9 think is a real benefit to all three police departments is
10 that over the last couple of years through money received
11 from the State of Michigan, we've been able to upgrade our
12 technology so that each day when the court conducts
13 arrangements of in-custody prisoners, in the past each
14 city would have to have an officer or officers transport
15 the in-custody prisoners from each respective city to the
16 courthouse for that arrangement, and then depending on
17 what would happen, either the Defendant would be released
18 on some type of bond, or perhaps if there was a bond that
19 could not be met, they would be transported back to the
20 city, and then ultimately transported to Wayne County.

21 Now with the technology advances, we have in-
22 court video that is connected to each of the three cities,
23 and so for the arrangements we call those up on video from
24 each of the three police departments so we have just a,
25 you know, a single officer that's monitoring the prisoner

1 as they're in a room, and I see them, and they see me, and
2 we conduct the arrangement by video. And again, if a bond
3 cannot be met by that Defendant, Wayne County comes and
4 picks them up directly from the police station. So in
5 terms of saving manpower hours as it relates to
6 transporting Defendants, as well as certainly safety and
7 security, it's a vast improvement with the technology that
8 we're using now.

9 MR. BONDS: Okay.

10 MS. THOMAS: I have a question.

11 MR. BONDS: Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. THOMAS: You mentioned the accumulation of
13 the building fund. I think you said \$62,000 roughly. How
14 is that being divvied up? Are all communities
15 contributing?

16 Can you explain a little bit about the approach
17 for the building fund?

18 JUDGE CLIFTON: Certainly.

19 And I guess, I don't know if good news is a
20 appropriate term to use, but we assess an additional, with
21 the permission again of each of the three funding units,
22 we now assess an additional \$20 on each civil infraction
23 that is written and each misdemeanor case that is
24 assessed. You know, whatever city it comes from. So, you
25 know, River Rouge, Ecorse, Lincoln Park, whatever city

1 writes the ticket, that's an extra \$20 that's added for a
2 guilty plea. It's not just on the ticket itself because
3 obviously some tickets get dismissed. But every guilty or
4 responsible plea, \$20 is added, and it goes into this
5 general fund.

6 I said, you know, the good news aspect, what I
7 meant is that because not all people that are ticketed in
8 the three cities live in the three cities, they're coming
9 from other obviously jurisdictions where, you know, I
10 don't know if this is an appropriate way to put it, but
11 we're getting the help of other people to help pay for our
12 new court. But the tickets are generated from all three
13 cities.

14 MS. THOMAS: And given that Lincoln Park has
15 obviously a higher caseload, we would assume they probably
16 have more tickets and fines, and so their contribution
17 would probably be a lot higher --

18 JUDGE CLIFTON: Correct.

19 MS. THOMAS: -- than the other two communities.

20 JUDGE CLIFTON: No doubt. No doubt about that.
21 And I don't have that breakdown for you for that 62,000 of
22 what their share would be, but I would highly suspect more
23 of that is coming from Lincoln Park.

24 MR. BONDS: Any other questions?

25 Yes, ma'am.

1 MS. ALLEN: Thank you for the very detailed
2 update.

3 What is the estimated time for construction once
4 the project is shovel ready?

5 JUDGE CLIFTON: Well, we're -- honestly I would
6 say we're a little -- that's a little beyond what I know
7 right now. I'm hoping that somewhere in the next two to
8 three years we can have a new courthouse. I, you know,
9 I'm a practical person. I understand all three of our
10 cities are in financial distress. The idea of approaching
11 our voters and asking the voters to, you know, fund a new
12 courthouse is a difficult thing to do. So before we do
13 that, we want to accumulate a significant amount of money
14 toward that endeavor.

15 I can tell you, Ms. Allen, that I can give you
16 some ranges. There's a fairly new courthouse in the City
17 of Taylor. I believe the cost of construction for that
18 building was ballpark \$10,000,000. We are not looking --
19 if you've ever seen the Taylor Courthouse, it is a
20 beautiful structure -- we're not looking for anything like
21 that. I'm hoping that we can do a project somewhere in
22 the ballpark of about six or seven million.

23 One aspect that I will touch on that could impact
24 that, and as I mentioned, a lot of this is still in the
25 development stages, but I've, you know, received some

1 interests from our City of Lincoln Park Police Department
2 to join in on a new facility. If you've ever been to the
3 Lincoln Park Jail, it is not -- it's probably in worse
4 shape than the court in terms of facilities and size and
5 whatnot. So Chief Waters of the Lincoln Park Police has
6 expressed an interest in joining with the court, which is
7 actually becoming more and more a common approach in
8 municipalities; they join the police and court together.

9 To the extent that there is some required
10 transfer of prisoners, and there is, even with our
11 technology you still have to transfer prisoners from time
12 to time, with the police right part of the court structure
13 it makes it a lot more conducive to do. And I think it
14 would also be a good selling point to the public to
15 develop a, you know, a justice center if you will, for
16 both the police and court operations.

17 So with that, if that were to occur, and also in
18 any event because Lincoln Park contributes the majority of
19 the funding and revenue, the almost, you know, strong
20 likelihood is that a new courthouse would be built in
21 Lincoln Park anyway. If the police were to be part of it,
22 for sure it would be in Lincoln Park because obviously the
23 police have to be in Lincoln Park in order to perform
24 their business. So that's something else we're looking
25 at.

1 But, I'm sorry for a long answer to your
2 question, but it's really early to say when this could be
3 accomplished, but I'm hoping within two to three years.

4 MS. ALLEN: Thank you.

5 MR. BONDS: Okay. Anything else?

6 (No response.)

7 MR. BONDS: Hearing nothing else, Judge, Clifton,
8 we greatly appreciate --

9 JUDGE CLIFTON: All right.

10 MR. BONDS: -- your very thoughtful presentation.

11 And I have to comment. With the caseload that
12 you presented and with just two judges, I mean we're --
13 I'm sure us included with the city, are very grateful to
14 the work that you're doing because that's very commendable
15 given this caseload.

16 JUDGE CLIFTON: Well, you know, I don't want to
17 drift off into a, you know, another subject, but I will
18 just say I am very, very blessed to have this opportunity
19 because as a district judge, one of the great things about
20 it is you have an opportunity to really help the public
21 because of the discretion we have, and there are more than
22 a number of cases that come before myself and Judge
23 Zelenak where you can truly appreciate people are in
24 difficulty.

25 And I laugh sometimes with my wife; I feel like,

1 you know, I wear this hat as a judge, but I wear all these
2 other hats, teacher, social worker, psychologist,
3 counselor, because a big part of our job is just trying to
4 educate the public on, you know, how to conduct their
5 affairs. And also just to, you know, to make them
6 understand that the court is not a bad place. I think
7 there's a perception that if you owe money and you don't
8 go to court you are going to go to jail. And I regularly
9 tell people I don't ever send somebody to jail just
10 because they owe money. I send somebody to jail if they
11 owe money and then they don't come to court when I ask
12 them, and they don't have a good reason for appearing.
13 That regularly irritates the heck out of me because I try
14 my best to help people, and sometimes they make it
15 difficult.

16 But, you know, with that said, it's been a true
17 blessing for me to have this opportunity, so thank you
18 again.

19 MR. BONDS: Thank you very much. We greatly
20 appreciate it.

21 Okay, we're going to move on through the agenda.
22 And right now is the approval of resolutions and
23 ordinances for the city council meetings.

24 The first one is the resolution from the regular
25 city council meeting of August 1st, 2016, which is

1 Attachment 2. The chair will entertain a motion to
2 approve the resolutions from the August 1st, 2016 regular
3 city council meeting with the exception of Resolutions
4 2016-233, which is authorizing of the annual audit, and
5 Resolution 2016-236 which is accounts and claims payable.
6 Resolution 2016-233, the annual audit, Mr. Coppler.

7 MR. VAN de GRIFT: Chairman?

8 MR. BONDS: Yes?

9 MR. VAN de GRIFT: You may wish to solicit a
10 motion to approve the other ones.

11 MR. BONDS: Thank you, Drew.

12 The chair will entertain a motion.

13 MR. ZECH: I move that we approve the resolutions
14 from August 1 with the exception of 233 and 236.

15 MR. BONDS: Is there a second?

16 MS. THOMAS: Support.

17 MR. BONDS: And it's supported.

18 Any discussion?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, all those in favor
21 signify by stating aye.

22 MS. ALLEN: Aye.

23 MR. ZECH: Aye

24 MS. THOMAS: Aye.

25 MR. BONDS: Motion passed.

1 Resolution 2016-233, which is the annual audit.
2 So mister -- oh, please.

3 MS. GRIGGS: Actually I'll take it for him.

4 MR. BONDS: Thank you.

5 MS. GRIGGS: So we are requesting approval to
6 perform the annual audit, which is required by the State
7 of Michigan. Plante Moran would be performing that audit.
8 They have done it for several years for us now. And
9 that's pretty much our standard practice in the past that
10 it was approved annually. It hasn't been done the last
11 couple of years with the emergency manager here. But in
12 essence that's what it is is for the approval of the
13 annual audit.

14 MR. BONDS: Okay.

15 MS. THOMAS: Question?

16 MR. BONDS: Why don't we do it on the motion.

17 MS. THOMAS: Oh, okay.

18 MR. BONDS: The Chair will entertain a motion to
19 approve, deny, or postpone Resolution 2016-233, which is
20 the annual audit.

21 MS. ALLEN: So moved.

22 MR. BONDS: So moved.

23 Is there a second?

24 MS. THOMAS: Support.

25 MR. BONDS: Support.

1 Now for discussion.

2 MS. THOMAS: I had a question. \$91,000 appears
3 to be a large amount or a bit high I would say for an
4 annual audit. First question is is how long has Plante
5 Moran been with you?

6 And not only that, but when's the last time that
7 you have gone out for bid for this work?

8 MS. GRIGGS: Plante Moran has been doing the
9 audit for us, I believe -- I think it goes back to the
10 '80s. I could be off on that. I'm not sure when the last
11 time -- it has not been bid out for several years. That's
12 one of the items that we will be taking out to bid for the
13 next year. So they have been on our account for several
14 years.

15 As far as the 91,000, it is lower than we paid
16 last year. Last year there was some specialty work that
17 the emergency manager had them do as well. We are working
18 towards trying to reduce those costs as much as possible.
19 We've already done more schedules than we have in the
20 past. Unfortunately with reduced staffing over the years
21 we have relied on them pretty heavily. They've probably
22 done more, you know, than just a regular audit. So there
23 is some help in preparation from some of those schedules,
24 but that's one of our big goals in our department is to
25 move towards getting all of that prepared ahead of time.

1 MS. THOMAS: Do they prepare the CAFR for you as
2 well?

3 When you say some of the additional services, is
4 that CAFR prep, or what is --

5 MS. GRIGGS: Yeah, we don't -- we don't prepare a
6 separate CAFR here. That's part of that.

7 MR. BONDS: Any other discussion?

8 (No response.)

9 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, all of those in favor
10 signify by stating aye.

11 MR. ZECH: Aye.

12 MS. THOMAS: Aye.

13 MS. ALLEN: Aye.

14 MR. BONDS: No opposed. Motion passes.

15 Resolution 2016-236, accounts payable. Mr.
16 Coppler or Ms. Griggs?

17 MR. COPPLER: Pursuant to EM Order 60, all those
18 warrants that are over \$25,000 must be approved by the
19 city council, and approved by the Board as well.

20 MR. BONDS: Okay. The Chair will entertain a
21 motion to approve, deny, or postpone Resolution 2016-236
22 which is the accounts and claims payable.

23 MS. THOMAS: So moved.

24 MR. ZECH: Support.

25 MR. BONDS: Properly moved and supported.

1 Any discussion?

2 (No response.)

3 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, all those in favor
4 signify by stating aye.

5 MR. ZECH: Aye.

6 MS. ALLEN: Aye.

7 MS. THOMAS: Aye.

8 MR. BONDS: No opposed. Motion passes.

9 Resolution -- regular city council meeting of
10 August 15, 2016, which is Attachment 3 in your packet.

11 The Chair will entertain a motion to approve all
12 Resolution from the August 15, 2016 regular city council
13 meeting with the exception for Resolutions 2016-260, which
14 is the budget amendment, and Resolution 263, accounts and
15 claims payable.

16 MR. ZECH: I would move that we approve the items
17 from the August 15th, 2016 council meeting with the
18 exception 260 and 263.

19 MS. THOMAS: So moved -- or support. Sorry.

20 MR. BONDS: Properly moved and supported.

21 Any discussion?

22 (No response.)

23 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, all those in favor
24 signify by stating aye.

25 MR. ZECH: Aye.

1 MS. ALLEN: Aye.

2 MS. THOMAS: Aye.

3 MR. BONDS: Any opposed?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, motion passes.

6 Resolution 2016-260, which is the budget
7 amendment, Attachment 4. Mr. Coppler.

8 MR. COPPLER: Thank you.

9 So as you're aware, we discovered earlier this
10 year some major issues within one of the cells of our
11 retention basin.

12 The retention basin is an overflow for our
13 sanitary sewer system. When the system starts to get over
14 loaded because of stormwater events, it backs up. It is
15 pumped then to a 20.5 million gallon facility that either
16 holds it until after the rain event, or if we need to we
17 can treat it and send it in to the Ecorse to give us
18 relief.

19 A number of defects were found in the walls of
20 that particular building. Engineering and our staff put
21 together a plan to correct those. The Board and the
22 council approved us going out to be and doing the
23 engineering on it. It was estimated it would be a project
24 of about \$350,000.

25 The good news is that it's probably going to come

1 in under that. We did open bids here recently. You'll be
2 seeing that next month. But it looks like we'll be a
3 little bit below that \$350,000 number. So that's kind of
4 the reason for the expense.

5 Where the money is coming from, back in the '80s,
6 '90s when the facility was first built, it was done
7 through I believe bonding at the point in time through the
8 State of Michigan, and there was a requirement that the
9 city set aside approximately a million dollars for events
10 just like this. You know, they wanted to make sure that
11 we had a good practice in place that if something happens
12 we don't lose that investment that we're making. And
13 fortunately or unfortunately, depending on how you look at
14 it, money was not spent out of that towards the
15 maintenance of the facility. And so now we are going to
16 be taking advantage of that million dollars and doing work
17 that needs to be done, and probably, if we had had a
18 better maintenance operation put together for that, we may
19 not be here today spending this large amount, but we
20 probably would have spent a number in maintaining it.

21 But we are putting together a longer term plan.
22 There's other work that we need to do. We do need to take
23 a look at the other cells and make sure that we're not
24 seeing similar type of deterioration, and looking at those
25 every so often, and getting a sealing on the walls and the

1 floors of that facility.

2 MR. BONDS: Okay. The Chair will entertain a
3 motion to approve, deny, or postpone Resolution 2016-260,
4 which is the budget amendment.

5 MR. ZECH: So moved.

6 MS. THOMAS: Support.

7 MR. BONDS: Properly moved and supported.

8 Any discussion?

9 MS. THOMAS: I have a question.

10 What were some of the concerns or questions
11 regarding the ability to use this reserve? I'd like to
12 better understand that.

13 And also, was there a legal opinion done as well,
14 or you felt that you had a good answer from your auditors?

15 MR. COPPLER: Yeah, so when I first arrived there
16 was discussion about this million dollars that was set
17 aside, and there wasn't a lot of understanding about what
18 that money could be used, or why it could be used, or when
19 it could be used. So we started kind of going back,
20 looking through all the documents. And to be honest, you
21 know, I didn't walk away with everything that I'd seen
22 that there was still that ability to utilize the money the
23 way we were going to be doing it.

24 I did work with Plante Moran who did a little bit
25 of research and came up with what our best guess of why

1 that money was set aside, for what purposes, and the
2 timeframe that it had to be held. And the answer to how
3 long it had to be held was during the duration of the
4 payments of the bond. And I believe we paid that off in
5 2013; right around -- 2012, 2013. Somewhere in there is
6 when the last payment on that facility was made.

7 So it was their opinion that after that date the
8 money would be, could be utilized towards the maintenance
9 and repair of the facility.

10 And what, just to let you know what they said, it
11 is that, you know, I need to, as we do all this document
12 so they can put in the records everything I just told you.

13 MR. BONDS: Any further discussion?

14 (No response.)

15 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, all those in favor
16 signify by stating aye.

17 MR. ZECH: Aye.

18 MS. ALLEN: Aye.

19 MS. THOMAS: Aye.

20 MR. BONDS: Any opposed?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, motion passes.

23 Resolution 2016-263, which is accounts and claims
24 payable. Mr. Coppler.

25 MR. COPPLER: Pursuant to Order 60, we are

1 required to get approval from council and the RTAB for any
2 expenditures over \$25,000 and this was adopted by the
3 council at the last meeting there in August. If you have
4 any questions.

5 MR. BONDS: The chair will entertain a motion to
6 approve, deny, or postpone Resolution 2016-263, accounts
7 and claims payable.

8 MS. THOMAS: So moved.

9 MS. ALLEN: Second.

10 MR. BONDS: Properly moved and second.

11 Any discussion?

12 Yes, sir.

13 MR. ZECH: Is this the one about the animal
14 shelter?

15 MR. BONDS: No.

16 MR. COPPLER: No, no, no.

17 MR. ZECH: Coming up.

18 MR. COPPLER: This is -- yeah, it's coming up.

19 MR. BONDS: Coming up.

20 Any further discussion?

21 (No response.)

22 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, all those in favor
23 signify by stating aye.

24 MR. ZECH: Aye.

25 MS. ALLEN: Aye.

1 MS. THOMAS: Aye.

2 MR. BONDS: Any opposed?

3 (No response.)

4 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, motion passes.

5 Okay, we're going to move down to B, city manager
6 items, which are Attachment 5 in your packet. Items 1
7 through 3, while action on these next items occurred
8 during a council meeting outside the normal review period
9 for today's Board meeting, the city manager is requesting
10 to bring them forward for early review.

11 The first item is approval of Resolution 2016-
12 272, which is the franchise agreement with AT&T. This
13 item has been approved by the city council at their
14 September 6 council meeting. Mr. Coppler, if you would
15 like to please provide the summaries to the Board.

16 MR. COPPLER: Yes, thank you.

17 As you may or may not be aware, the city has
18 three different cable operators providing services within
19 the city, and they're allowed to do so through a franchise
20 agreement which is based upon state statute that allows
21 cities to enter into franchise agreements for these type
22 of providers.

23 AT&T originally I believe came into the city
24 right around 2007, which was the first franchise agreement
25 that was put out there under the, I think was the uniform

1 form. I can't remember what the word is now; it's totally
2 lost. But it has or will be expiring in 2017. They've
3 presented to the city the next ten year request. This
4 money, this does generate about \$126,000 in revenue for
5 the city's general fund, and another \$18,720 in revenues
6 for the cable fund.

7 MR. BONDS: I'm going to pause.

8 So the Chair will entertain a motion to approve,
9 deny, or postpone Resolution --

10 MR. ZECH: 272.

11 MR. BONDS: -- 272, the franchise agreement with
12 AT&T.

13 MS. ALLEN: So moved.

14 MR. BONDS: So moved.

15 MS. THOMAS: Support.

16 MR. BONDS: Support.

17 Any discussion?

18 Yes, ma'am, Ms. Allen.

19 MS. ALLEN: With regard to the fees that will be
20 paid under the new agreement, how do they compare with
21 what's in the current agreement?

22 Meaning, are they higher, the same, less than?

23 MR. COPPLER: Yeah, the percentages of the
24 revenue remain the same; exactly the same.

25 MR. BONDS: Okay. Stable.

1 Yes, sir?

2 MR. COPPLER: And just, maybe, you know, what
3 we've seen because cable prices go up all the time, you
4 know, you see kind of a gradual increase over time in each
5 of these.

6 MR. BONDS: Mr. Zech?

7 MR. ZECH: And the question is, or the comment
8 is, the five percent is governed by the federal
9 legislation, and so everybody gets five percent.

10 MR. COPPLER: Yep.

11 MR. ZECH: And the City of Southgate just did
12 this at their last meeting.

13 MR. BONDS: I see.

14 MR. ZECH: And --

15 MR. BONDS: I see. It's pretty standard.

16 MR. ZECH: -- and that sort of thing. But we
17 wish that we could raise it --

18 MR. BONDS: It's escalating by rates.

19 MR. ZECH: -- but we're limited by the federal
20 legislation.

21 What's kind of interesting, even though the rates
22 increase, they don't seem to lose many customers. It's
23 like people will not give up television. They might move
24 from one cable provider to another, but they won't give up
25 TV.

1 MR. COPPLER: Yep. That's very true.

2 MR. ZECH: And if something happens, they call
3 the city rather than call the cable company.

4 MR. BONDS: The provider.

5 All right.

6 MR. ZECH: Enough of that, Zech; I'll be quiet.

7 MR. BONDS: No, that's all right.

8 Any other discussion?

9 (No response.)

10 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, all those in favor of
11 approval signify by stating aye.

12 MR. ZECH: Aye.

13 MS. ALLEN: Aye.

14 MS. THOMAS: Aye.

15 MR. BONDS: Any opposed?

16 (No response.)

17 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, motion passes.

18 The second item is the approval of Resolution
19 2016-292, which is the animal shelter agreement with the
20 City of Taylor. This item was approved by the city
21 council last night as a matter of fact. And Mr. Coppler,
22 if you would like to provide a summary, we would
23 appreciate it.

24 MR. COPPLER: Definitely.

25 You may remember, I think I had given this as a

1 look ahead --

2 MR. BONDS: Yep.

3 MR. COPPLER: -- some time ago, that the city was
4 informed by the Downriver Animal Control Authority, the
5 authority where previously were taking our stray dogs and
6 cats, that -- I'm trying to think how best to put this --
7 they felt that the cost that we were paying and the type
8 of animals that we were bringing did not fit well with
9 their overall operations.

10 If you look at kind of the percentages, we were
11 bringing into their facility about 35 percent of the total
12 number of animals that they were receiving. So we were
13 larger percentage-wise than the three cities that make up
14 the Downriver Animal Control, which are Allen Park,
15 Southgate, and the City of Wyandotte.

16 There was early discussions before they finally
17 asked us not to renew our contract, and they were
18 estimating that if we stayed with them that we'd be
19 looking at a cost somewhere between \$70,000 and \$90,000 to
20 continue with them. They felt, at least one city felt
21 that the issues that they were having with volunteers
22 related to the animals that we were bringing to their
23 facility didn't warrant even us paying more money to them
24 to stay with them.

25 And I think, you know, the operation was pretty

1 good. It was very close in proximity for us, so we were
2 not really losing a lot of time with our animal control
3 officers if they had to go and drop a dog off and come
4 back. And so in looking at a replacement for this, one of
5 our top priorities was to try to keep our animal control
6 officers as much in the city as possible and not be
7 looking at traveling a large distance.

8 We did spend a few months early on when we were
9 first notified that it was in early May that we'd be
10 losing this contract to try to find, you know, cost-wise
11 something comparable to where we're at. Unfortunately
12 there really wasn't a lot of good options out there cost-
13 wise for the service, and those that we found that
14 possibly at least kept us within the constraints or close
15 to the constraints, travel time was going to be a big
16 issue. And again, when we're looking at potentially a 25
17 to 30 minute one-way trip to some of these different
18 destinations, it became, from our perspective, an
19 operational issue.

20 We generally have one animal control officer on.
21 There's times when there may be two, but generally one.
22 And the number of calls we get that, you know, they don't
23 just result in us taking an animal; there's barking dogs
24 and mistreatment. So there's a lot of different calls
25 that come in that would make our residents wait longer for

1 service if that were to happen.

2 By happenchance, started talking to the City of
3 Taylor, and they let us know that they did have capacity
4 and would be willing to talk with us. We've been going
5 back and forth with them, actually still going back and
6 forth with them to finalize what the agreement looks like.
7 So I don't have the final form yet for this, but the
8 biggest part of this is twofold: one, they're going to be
9 charging us \$100 per animal that we or our residents
10 deliver to the facility. So it's unlike the Downriver
11 Animal Control Authority, Downriver Animal Control
12 Authority; it's not a flat fee that covers everything.
13 It's going to be based upon the numbers of animals that we
14 bring.

15 We've looked at these numbers over the last three
16 years, and we did averages, and we're taking about 550
17 animals to the shelter. And I will say that, you know,
18 the numbers are what are given to us by the Downriver
19 Animal Control. I don't know necessarily if they're good
20 numbers or not, but they are in the range of when we were
21 delivering animals to our own shelter. So I think the
22 numbers could be decent numbers for planning purposes to
23 look at. So when we were looking at 550 a year, that's
24 good.

25 Now, based upon a six month review of what we've

1 already delivered to the Downriver Animal Control, we're
2 on pace to be just underneath that for this year; probably
3 in the 500 animal range. I haven't seen the last month's
4 numbers; it only goes through July. But I think we're
5 trending beneath that. And we had one year where we were
6 delivering about 900 animals, so we're starting to go down
7 from that at this point.

8 So we're estimating that at the top end we'll be
9 spending about \$55,000, which is approximately \$30,000
10 more than what if we were -- well, if you compare it to
11 the last contract we had with Downriver, but that's, you
12 know, a fallacy to think about that because if we were
13 with them July 1st, we'd have had a totally different
14 number, which again, depending upon the day was anywhere
15 from \$70,000 to \$90,000.

16 We're looking at a one year contract with options
17 to renew if necessary, but our thinking is that there is a
18 need not only in the City of Lincoln Park, but some of our
19 adjoining cities for cost-effective animal sheltering.
20 You know, the City of Ecorse which we had spoken to early
21 on, as well as the City of River Rouge, River Rouge
22 actually provides that service to Ecorse. Their facility
23 is somewhat antiquated and, you know, they're probably
24 going to be looking at some point to spend money to
25 upgrade that.

1 And we are looking through the Distressed Cities
2 Grant Program to submit an application if council agrees
3 with that, to build a new facility for the animals here in
4 Lincoln Park. And cost-wise, if we get the facility paid
5 for, we'd be probably in the same neighborhood of that
6 \$50,000 to \$55,000 operational cost in terms of part-time
7 and electricity and all the supplies you need.

8 MR. BONDS: So the Chair will entertain a motion
9 to approve, deny, or postpone Resolution 2016-292.

10 MR. ZECH: So moved.

11 MR. BONDS: Is there a second?

12 MS. THOMAS: Support.

13 MS. ALLEN: Second.

14 MR. BONDS: And discussion.

15 So here, if I may, my question is this: as the
16 court has just presented with the three county
17 partnership, I like the fact that you're trying to pursue
18 that. Is there something that the three communities could
19 be actively doing now?

20 Because it sounds like there is some reduction in
21 these animals that are being put into shelters. Is there
22 any type of PR or information that could be disseminated
23 to, you know, your body, your public about spaying and
24 neutering?

25 Because these are probably, you know, unwanted

1 animals.

2 MR. COPPLER: And actually that's --

3 MR. BONDS: Because this cause is something that
4 looks like it is going to escalate, and with the three
5 partnerships already having a model for sharing costs and
6 coming up with solutions, maybe that's a good project for
7 them to, you know, work on collectively.

8 MR. COPPLER: And I think actually one of the
9 intriguing things working with the City of Taylor is
10 listening to their plans for outreach as part of this,
11 working with us to outreach to our residents, as well as
12 their residents, on ways to reduce the potential for dogs
13 ending up in the shelter, I think it helps -- you know,
14 the City of Taylor has a lot of good things going for
15 them. They have a lot of good people working for them.
16 You know, they have a lot of great ideas. And so I think,
17 you know, we'll be able to take some of this that we're
18 working with them in the next year, plus or minus, and
19 utilize that in the City of Lincoln Park.

20 I think the relationship with the City of Ecorse
21 or the potential there with them and Rouge, that's going
22 to take a little bit more.

23 MR. BONDS: Okay.

24 MR. COPPLER: I think there's already, you know,
25 as you said, you know, actually if you ever attend one of

1 our DUWA meetings, you know, it's River Rouge, it's
2 Lincoln Park, it's Ecorse sitting right there. So we talk
3 a lot about a lot of different issues. And I think
4 there's a willingness by at least those parties that are
5 sitting there at the table to do more projects together,
6 and I think there's a lot of things that we can do
7 together. I just think that, you know, we're kind of all
8 on different stages of getting it together to where we can
9 start doing those things.

10 MR. BONDS: Is there a statutory requirement that
11 the city must provide this service?

12 MR. COPPLER: That is a good question.

13 MR. BONDS: Well, the only reason why I say it is
14 because there might come a time where we may not be so
15 adverse to entertain these type of motions.

16 MR. COPPLER: Yeah.

17 MR. BONDS: And so if I could get an answer to
18 that --

19 MR. COPPLER: Yeah.

20 MR. BONDS: -- is the City under any mandate,
21 because that could play into --

22 MR. COPPLER: Sure.

23 MR. BONDS: -- where we look at these revenues.

24 MR. COPPLER: Yeah.

25 MR. BONDS: And the expenditures for the City.

1 MR. COPPLER: And you know, one of the things
2 that isn't answered within this that we are working on is
3 that there is a cost for people to drop off animals as
4 well as to pick them up. And so if that's still being
5 worked on in terms of how that goes towards costs versus
6 revenue, so there's still potential -- again, I gave you
7 the worst case scenario --

8 MR. BONDS: Sure. Sure.

9 MR. COPPLER: -- that we have, but hopefully
10 within the next few days this will all be finalized and we
11 can put it to bed, but.

12 MR. BONDS: Okay.

13 Any other questions from any other members of the
14 Board?

15 (No response.)

16 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, all those in favor
17 signify by stating aye.

18 MR. ZECH: Aye.

19 MS. ALLEN: Aye.

20 MS. THOMAS: Aye.

21 MR. BONDS: Any opposed?

22 Hearing none, motion passes.

23 Thank you, Mr. Coppler.

24 The next item is the approval of city manager's
25 appointment to the Department of Public Services and the

1 police department, which is Attachment 5.

2 Mr. Coppler?

3 MR. COPPLER: Sure.

4 Going real quick, there's actually appointments
5 to public services, police department, and finance,
6 treasury, and clerk's office.

7 There's been some changes because when we submit
8 these it's anticipation that we'll have everything lined
9 up for when you get here today. Unfortunately things
10 happened where we don't always get the canvas that we
11 think we're going to be getting. So there are some
12 changes that I'll go through really quick.

13 We were anticipating a part-time police officer
14 to be appointed as well as part of this motion. That is
15 no longer going to be done. The candidate decided not to
16 accept an offer.

17 The Department of Parks and Recreation, we had a
18 part-time building supervisor lined up. That individual
19 notified us I think right at the end of last week or the
20 beginning of this weeks, that they no longer were
21 interested. So we're going to be removing that
22 appointment.

23 And then lastly we're supposed to be looking at
24 three part-time administrative clerk positions in the
25 finance, treasury, clerk's office. We're only going to be

1 making two appointments.

2 MR. BONDS: Okay.

3 MR. COPPLER: So, with that being said, we have,
4 first off two full-time appointments for the Department of
5 Public Services. You might recall that as part of this
6 year's budget the increase in the staffing allotment for
7 that, we are looking at one worker, additional worker in
8 the roads, one additional worker in the sewer operations,
9 and three additional workers in the water operations. And
10 we're going through some retirements as well, so this is
11 going to be a fluid number for a while. But we feel that
12 we have two good candidates to fill both these positions,
13 \$14 an hour, and again, they're going to be paid out of
14 the water operations for public services.

15 MR. BONDS: Okay.

16 So -- I'm sorry. Let me do a motion. The Chair
17 will entertain a motion to approve, deny, or postpone the
18 hiring of the nine positions detailed in Attachment 5.

19 MS. ALLEN: Move to approve.

20 MR. BONDS: Is there a second?

21 MS. THOMAS: Support.

22 MR. BONDS: Support.

23 Discussion?

24 MR. COPPLER: So yeah, if I -- I started jumping
25 ahead here.

1 MR. BONDS: Yeah, I was going to ask you, can you
2 --

3 MR. COPPLER: Yeah.

4 MR. BONDS: Because we're going to have to modify
5 this particular approval.

6 Can you give us the summary exactly the
7 positions?

8 You mentioned there's two FTEs in the Department
9 of Public Service.

10 MR. COPPLER: So yeah, going down my memo is
11 probably the best way to go about this.

12 MR. BONDS: Okay.

13 MR. COPPLER: So we have two positions in public
14 services, full-time public service workers. And I don't
15 know if you want the names. I can give you the names --

16 MR. BONDS: No.

17 MR. COPPLER: -- if necessary.

18 Then in the police department we have two full-
19 time positions that we're looking to appoint there.

20 MR. BONDS: Okay.

21 MR. COPPLER: Then under finance, treasury, clerk
22 we have two positions that are part-time administrative
23 clerks.

24 MR. BONDS: Okay.

25 MR. COPPLER: So a total of six appointments.

1 MR. BONDS: All right.

2 MS. ALLEN: May I ask a question about the --

3 MR. BONDS: Yes.

4 MS. ALLEN: -- the administrative clerks?

5 Are two of them, at least one going to the city
6 clerk's office?

7 MR. COPPLER: So the way that this is -- that
8 would have been the third position for that. So one
9 position is going to be more -- well, two of the positions
10 are going to be treasury-slash-water office employees. So
11 they're going to be kind of back filling and doing some of
12 the work that's not getting done within the operations
13 that we need to get done to keep it going forward.

14 The third position was to address something that
15 the clerk had brought up. I think it was two meetings,
16 three meetings ago, getting prepared for the elections.
17 Now, we had what we thought was a good candidate. In
18 doing some of the background we felt that it probably was
19 not going to go very well, and had that name up until
20 about two hours ago.

21 MS. ALLEN: Okay.

22 MR. COPPLER: Unfortunately.

23 But what we are going to do, she did have an
24 intern in those. Because of class schedule we're able to
25 keep that position going forward a little bit longer. I

1 believe they're going to be doing interviews later this
2 week for the next set of candidates for that position, and
3 so you'll probably be seeing that at the October meeting.

4 MS. ALLEN: Okay. Because I did notice that she
5 mentioned in the performance report the concern about
6 needing --

7 MR. COPPLER: Yep.

8 MS. ALLEN: -- the additional support.

9 MR. BONDS: Yes. Yes.

10 MR. COPPLER: And I think, you know, these we
11 spent probably about a month-and-a-half looking at the
12 best way to fill that administrative clerk need that we
13 have in our customer service operations on our first
14 floor. You know, there is a possibility that next year's
15 budget we may be looking at taking one of these positions
16 up to a full-time, because one of the other things that
17 has happened here is we're now, we now have -- City Hall
18 is open five days a week to the public. Before it was
19 four; we've now added a fifth day. And so it does, you
20 know, increase the hours of operation for the customer
21 service part of what we do, but there's also a large
22 component to some of the back office work that needs to be
23 done to make sure that we can have the time at the windows
24 appropriately for the customers walking in.

25 MR. BONDS: Okay.

1 Can I ask the person who moved this, the motion
2 if, so could it change that to from 9 to 6?

3 MS. ALLEN: Yes.

4 MR. BONDS: As a friendly amendment?
5 And the support?

6 MS. THOMAS: Support.

7 MR. BONDS: Okay. Any further discussion?
8 (No response.)

9 MR. BONDS: Hearing none, all those in favor
10 signify by stating aye.

11 MR. ZECH: Aye.

12 MS. ALLEN: Aye.

13 MS. THOMAS: Aye.

14 MR. BONDS: No opposed. Motion passes.

15 Okay, the final reports, Items 5 through 10 I
16 received in a file which is the budget to actual, cash
17 flow and balance sheet, check disbursement report,
18 overtime reports, tax collection and timing of revenue
19 reports and the monthly report.

20 I do want to make one quick comment as Ms. Allen
21 mentioned in the monthly report is the piece on the police
22 department. I'll go on record by saying that was
23 phenomenal of the things that they've been doing in
24 building the rapport. I mean the fundraisers, the
25 community events just seemed to be very outstanding with

1 their involvement here with the community. So I just
2 wanted to recognize that.

3 MR. COPPLER: Just to let you know, with the
4 additional employee, that'd be -- or position we hired for
5 the community service policing position is beyond what our
6 expectations already and it's only been a short time.

7 MR. BONDS: It's quite evident.

8 Okay, City Administrator report.

9 MR. COPPLER: I didn't have any formal report.

10 There is a lot going on that probably starting in
11 November you'll be seeing some probably fairly bigger
12 items. One of the more interesting ones that I know one
13 of the board members in his other career is right now
14 starting to get an understanding of is that ultimate, you
15 know, what happens with the wastewater treatment plant,
16 and that's going to be a huge issue for 13 communities
17 over the next several months. So you'll be seeing
18 different items that potentially --

19 MR. BONDS: Got you.

20 MR. COPPLER: -- depending upon what the city
21 council does.

22 MR. ZECH: Mr. Chairman?

23 MR. BONDS: Yes, sir.

24 MR. ZECH: When he referred to the, an acronym
25 DUWA a little while ago, I'm not certain that that -- an

1 acronym maybe is something that the three of you are
2 familiar with. I hope you are. I suspect you are.

3 MR. BONDS: Very much so.

4 MR. ZECH: But as he was mentioning a little
5 while ago about, we keep seeing each other at these
6 meetings and as well as the City of Taylor, City of Allen
7 Park, et cetera. We're all involved with trying to figure
8 out this wastewater treatment matter.

9 MR. BONDS: Great. Great. Good work.

10 Public comment -- thank you, Mr. Coppler.

11 Public comment?

12 MR. VAN de GRIFT: Only one. Richard Kudrak.

13 MR. BONDS: Thank you.

14 MR. KUDRAK: Good afternoon. My name is Richard
15 Kudrak.

16 MR. BONDS: Good afternoon.

17 MR. KUDRAK: I want to express my concern about
18 the possible purchase of the wastewater treatment plant.
19 There is nobody in the city or nobody in DUWA who can tell
20 me what the maintenance costs are going to be in the
21 future. You might be able to project the legacy cost.
22 You haven't got -- nobody has a clue what the maintenance
23 costs are going to be. All we need is some judge to come
24 in here and say, "Hey, we need a 20 to 30 million dollar
25 upgrade to this very, very old facility." And it would

1 destroy the funding for all these cities.

2 So while the City of Lincoln Park is looking to
3 make this purchase, I want you folks to be alert for
4 possible red flags why this should never happen.

5 Lincoln Park spent 3 million dollars on the
6 Honeywell project with little value to residents. Taxes
7 were raised after they failed to make the payments.
8 Lincoln Park spent 3 million dollars on the remote
9 readable water meters with very little value to the
10 residents. The early retirement incentive in 2004
11 destroyed the funding for pensions. And we just had a
12 Honey -- a heavy override to make up that shortfall.

13 These happened in the past. We should learn from
14 our mistakes and be very, very careful about buying that
15 wastewater treatment plant when nobody knows what the
16 costs are going to be. Thank you.

17 MR. BONDS: Thank you.

18 MR. VAN de GRIFT: That concludes public comment.

19 MR. BONDS: Thank you, Drew.

20 Any Board comment?

21 MR. ZECH: Just one comment, Mr. Chair.

22 MR. BONDS: Yes, sir.

23 MR. ZECH: Since going to work for the City of
24 Southgate a little over a month ago, I've been learning
25 about the comment he made just a little while ago about

1 the back office work, and I always ran into this in my
2 experience with Wayne, but more cities seem to be trying
3 to, and it may be the wrong -- it's the wrong analogy of
4 banker's hours, but you know, the bank employees show up
5 at 8:00, they don't open the doors 'til 10:00, and then
6 they close the doors at 4:00, and they go home at 5:00 or
7 something along those lines. With the shrinking staffs,
8 cities have had to look at having like City Hall is open
9 for certain public hours.

10 MR. BONDS: Uh-huh.

11 MR. ZECH: And meanwhile, the employees are
12 there, but they're trying to catch up because there's
13 fewer of them. And so then when the City Hall doors are
14 opened, the public can come in, do their business, and go.
15 It takes a little bit of education as far as what those
16 hours should be, but it's -- the employees feel real
17 stressed when there's somebody at the window or at the
18 counter, or whatever, waiting to be served, and they're in
19 the middle of something, and they have to stop and go to
20 the counter and wait on somebody, and then they come back
21 and they have to start over again with doing whatever they
22 were calculating or working on, and then someone comes to
23 the counter or someone calls on the phone. And so a lot
24 of communities are looking at trying to reduce the hours
25 that the public can come in to City Hall.

1 MR. BONDS: Interesting, so rethinking --

2 MR. ZECH: They're even thinking about maybe
3 having, you know, everybody's trying to do things on the
4 computer too so you don't have to come into City Hall, but
5 maybe they'll have one day a week the City Hall will be
6 open in the evening for people that want to come in --

7 MR. BONDS: Interesting.

8 MR. ZECH: -- on their way after work or
9 something. So I'm curious as to how you're going to go
10 with that. We'll share notes.

11 I know the building department shuts down early
12 two days a week in Southgate to try to catch up with all
13 the permits.

14 MR. BONDS: Great. Rethinking everything.

15 I have one comment. At next month's meeting I'm
16 going to, both Drew and I are going to just do a review
17 with the Board on our rules of procedure just to touch
18 base, because I think with some of the offices that
19 several of you hold, we want to just make sure that we're
20 all clearly understanding of when there's a potential for
21 conflict of interest to make sure that we're all on the
22 same page, because we want us to be very effective as much
23 as we can for the City of Lincoln Park; knowing that you
24 may be in a position where things will rise to that level.
25 So we're going to have that on the agenda for next month

1 to walk through our rules of procedures that we approved
2 earlier this year. So that's all I have.

3 Any other news?

4 (No response.)

5 MR. BONDS: All right. I think we're adjourned.
6 Is there a motion to move?

7 MR. ZECH: So moved.

8 MS. THOMAS: Support.

9 MR. BONDS: Support.

10 All those in favor say aye.

11 MR. ZECH: Aye.

12 MS. ALLEN: Aye.

13 MS. THOMAS: Aye.

14 MR. BONDS: Good meeting. Thank you all for your
15 time an attention. Thank you for the City for all your
16 great work.

17 (Proceedings adjourned at 2:16 p.m.)

1 STATE OF MICHIGAN
2 COUNTY OF WASHTENAW) .ss

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5 I certify that this transcript is a complete, true, and
6 correct transcript to the best of my ability of the RTAB
7 meeting held on September 20, 2016 at the City of Lincoln Park.

8 I also certify that I am not a relative or employee of the
9 parties involved and have no financial interest in this case.

10
11

12 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: September 23, 2016

13 *s/ Amy Shankleton-Novess*

14
15

16 _____
17 Amy Shankleton-Novess (CER 0838)
Certified Electronic Reporter