

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

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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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4

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  
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16 \_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Shankleton-Novess (CER 0838)

17 Certified Electronic Reporter