

REGULAR MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE
CITY OF DEARBORN

April 8, 2025

The Council convened at 7:04 P.M., President of the Council Michael Sareini presiding. Present at roll call were Councilmembers Abraham, Alsawafy, Enos, Hammoud, Herrick, Paris, and President of the Council Sareini (7); Absent: None (0). A quorum being present, the Council was declared in session.

Pastor Albert LeBlanc of Hope Lutheran Church delivered the invocation.

All persons that were able stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

By Alsawafy supported by Abraham.

4-152-25. RESOLVED: Acknowledging Wayne Metro Liaisons Ali Khashab and Mohamed Othman for their continued residential support and assistance, with a Council Citation; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Sareini supported by Herrick.

4-153-25. WHEREAS: In 2017, the nonprofit media and education organization, Arab America Foundation and Arab America, began the initiative for the month of April to be designated as National Arab American Heritage Month, and

WHEREAS: In 2019, Governor Gretchen Whitmer proclaimed the month of April as National Arab American Heritage Month in the State of Michigan, and

WHEREAS: By 2021, it was recognized nationally by U.S. President Joseph R. Biden Jr. with the U.S. Department of State, some members of Congress and 37 governors issuing proclamations supporting the month, and

WHEREAS: The month of April serves to celebrate the rich and diverse culture and contributions of Arab Americans in our country. From Farouk El-Baz who served as NASA's lead geologist for the Apollo space program from 1967 to 1972, to Ahmed Zewail who served on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1999, and to Donna Shalala who is the first Lebanese American to serve in a U.S. government Cabinet post, these individuals work, along with a countless number of others have not gone unnoticed, and

WHEREAS: We not only recognize those who have made their mark in various fields of study, but we also recognize those who live within our community. Known as the hometown of Henry Ford, the City of Dearborn also boasts the largest and most diverse Arab community across the entire nation, and

WHEREAS: The considerable participation of Arab Americans in Dearborn has enriched the life and tapestry of our city, and

WHEREAS: We are committed to making sure these contributions to our country and community are promoted and celebrated so that they are more widely understood and appreciated locally and across our nation; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the 34th Dearborn City Council, proclaim April 2025 to be National Arab American Heritage Month in the City of Dearborn and encourage our entire community to commemorate this special observance; be it further

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Sareini supported by Hammoud.

4-154-25. WHEREAS: Autism Spectrum Disorder is a neurological and developmental disorder that affects communication and behavior of those affected by it, and

WHEREAS: As more health professionals become proficient in diagnosing autism, more children are being diagnosed on the autism spectrum, resulting in rates as high as 1 in 44 children nationally with Michigan having the fifth largest autism population as compared to other states, and

WHEREAS: While there is no cure for autism, it is well-documented that if individuals with autism receive early treatment, it often is possible for those individuals to lead significantly improved lives, and

WHEREAS: Individuals with autism often require a lifetime of specialized and community support services needed to ensure their health, safety and opportunities to pursue their full potential and happiness and to support families' resilience as they manage the psychological and financial burdens autism presents, and

WHEREAS: To raise awareness and encourage acceptance, the Dearborn-based nonprofit organization Blue Hands United is Working with the Dearborn police and fire departments to lead local efforts to educate parents, professionals, and the general public about autism and increase overall awareness and acceptance of autism by holding a public event, providing lawn signs, and lighting neighborhoods throughout the month of April to promote participation from the community in this multi-faceted effort; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the members of the 34th Dearborn City Council hear-by recognize April 2025 as National Autism Awareness Month in the City of Dearborn and we call this observance to the attention of all of our employees, residents and members of the business community.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Sareini supported by Paris.

4-155-25. WHEREAS: Social Workers enter the profession because they have a strong desire to help empower individuals, families, communities, and our nation overcome issues that prevent them from reaching their full potential, and

WHEREAS: Social Workers have worked for more than a century to improve the human wellbeing and enhance the basic needs of all people, and

WHEREAS: Social Workers follow a Code of Ethics that call on them to fight social injustice and respect the dignity and worth of all people, and

WHEREAS: Social Workers positively touch the lives of millions of Americans each day and in a variety of places, including schools, hospitals, the military, child welfare agencies, community centers, and in federal, state and local government, and

WHEREAS: The 2025 Social Work Month theme, "Social Work: Compassion + Action." In the weeks and months ahead, social workers will be called to turn their compassion into action to help our nation address a variety of societal challenges, including the prospect there could be mass deportations of migrants and continued attacks on the people who are LGBTQIA2+, reproductive rights, and diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, and

WHEREAS: Social Workers are the largest group of mental health care providers in the United States, working daily to help thousands of Americans overcome mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety, and

WHEREAS: Social Workers are on the frontlines of the nation's opioid addiction crisis, helping people get the treatment they need and overcome substance use disorders, and

WHEREAS: Social Workers have helped people cope with death and grief and communities recover from natural disasters that are increasingly fueled by our warming climate, including hurricanes, drought and flooding, and

WHEREAS: Social Workers have helped this nation live up to its values by advocating for equal rights for all, including people of color, people who are Indigenous, people who LGBTQIA2S+, and people who follow various faiths, and

WHEREAS: Social Workers have continued to push for changes that have made our society a better place to live, including a livable wage, improved workplace safety, and social safety net programs that help ameliorate poverty, hunger, and homelessness, and

WHEREAS: Social Workers endeavor to work throughout our society to meet people where they are and help empower people and our society to reach the goals they wish to attain; therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That in recognition of the numerous contributions made by America's Social Workers, the 34th City Council proclaims the month of April 2025 as National Social Work Month in celebration and support of the Social Work Profession.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Sareini supported by Herrick.

4-156-25. WHEREAS: Every year on April 28th the nation recognizes Workers Memorial Day, and

WHEREAS: This is the day we pay our respects to those who lost their lives on the job and recognize the impact these losses have on families, co-workers, and communities, and

WHEREAS: The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that there were 4,764 fatal work injuries in the United States in 2020—an equivalent of one worker dying every 111 minutes from a work-related injury, and

WHEREAS: In 2020, 131 workers were lost through fatal workplace accidents in Michigan, and

WHEREAS: It is appropriate to honor the memory of the courageous and dedicated members of Michigan's workforce who have been injured, disabled, or who have died as a result of workplace accidents, and

WHEREAS: We remember those who have died in workplace accidents, suffered occupational related diseases, or have been injured due to dangerous conditions, and

WHEREAS: Recognition of Michigan's workforce and its achievements on behalf of the economic growth of our state is necessary; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That this City Council wishes to honor the workers who have died or who have been injured or disabled in workplace accidents, be it further

RESOLVED: That the members of the 34th City Council renews its efforts in seeking stronger workplace safety and health protections, better standards and enforcement, and fair and just compensation by rededicating ourselves to improving safety and health in our workplace; be it further

RESOVLED: That this City Council declares April 28, 2025 as Workers Memorial Day; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Herrick supported by Enos.

4-157-25. RESOLVED: That the Council Rules of Order be temporarily suspended to bring forth agenda items 27, 28, and 29.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Herrick supported Unanimously.

4-158-25. WHEREAS: The Council has learned with sorrow of the passing of Helen J. Bandyke, and

WHEREAS: This departure at the dictation of Divine Providence constitutes an irreplaceable loss to the beloved family and numerous friends and neighbors; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the members of the 34th Council of the City of Dearborn here assembled, hereby sincerely extend and offer in this sad hour of bereavement, heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family of the deceased; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Sareini supported Unanimously.

4-159-25. WHEREAS: The Council has learned with sorrow of the passing of Sandra Ann Elliott, and

WHEREAS: This departure at the dictation of Divine Providence constitutes an irreplaceable loss to the beloved family and numerous friends and neighbors; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the members of the 34th Council of the City of Dearborn here assembled, hereby sincerely extend and offer in this sad hour of bereavement, heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family of the deceased; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Sareini supported Unanimously.

4-160-25. WHEREAS: The Council has learned with sorrow of the passing of Meryl McKeever, and

WHEREAS: This departure at the dictation of Divine Providence constitutes an irreplaceable loss to the beloved family and numerous friends and neighbors; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the members of the 34th Council of the City of Dearborn here assembled, hereby sincerely extend and offer in this sad hour of bereavement, heartfelt sympathy and condolences to the family of the deceased; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Public Comment began at 7:31 P.M. and ended at 8:04 P.M.

By Enos supported by Abraham.

4-161-25. RESOLVED: That all items on the Consent Agenda for the meeting of April 8, 2025 be and are hereby approved.

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was adopted as follows; Yeas: Abraham, Alsawafy, Enos, Hammoud, Herrick, Paris, and Sareini (7); Nays: None (0); Absent: None (0).

By Herrick supported by Enos.

4-162-25. WHEREAS: The Department of Public Works and Facilities, Highways Division has requested City Council authorize the Purchasing Agent to make a commitment to the State of Michigan under the MiDeal Cooperative Program to purchase 3,000 tons of salt for "early delivery" and 3,000 tons as "seasonal back-up" for the 2025/2026 winter period. The 2024/2025 season MiDeal salt prices were \$62.29 per ton for "early delivery" and \$58.42 per ton for "seasonal backup"; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That City Council hereby authorizes the Purchasing Agent to make a commitment to the State of Michigan under the MiDeal Cooperative Program to purchase 3,000 tons of salt for "early delivery" and 3,000 tons as "seasonal back-up" for the 2025/2026 winter period; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Hammoud supported by Herrick.

4-163-25. RESOLVED: That the bid from Nickel & Saph, Inc. through Midwest Employers Casualty Company received for Excess Workers' Compensation Coverage in the annual amount of \$86,571 is hereby accepted, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a formal contract upon the approval of the Department of Law; provided however, that all of the specifications and instructions in the bid have been fully complied with; be it further

RESOLVED: That the contract shall be for a term of three-years, valid from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028 with one (1) three-year renewal option available; be it further

RESOLVED: That this contract shall be financed from the Workers' Compensation Fund, Law Department, Insurance and Bonds budget; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Herrick supported by Enos.

4-164-25. WHEREAS: The City presently has a contract with Brantley Development (C.R.11-500-19) for City-owned Vacant Lot Maintenance, and

WHEREAS: The Purchasing Division received a request from the Economic Development Department to extend that contract, and

WHEREAS: Brantley Development has offered to extend the present contract prices for a term of one-year with, four (4) one-year renewal options available; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the contract for City-owned Vacant Lot Maintenance is hereby extended with Brantley Development for a term of one-year with, four (4) one-year renewal options available in an annual amount not to exceed \$160,859; be it further

RESOLVED: That this contract shall be financed from the General Fund, Property Maintenance & Development Services, Neighborhood Services, Contractual Services, Vacant Lot Maintenance budget; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Sareini supported by Enos.

4-165-25. RESOLVED: Adopting the proposed Council Rules of Order by amending Sections 7.3, 8.1, and 8.12; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Hammoud supported by Herrick.

4-166-25. RESOLVED: Amending Council Resolution No. 3-118-25 by changing the fiscal years for CDBG resources for the Lapeer Park Playscape project from FY2022-23 (B-22-MC-26) to FY2023-24 (B-23-MC-26) unexpended and unprogrammed CDBG funding, and the Wyoming Commercial Demolition project funding from FY2023-24 (B-23-MC-26) to FY2024-25 (B-24-MC-26) unexpended and unprogrammed CDBG funding, due to the incorrect fiscal years being specified; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Enos supported by Herrick.

4-167-25. RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous regular meeting of March 18, 2025 and the same are hereby approved as recorded and published.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

Council President Pro Tem Herrick introduced Ordinance No. 25-1839, entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Dearborn by amending Article 1.00, Entitled 'Short Title, Rules of Construction and Definitions', Article 4.00, Entitled 'Off-Street Parking and Loading requirements', Article 7.00, Entitled 'Site Development Standards Applicable to Specific Uses', Article 16.00, Entitled 'BC, General Business District', and Article 18, Entitled 'I-A, Light Industrial District'."

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.

The President of the Council announced that this was the first reading of the Ordinance.

By Paris supported by Hammoud.

4-168-25. RESOLVED: That proposed Ordinance No. 25-1839 be laid on the table.

The resolution was adopted as follows; Yeas: Abraham, Alsawafy, Enos, Hammoud, Herrick, Paris, and Sareini (7); Nays: None (0); Absent: None (0).

Council President Pro Tem Herrick introduced Ordinance No. 25-1840, entitled, "An Ordinance to Amend the Licenses and Business Regulations Chapter (Chapter 12) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Dearborn by amending Article VII, Entitled 'Street Vendors'."

The Clerk read the Ordinance by title.

The President of the Council announced that this was the first reading of the Ordinance.

By Enos supported by Abraham.

4-169-25. RESOLVED: That proposed Ordinance No. 25-1839 be laid on the table.

The resolution was adopted as follows; Yeas: Abraham, Alsawafy, Enos, Hammoud, Herrick, Paris, and Sareini (7); Nays: None (0); Absent: None (0).

By Herrick supported by Paris.

4-170-25. RESOLVED: That all proposals received for Immediate Abatement Services are hereby rejected, except the bids of Brantley Development, LLC and Ground Control Property Services in an amount not to exceed \$160,000, that the aforementioned bid is hereby accepted, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a formal contract upon the approval of the Department of Law; provided however, that all of the specifications and instructions in the bid have been fully complied with; be it further; be it further

RESOLVED: That the contract shall be for a term of one-year with up to four (4) one-year renewals contingent upon satisfactory performance by the vendor; be it further

RESOLVED: That this contract shall be financed from the General Fund, Property Maintenance and Development Services, Neighborhood Services, Contractual Services, Weed Mowing budget with Supplemental Budget from the General Fund, Property Maintenance and Development Services, Neighborhood Services, Contractual Services, Other - FY2026 proposed \$65,000 and further Supplemental Budget from the General Fund, Property Maintenance and Development Services, Neighborhood Services, Contractual Services, Large Nuisances Abatement - FY2026 proposed \$9,000; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Abraham supported by Herrick.

4-171-25. RESOLVED: That all bids received for the Design, Printing, and Mailing of the City of Dearborn Fall 2025/Winter 2026 City Magazine are hereby rejected except the bid of University Lithoprinters, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$76,835, that the aforementioned bid is hereby accepted, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute a formal contract upon the approval of the Department of Law; provided however, that all of the specifications and instructions in the bid have been fully complied with; be it further

RESOLVED: That the contract shall be for a term of one-year with four (4) one-year renewal options available pending satisfactory performance by the vendor; be it further

RESOLVED: That this contract shall be financed from the General Fund, Communications, Administration, Research, and Information, Printing and Binding budget; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Herrick supported by Paris.

4-172-25. WHEREAS: The Dearborn Fire Department is requesting acceptance of a recently awarded State of Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) Grant for Fire Department Facility Projects and Improvements, and

WHEREAS: Recently a facility assessment was conducted on all fire department properties and upon recognition of the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) Grant funding, facility improvement projects will begin to be put out for bid, and

WHEREAS: It is requested that the Finance Director or designee be authorized to recognize grant funding in the amount of \$5,000,000 and appropriate the same in the General Capital Improvement, Fire Department Project K25025, and

WHEREAS: There is no local match associated with this grant; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Finance Director or designee be and is hereby authorized to accept, recognize, and appropriate the State of Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) Grant in the amount of \$5,000,000 in the General Capital Improvement Fund, Fire Department Project K25025; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Enos supported by Herrick.

4-173-25. WHEREAS: Firefighters have 25% higher rates of cancer and 14% higher rates of cancer related deaths compared to other professions, and

WHEREAS: The Neighbor's United is a 501(c)(3) Charitable Organization which raises money for Michigan Firefighters diagnosed with cancer and provides financial assistance to them during their time of need, and

WHEREAS: The Fire Department has worked with this charity before and 100% of the proceeds go directly to firefighters and their families, and

WHEREAS: The Fire Department is seeking approval for on and off duty members to perform a "Stuff the Boot" fundraiser drive to benefit the Neighbors United Charitable Organization to provide financial support to firefighters diagnosed with cancer, and

WHEREAS: The dates requested are: May 2, 2025 through May 11, 2025 where members will collect funds on street corners with all appropriate safety pre-cautions, and

WHEREAS: The liability insurance of Neighbors United has been reviewed and approved by the Legal Department; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That on and off duty members of the Fire Department be and are hereby authorized to conduct a Neighbors United "Stuff the Boot" fundraiser drive from May 2, 2025 through May 11, 2025, on street corners throughout the City in accordance with all applicable laws, Ordinances, and safety requirements.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Herrick supported by Abraham.

4-174-25. RESOLVED: That Green Brain Comics be and are hereby granted permission to conduct their 24th annual Green Brain "Free Comic Book Day" event in the City-owned parking lot located north of Michigan Avenue between Middlesex and Horger Streets from 4:00 P.M. Friday, May 2, 2025 to 3:00 P.M. on Sunday, May 4, 2025, subject to all applicable ordinances, and the rules and regulations of the Police Department; be it further

RESOLVED: That City Council hereby authorizes the closure of the City-owned alley, located North of Michigan Avenue and between Middlesex and Horger Streets from 8:00 P.M. Thursday, May 4, 2023 to 12:00 P.M. on Sunday, May 7, 2023; be it further

RESOLVED: That City Council hereby grants permission to Green Brain Comics to erect a 20' X 40' tent in the City-owned alley; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Abraham supported by Hammoud.

4-175-25. WHEREAS: Purchasers of vacant City-owned side yard lots are required to comply with the City's adopted Guidelines Regarding Side Yard Sales, and

WHEREAS: To create consistency with the Land Sales Guidelines for new single-family home construction as amended over the years, it is recommended that the Guidelines Regarding Side Yard Sale be amended to remove the no variance condition and to allow administrative review of requests to extend closing deadlines and increase the related processing fee from \$100 to \$250, and

WHEREAS: It is also recommended that certain wording within the Guidelines be revised to reflect that the Guidelines are an internal document; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the Guidelines Regarding Side Yard Sales be amended as presented; be it further

RESOLVED: That this Resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Hammoud supported by Enos.

4-176-25. RESOLVED: That City Council hereby concurs in the Mayor's appointment of Alawi Saleh to the Traffic Commission with a term ending June 30, 2026; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That failure of a multi-member body appointee to possess the required qualifications for appointment by this charter or law shall result in that members immediate vacancy from the multi-member body to which they were appointed; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

By Paris supported by Hammoud.

4-177-25. RESOLVED: That City Council hereby concurs in the Mayor's appointment of Amie Kerek to the Dix-Vernor Business District Improvement Authority with a term ending June 30, 2025; therefore be it

RESOLVED: That failure of a multi-member body appointee to possess the required qualifications for appointment by this charter or law shall result in that members immediate vacancy from the multi-member body to which they were appointed; be it further

RESOLVED: That this resolution be given immediate effect.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

The Council President opened the floor to public comment.

There being no further business, upon a motion duly made, seconded and adopted, the Council then adjourned at 9:00 P.M.

APPROVED:

President of the Council

ATTESTED:

City Clerk