

**CITY OF SOUTH LYON
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
APRIL 25, 2011**

Mayor Wallace called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Wallace stated that South Lyon lost 19 year old Dominick Ciarmataro, a soldier fighting in Afghanistan. A moment of silence was observed. Mayor Wallace gave his condolences to the family.

Mayor Wallace led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

PRESENT: Mayor Wallace
Council Members: Kivell, Kopkowski, Kramer, Morelli, Selden and Wedell
City Manager Murphy
City Attorney Lee
City Clerk/Treasurer Zemke
Department Heads: Collins, Renwick and Martin

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

City Manager Murphy stated that he would like to move #2 under Executive Session to New Business #4.

CM 4-1-10 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion by Wedell, supported by Kopkowski

To approve the agenda as amended

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

CM 4-2-10 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES- APRIL 11, 2011

Motion by Kramer, supported by Kivell

To approve the minutes of the April 11, 2011 Regular Council meeting as written

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

CM 4-3-10 – APPROVAL OF MINUTES- APRIL 13, 2011

Motion by Morelli, supported by Wedell

To approve the minutes of the special meeting of April 13, 2011 as written

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY BILLS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Set Public Hearing for 2011-2012 Budget

City Manager Murphy stated that we need to set the public hearing for the adoption of the 2011-2012 budget.

CM 4-4-10 – SET PUBLIC HEARING

Moved by Morelli ,supported by, Kivell

To approve setting a public hearing on May 9, 2011 for the purpose of adopting the 2011-2012 budget

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. Waiver of Permit Fees for City-wide Garage Sale

Mayor Wallace stated that the annual City-wide garage sale is set for this weekend, April 29th, 30th and May 1st.

CM 4-5-10 – WAIVER OF PERMIT FEES

Motion by Kopkowski, supported by Selden

To waive the Garage/Yard Sale permit fees for April 29th, 30th and May 1st, 2011 for households who wish to participate in the City-wide Yard Sale

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. DPW Floor Replacement Bid

Superintendent Renwick stated that it is time to replace the flooring at the DPW office. We went out to bid, but unfortunately we received only one bid. The bid was from The Carpet Change in the amount of \$10,207.60.

This is to replace the tile floor that was installed 10 years ago.

CM 4-6-10 – APPROVAL OF BID – DPW FLOORING

Motion by Kivell, supported by Kramer

To approve the bid of \$10,207.60 to The Carpet Change for the removal of the existing flooring, subflooring removal and replacement as needed and the installation of new rubber flooring

Council Member Kopkowski asked if this was a budgeted item. Superintendent Renwick stated that it is.

VOTE:

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Manager's Performance and Contract Review

City Manager Murphy presented a memo outlining his accomplishments since his last review in 2009. Mayor Wallace stated that he would have preferred to have had the information prior to the meeting. City Manager Murphy stated that Council never provided the criteria for which his performance was evaluated.

Mayor Wallace stated that the Charter calls for the City Manager to move to the City within a year's time and asked if it was agreed that he would move to the City within a certain length of time. City Manager Murphy stated that when he was interviewed he informed Council that he owned two homes and could not commit to moving to the City. Mayor Wallace asked his thoughts about possibly listing his house at this time. City Manager Murphy stated that he has no problem with listing, however the reality is that his home is not going to sell for what he wants. Further discussion was held on residency of the City Manager. Attorney Lee discussed an act passed by the Michigan Legislature indicating that you cannot require an employee to move closer than a 20 mile radius. We are barred from even negotiating this with unions. Discussion was held on Charter requirements. Attorney Lee stated that he does not believe that it is part of our Charter. If required by our Charter, it would be invalidated by the State Legislature.

Mayor Wallace stated that he has concern that when the City Manager is asked a question, the response is "I don't know". It looks weak and he would prefer a different answer. Mayor Wallace stated that he has heard concern from the merchants that the Manager is not getting out into the community.

Mayor Wallace stated that the Manager's voice mail is professional and he dresses professionally. He further stated that the MDOT issue was a fiasco and Council should have been notified. At that time, he heard that we have another \$90,000 coming to the City yet he has not heard anything further. City Manager Murphy stated that he is still working with MDOT to see how we can use it.

Mayor Wallace stated that in the near future you should look at combining departments. There are some things that are being delegated that should be done by the Manager. He is pushing off to other department heads such as grants when he should be pursuing those more often. Mayor Wallace likes the willingness to look into services and re-bidding services such as engineering, etc.

Mayor Wallace has concern over future monies and discussed taxes and expressed his hopes that the Manager is on top of things. He discussed the Bonner situation. We made some promises and would hope that we could follow through on some of them. City Manager Murphy discussed the driveway issue for Mr. Bonner. He stated that what he can find thus far is that he was treated like everyone else. Mayor Wallace stated that we would like to appease him.

Councilman Kramer stated that what he is looking for is more visibility. He complimented the City Manager on the multiple year budget. He stated that he would like more interaction with the boards and commissions. Councilman Kramer discussed future hirings. He stated that he would like to know in advance before any hiring is done. He stated that he would like to see the council meetings online through streaming video on our website.

Councilman Selden stated that there are a lot of positives, but room for improvements. He stated that he would like to see a newsletter twice per year to keep people informed. City Manager Murphy stated that we have talked about putting a newsletter out, possibly at the same time as tax bills.

Councilman Selden stated that the Manager has done a good job on budgeting, energy savings, the water well, etc. doing an overall a good job.

Councilman Kivell stated the idea of residency was addressed by Council during the interview process. We cannot hold it against him.

Councilman Kivell stated that he is very happy with the last couple of budgets and the maintenance of fund balance. Overall the budgets have been managed quite well with very little impact on the services to our residents, which speaks well of the City Manager and the department heads. He further stated that he appreciates the very managed and calm approach that he takes and applauds the relationship with Planning, DDA and Chamber. City Manager Murphy stated that he has great department heads and Mr. Cook has left the City in good financial condition. Councilman Kivell stated that even when things get crazy, he has created a very even view of how we can come to the best conclusion.

Councilman Kivell stated that the "I don't know" happened more at the beginning. Now, the more typical answer is he will research the issue. The housing commission issue has no impact on us, it was their issue, not ours. Councilman Kramer stated that he takes issue because they have not had a meeting for a year and a half. He would like meetings more than every two years. Councilman Kivell stated that nobody lost service or anything as a product of that. Councilman Kivell stated that things have been going well and he staff has a respect for the Manager.

Discussion was held on better communication with the public. City Manager Murphy stated that we have done some good things with Channel 19 and we will be working to get a newsletter out.

Councilman Morelli stated that for the most part, he is doing a good job especially with the financial end. A few things moving forward he would like the Manager to keep Council informed on where we can make some cuts, etc.

Councilman Morelli stated that he is happy to see us shopping around with our engineering consultants, and we need to look at others such as planners, and anything that the City does with outside people. We need to keep an eye on the dollar.

Councilman Wedell stated that he pulled the goals from the last time and compared to the list of accomplishments. Our fund balance is intact, and the willingness of our staff and unions to recognize the issues and financial hardships should be commended. We have a two-year budget, which was part of his goals. We continue to see progress in our economic development program. All of these things are looking to the future. We have had some success with some of our dilapidated buildings downtown and we continue to see progress. Councilman Wedell discussed the quarterly reports of revenue and expenditures.

Councilman Wedell stated that he likes the willingness to work with the DDA. We have had a couple of crisis, but the response has been reasonable and well supported.

Council Member Kopkowski stated that she feels that the Manager relies too much on the department heads. She feels more comfortable recommending someone to talk with a department head over the Manager. She stated that she would like to see some of the community come to him first. .

Councilman Selden commented on the smooth transition from manager to manager.

City Manager thanked Council for their comments and critique and stated that he will take them to heart.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

City Manager Murphy stated that the RCOC meeting will be May 16th. He requested Council fill out a survey provided by the Road Commission.

City Manager Murphy stated that he received a resolution from East Pointe asking the legislature and governor to look at the current tax structure. They are asking for other communities' support.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Kramer stated that he attended the Easter egg hunt and stated that it was a wonderful event and thanked everyone involved.

Councilman Morelli asked when the pump will be turned on. Superintendent Martin gave a brief update of the well and stated that it will be on line by mid May. He stated that he we will bring 2-3 options on how to enclose the well.

Mayor Wallace stated that the annual townie award will be at the next meeting. This will be the 4th Townie Award given.

Mayor Wallace stated that the egg hunt was a success. The Kiwanis did a great job.

Mayor Wallace congratulated Chief Collins for his 20 years of active service as a Police Chief and the Life Membership to the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Mayor Wallace would like to remind everyone of this weekend's garage sales.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Discussion of South Lyon Woods Litigation

CM 4-7-10 – ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Wedell, supported by Kramer

To enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the South Lyon Woods litigation

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Council entered into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. and reconvened at 9:16 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

CM 4-8-10 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Selden, supported by Kramer

To adjourn the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

VOTE: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Tedd M. Wallace
Mayor

Julie C. Zemke
City Clerk/Treasurer