

# City of Southgate

## Regular City Council Meeting

### July 20, 2022

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Southgate was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 in the Southgate City Hall Council Chambers and was called to order at 7:00 PM by Council President Zoey Kuspa.

**This meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by roll call.**

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Present: Bill Colovos, Mark Farrah, Karen George, Christian Graziani, Zoey Kuspa, Phil Rauch

Absent: \*Dale Zamecki, \*excused

Also Present: Mayor Joseph G. Kuspa, City Attorney Ed Zelenak, City Administrator Dan Marsh, ACA/Finance Director David Angileri, City Engineer John Hennessey, City Clerk Jan Ferencz, City Treasurer Chris Rollet, Public Safety Director Joe Marsh, Police Chief Mark Mydlarz, Fire Chief Mark Hatfield, Building Inspections Director Tim Leach, Recreation Director Julie Goddard

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#### **Minutes:**

Moved by Colovos, supported Rauch, RESOLVED, that the minutes of the City Council Work Study Session dated July 6, 2022 be approved as presented. Carried unanimously.

Moved by Rauch, supported by Farrah, RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting dated July 6, 2022 be approved as presented. Carried unanimously.

#### **Scheduled Persons in Audience:**

Houston James, 28442 Donovan, Flat Rock, introduced himself as a candidate for State Senate District 4.

#### **Communications "A":**

1. Letter from City Attorney; Re: John and Colleen O'Donnell v City of Southgate Wayne County Circuit Court Case No. 2022-0077854 moved by Colovos, supported by Farrah, RESOLVED that the Southgate City Council engage the Miller Canfield Law Firm at a rate of \$325 per hour for Partner, \$225 for an Associate and \$170 per hour for Legal Assistance to represent the City of Southgate in the captioned lawsuit, not to exceed \$35,000.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Memo from Building Director; Re: Conditional Rezoning – 16600 Fort St. moved by Rauch, supported by Farrah, RESOLVED that the Southgate City Council concurs with the recommendation to a Conditional Rezoning from C-2 General Business to M-1 Light Industrial at 16600 Fort St. currently Michigan Vehicle Solutions will be "Dent Wizard".

Motion carried unanimously.

# Regular City Council Meeting

## July 20, 2022

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3. Letter from Mayor; Re: Purchase of Network Switches (waiver of bid) moved by Farrah, supported by Colovos, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council waives the bid procedure and authorizes purchase of Unifi 48 Switch Pro/PoE network Switches to CDW-G (75 Remittance Drive, Suite 1515, Chicago, IL 60675-1515) in the amount of \$5,775.70. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT adequate funds are available in the Federal Forfeiture Account for this contract.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Memo from Administrator; Re: DUWA Resolution moved by Rauch, supported by Farrah, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council hereby offers a resolution requesting that Wayne County contribute some of their ARPA funding to DUWA specifically for the replacement of the outdated UV System. The resolution is as follows:

### **RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE STATE OF MICHIGAN AND COUNTY OF WAYNE TO ALLOCATE AMERICAN RESCUE ACT PLAN FUNDS IN SUPPORT OF DOWNRIVER UTILITY WASTEWATER AUTHORITY**

The City of Southgate is a member of the Downriver Utility Wastewater Authority (DUWA) which is a public body corporate organized pursuant to Act 233. Representatives from DUWA's 13 Communities act as Board Members. DUWA's Board Members exercise all powers of DUWA. The Authority provides a regional wastewater collection and treatment system vital to the health and safety of the residents of the region. The Authority purchased the treatment plan and collection system from Wayne County in September 2018.

DUWA provides service to approximately 350,000 people in the Downriver area, which includes Ecorse, River Rouge, Allen Park, Lincoln Park, Dearborn Heights, Taylor, Romulus, Riverview, Southgate, Wyandotte, Belleville, Van Buren, and Brownstown. The DUWA system processes 60 million gallons per day on an annual average at its wastewater treatment plant, with the ability to handle 225 million gallons per day during wet weather events. It also has a 15-million-gallon wet weather storage tunnel that is used to retain excess wastewater during wet weather events. It is the second largest wastewater plant in the State of Michigan.

**WHEREAS**, based on 2020 SEMCOG data 16% of DUWA residents live below the poverty level, 62% of residents are non-working and 37% are non-white. These residents experienced health and economic injury by COVID-19:

**WHEREAS**, this same subset of residents is feeling the impact of inflation that has caused increases in the cost of basic services including food, gasoline, water and wastewater:

**WHEREAS**, The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) is a federal response to financial damage caused by the pandemic since 2020. Included in ARPA is the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Relief Fund, which allocated \$350 billion to states and local governments. Municipalities with greater than 50,000 residents receive funding directly from the US Treasury. For communities smaller than 50,000 residents, which is most of DUWA's 13 communities, the fund flows through Wayne County. The funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and the period of performance ends December 31, 2026. The funds can be used for public health and economic impacts, premium pay, revenue loss and infrastructure defined as including investments in Water and Sewer Infrastructure, including:

**WHEREAS**, Water and Sewer Infrastructure is defined as primarily projects that align with EPAs initiatives:

- A. Remediating failing or inadequate infrastructure, much of which is publicly owned;
- B. Projects to ensure compliance with applicable water health and quality standards and provide safe drinking and usable water.

**WHEREAS**, DUWA needs to replace its nearly 25 year old ultraviolet disinfection system. The manufacturer has stopped supplying replacement parts to the system decreasing the final disinfection system's utility. The estimated cost of the replacement system is \$8,000,000. DUWA also has a final payment due to Wayne County of \$3,500,000 in September 2023. Both payments will put pressure on sewer rate charges on our most vulnerable residents.

# Regular City Council Meeting

## July 20, 2022

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**THEREFORE**, the City of Southgate encourages the State of Michigan and County of Wayne to allocate a portion of the ARPA funds it received to support the replacement of the ultraviolet disinfection system for DUWA.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Communications "B":**

1. Memo from Administrator; Re: Librarian Contract moved by Rauch, supported by Farrah, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council receives and files the contact with Don Priest, Librarian and the City of Southgate.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Unscheduled Persons in the Audience:**

1. Ronald Kokinda introduced himself as a candidate for State Legislature representative in District 2.
2. Robert Pawlowski, 12757 Chestnut spoke about the Parks & Recreation Millage proposal.
3. Darren Camilleri introduced himself as a candidate for State Senate District 4.

### **Claims and Accounts:**

Moved by Graziani, supported by Rauch, RESOLVED, that Claims and Accounts be paid as outlined on Warrant #1453 for \$2,103,558.02.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjournment:**

Moved by Colvos, supported by Rauch, RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of the Southgate City Council be adjourned at 7:18 P.M. Carried unanimously.

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Zoey Kuspa  
Council President

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Janice M. Ferencz  
City Clerk