

DATE: October 23, 2025

TO: City Council

FROM: Melissa R. Marsh, City Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Comments Regular Council Meeting of Monday, October 27, 2025

PRESENTATIONS:

CITIZEN'S ACADEMY CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION

City Council is set to present Certificates of Completion to the participants of the 2025 Citizen's Academy. These participants spent time learning the operations of the city as well as how the city functions overall. During the program, participants met weekly with staff from all departments. A key focus of their learning was understanding how Madison Heights is committed to improving our citizen's quality of life.

PUBLIC HEARING:

CITY PLANNER - ALLEY VACATION REQUEST # PEE 25-01 - 17 FT.-WIDE ALLEY BETWEEN 601 W. 12 MILE RD. AND 28767 DARTMOUTH ST.

The Community & Economic Development Department has received a request to vacate a 17-foot-wide improved alley right-of-way located between 601 W. 12 Mile Rd. and 28767 Dartmouth Rd. The alley also provides access to the property at 611 W. 12 Mile Road. At the Council meeting of October 13th, City Council postponed action on this item pending the results of an ongoing traffic study. Staff currently recommends further postponement of this item until the November 10th Council meeting. This recommendation ensures that the Council processes all details necessary for an informed decision. The additional time is critical as it will allow staff to complete the following actions: fully review the traffic analysis, meet with RCOC, and prepare a complete recommendation for your consideration.

Staff recommends a motion to postpone the alley vacation request #PEE 25-01 for a 17-foot-wide alley between 601 W. 12 Mile Rd and 28767 Dartmouth Street to the November 10, 2025, City Council Meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:

ENVIRONMENTAL CITIZENS COMMITTEE - RECOMMENDED REMOVAL OF MEMBER

At the regular meeting of October 9, 2025, the Environmental Citizens Committee (ECC) unanimously voted to recommend removal of member Kristen Lagos for lack of attendance.

Staff recommends that Council concur with the recommendation of the ECC to remove Kristin Lagos, and appoint alternate member Cathy Ellison to the newly vacated seat, with a term to expire February 28, 2028.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES - EMERGENCY PURCHASE - FIRE STATION 2 PLUMBING REPAIRS

Fire Station 2 has had recurring incidents of sewer backups occurring at the far south end of the building. Multiple service calls and evaluations, including from the original contractor, have identified the underlying issue as a section of original cast iron piping that was not replaced during the renovation. These backups are unpredictable, pose serious health and safety concerns, significantly disrupt fire station operations, and require extensive and costly cleanup each time they occur. Due to the urgency and impact on essential services, immediate action was required and could not wait for standard council approval. In accordance with City Code 2-255 and Charter Section 12.1, the situation has been classified as an emergency. Therefore, the proposal from Levine and Sons, in the amount of \$29,400, has been approved and work will proceed without delay.

Per the City Charter, Council is asked to receive and file this purchase with the Purchasing Coordinator as a permanent and public record.

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES - CIVIC CENTER PARK BANDSHELL LANDSCAPING

Since its installation, the Civic Center Park bandshell has been a well utilized and popular addition to the park. At the time, in order to control construction costs, very minimal landscaping was included as part of the project and was limited to grade corrections and general site restoration. Staff has identified a need to not only aesthetically improve the area, but improve its overall functionality, providing screening on both sides of the bandshell to mitigate walkthrough and better focus sound, as well as improving and maintaining the highly trafficked turf through overseeding and installation of an irrigation system. Funding is available from savings in playground mulching and special project funding.

Staff recommends that City Council approve the proposal for the Civic Center Bandshell landscaping project from Frank Rewold and Sons, through the Oakland County cooperative purchasing agreement, in the amount of \$19,111, and to authorize the Director of Public Services to sign on behalf of the City.

REPORTS:

HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR - RESOLUTION TO OPT OUT OF PA 152

Public Act 152, as amended, limits the amount that public employers pay toward employee medical benefit plans, beginning January 1, 2026. City Council is required to make an election for its choice of compliance for the subsequent calendar year.

Given that all of the City's Collective Bargaining Agreements approved by City Council provide for 10% employee premium sharing, Council is requested adopt the Resolution to Opt-out of PA 152 as allowable under that statute.

ORDINANCES:

CITY CLERK - ORDINANCE 2208 - PRECINCT BOUNDARY AND POLLING LOCATION CHANGES, FIRST READING

Ordinance 2208 adjusts the city's election precinct boundary descriptions, polling locations and precinct numbers. This action is critical for us to comply with state law, accommodate new voting practices, and realize significant long-term cost savings. The need for these adjustments stems directly from state-level reapportionment following the 2020 Decennial Census. Since 2022, the boundaries for several elected offices—including U.S. House, State Senate, State House, and County Commissioner districts—have shifted. Specifically, the City of Madison Heights has been impacted by legal challenges to the state maps, resulting in new legislative boundaries. The revised Michigan House districts took effect in 2024, and our new Michigan Senate District 10 will take effect in 2026. Because every voting precinct in Madison Heights has been impacted by these changes, the Clerk's office is required to mail updated voter registration cards to all registered voters.

In addition to these mandated boundary changes, recent updates to Michigan Election Law now allow us the flexibility to restructure. Due to the expansion of early voting and no-reason absentee voting, the allowable size of an active registered voter precinct has increased significantly, from 2,999 to 4,999. This presents an opportunity for long-term fiscal planning. The State of Michigan will require local governments to replace our current election equipment in Fiscal Year 2027/2028, as the equipment reaches the end of its service life. Local governments have been advised to budget approximately \$15,000 for new equipment per in-person precinct. Therefore, consolidating our precincts will directly result in substantial, long-term cost savings for the city.

Based on changes in voting patterns, updated legislation, and fiscal considerations, the City Clerk and the Election Commission recommend reducing the number of precincts from nine (9) to seven (7). The City Charter requires that precinct boundary changes be adopted via ordinance.

The deadline for making these updates must be submitted to the State of Michigan by **January 6, 2026**, to be effective for the August 2026 election; therefore, staff recommends that City Council

adopt Ordinance No. 2208, Amending Precinct Boundary Descriptions, Polling Locations and Precinct Numbers, on First Reading and schedule the Second Reading for November 10, 2025.