City Council Regular Meeting Madison Heights, Michigan April 15, 2024

A City Council Regular Meeting was held on Monday, April 15, 2024 at 7:30 PM at City Hall - Council Chambers, 300 W. 13 Mile Rd.

## **PRESENT**

Mayor Roslyn Grafstein Mayor Pro Tem Mark Bliss Councilman Sean Fleming Councilman William Mier Councilor Emily Rohrbach Councilman David Soltis Councilor Quinn Wright

## OTHERS PRESENT

City Manager Melissa Marsh
City Attorney Larry Sherman
Deputy City Manager/City Clerk Cheryl Rottmann
43rd District Court Administrator Sharon Arseneault
Community and Economic Development Director Giles Tucker
Finance Director Linda Kunath
Fire Chief Greg Lelito
Human Resources Director Misczak
Library Director Vanessa Verdun-Morris
Police Chief Brent LeMerise
Public Services Director Sean Ballantine

Councilman Fleming gave the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

## CM-24-84. Amendment to the Agenda – Move Item 9 to Presentations.

Motion to move Item 9, *Historical Commission - Proposed Naming of Soccer Complex, Rosie's Park Pavilion, the City Hall Executive Conference Room, and the Active Adult Billiards Room*, to Presentations following the Animal Control Officer Week Proclamation.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Bliss, Seconded by Councilman Soltis.

Voting Yea: Mayor Grafstein, Mayor Pro Tem Bliss, Councilman Fleming, Councilman Mier, Councilor Rohrbach, Councilman Soltis, Councilor Wright

Motion carried.

## CM-24-85. Amendment to the Agenda – Item 5 Name Correction.

Motion to change Item #5 to read, City Manager - Presentation of the FY 2025 Proposed Budget.

Motion made by Councilor Rohrbach, Seconded by Councilor Wright.

Voting Yea: Mayor Grafstein, Mayor Pro Tem Bliss, Councilman Fleming, Councilman Mier, Councilor Rohrbach, Councilman Soltis, Councilor Wright

Motion carried.

#### **PRESENTATIONS:**

# Certificate of Recognition for Michael Sheppard

Mayor Grafstein read a Certificate of Recognition for Michael Sheppard, owner of Madison Heights business Northern Audio Services, thanking him for his support and assistance to the Historical Commission's *History of Music* event as well as his civic contributions to the City. On behalf of the City Council, Mayor Grafstein presented the Certificate of Recognition to Michael Sheppard.

#### National Telecommunicators Week Proclamation

Mayor Grafstein read the National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Proclamation and the City Council proclaimed the week of April 14 - 20, 2024, to be National Public Safety Telecommunications Week in Madison Heights; a week to celebrate and thank telecommunications personnel who serve our city, citizens, and public safety personnel 24 hours a day seven days a week. Mayor Grafstein presented PSA Tyrsh with the proclamation and thanked her and all the City's Public Service Aides for their service to the City.

## National Animal Control Officer Week Proclamation

Mayor Grafstein read the Animal Control Officers Week Proclamation and the City Council proclaimed April 14 through April 20, 2024 as National Animal Control Officers Week in the City of Madison Heights. She presented ACO Paige Wallace with the proclamation and thanked her and her aides for their service to the City.

# CM-24-86. Historical Commission -Proposed Naming of the Soccer Complex, Rosie's Park Pavilion, the City Hall Executive Conference Room, and the Active Adult Billiards Room.

Motion to name the Soccer Complex as the Swanson Soccer Complex and Fields for Edward Swanson; the pavilion to be added to Rosie's Park for Elva Mills; rename the Executive Conference Room in City Hall for Lindell Ross; and name the Active Adult Center Billiards Room after Rich Clark.

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem Bliss, Seconded by Councilman Fleming.

Mayor Pro Tem Bliss gave a brief overview of the contributions that these recognized members of Council made to the City. He stated that they are all the incredible people who helped make Madison Heights the city it is today and hopefully they will continue to inspire those that come in the future.

Voting Yea: Mayor Grafstein, Mayor Pro Tem Bliss, Councilman Fleming, Councilman Mier, Councilor Rohrbach, Councilman Soltis, Councilor Wright

Motion carried.

# Presentation of the FY 2025 Proposed Budget

City Manager Marsh began the presentation by acknowledging the outstanding efforts of the Finance Director Linda Kunath, Assistant to the City Manager Adam Owczarzak, as well as all Department Heads and staff for an excellent effort in preparing a priority-based budget that continues to maintain existing services and implements our City's strategic plan. She also thanked the Mayor and City Council for their leadership and support in planning the City's financial operations responsibly and progressively. This budget is the product of our collective efforts, bringing success to our community.

Finance Director Kunath stated that in preparing the budget, the goals and financial policies adopted by the City Council guided our process. First, staff have conservatively estimated revenues and expenditures, including a thorough review of each department with the respective department head, and a careful and updated analysis of projected revenues. Second, we balanced each special millage with the applicable expenses, focusing on millage reserves and prioritizing needed projects. Third, we analyzed projected fund balance levels and, working with the City Council through the goal-setting process, strategically allocated a minimum use of fund balance to cover our goal priorities, allowing us to maintain the target fund balance. Fourth, we reviewed the taxes and fees being charged to residents and businesses, resulting in a millage reduction from FY 2024 levels and increasing the utility rates. And fifth, we will seek alternative funding options for budgeted services and projects wherever possible.

Finance Director Kunath noted that the total Budget equates to \$66.2 million in FY 2025. This Budget includes proposals for 13 appropriated funds and represents an increase of \$732,785, or 1.1%, over FY 2024. Most of this increase is due to personnel costs, including adding five new positions, midyear and annual wage adjustments, city-wide pension contributions, and insurance increases. These are all recurring costs and will contribute to higher operational costs from now on. Of this \$66.2 million, \$10.2 million is Capital Outlay. This includes assets such as vehicles, equipment, building maintenance, and infrastructure such as roads and water mains.

Although the City has the ability to levy 25.9381 mills, Ms. Kunath stated that this proposed budget is supported by a tax rate of 25.4572 mills for FY 2025. The proposed tax rate is a reduction from FY 2024, when the city rate was levied at 25.5288 mills.

Ms. Kunath continued stating that this budget is projected with revenue growth across all funds due to a State Tax Commission Inflation Rate multiplier of 5% and increased state revenue sharing. Even with this higher than the average state inflation rate multiplier, the City's taxable value for

FY 2025 is still only 90.9% of what it was in FY 2008. This prevents the City from restoring services back to 2008 levels.

The City Millage Rates chart shows the City's tax distribution for the 10,339 single-family homes and condominiums in Madison Heights. For Fiscal 2025 the average home market value is \$202,433 with a taxable value of \$56,212 and an average tax bill of \$1,431.27 for City services.

Finance Director Kunath stated that the city, like the businesses and residents that call Madison Heights home, has continued to feel pressure on expenditures due to inflationary increases. While many expenditure areas have returned to traditional increases of 2%-3%, we experienced wage pressure to remain competitive in the region, especially with public safety departments. This is reflected in the proposed budget based on the wage reopeners and extensions for all Union contracts. This budget also adds five new positions; we continue to be very conservative with reoccurring expenditures to ensure there are reoccurring revenues to support these position increases. The positions are Special Projects Grant Administrator, three Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) positions, and a Motor Pool Mechanic.

City Manager Marsh stated that starting in the fall of 2018, the City Council and Staff worked to develop plans that articulate a future vision for the community. These plans considered everyone who lives, works, and visits Madison Heights and centered on developing a solid tax base to allow us to build a strong community and provide services at superior levels. These priorities guide the budget process and include Public Safety, Infrastructure/Capital Assets, Quality of Life, Economic Development, Financial Stability, and Sustainability.

## **Public Safety**

City Manager Marsh noted that Public Safety is key to having a vibrant community. This budget continues that commitment to a safe community by funding traffic safety improvements at \$50,000. This is in addition to the \$50,000 included in the current budget. Staffing levels in the Fire Department are being increased to help meet the demand for calls. The FY 2025 budget includes the addition of three Emergency Medical Technicians in a new program we are working with the Union to create, which will help meet the hiring demand and train the next generation of employees. These EMTs will be available for services on a 40-hour week schedule during our traditional peak call time, Monday – Friday. Funding for this staffing is being covered by the increase in revenue from Ambulance Services of \$200,000 and General Fund operating millage. Court building security replacement is included at \$42,000. This security equipment was originally purchased in 2002 to screen all parties entering the courthouse to ensure the safety of the public and court staff. Also included in the budget are Phase 2 of a technology network upgrade and mobile device management, funded at \$145,000. This is needed to secure our computer network with equipment upgrades and training.

#### *Infrastructure*

City Manager Marsh stated that maintenance and upgrades to our capital assets and infrastructure are also key components for a vibrant community. This includes ensuring that our buildings, roads, and water/sewer mains are maintained. The FY 2025 budget includes the Police Department Building HVAC boiler replacement budgeted at \$200,000 combined with the \$650,000 we have saved over the prior two years. Phase 1 savings for the Fire Station #1 Roof Replacement project includes an initial \$200,000 allocated to a total of \$900,000 needed for the entire roof replacement endeavor. Major and Local streets are budgeted at \$1.7 million, including Phase 3 savings for John R Overlay of \$500,000.

## Quality of Life

City Manager Marsh commented that Quality of Life is the City's third priority for funding. This includes Library services, Parks, Recreation, and the Active Adult Center. The FY 2024 Budget currently includes \$1.4 million for park improvements, which will take the remainder of FY 2024 and most of FY 2025 to complete. This is in addition to the complete renovation of Ambassador Park, where Oakland County Parks and Recreation is working with the City to create a premier multigenerational recreation space. Due to the time needed to complete these projects, additional capital projects in the parks are not being budgeted in FY 2025. In March 2021, the City finalized the 5-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Since then, the City has invested over \$2.7 million in our park system and completed most projects in the Master Planning document. Considering that the five years is also up at the end of this calendar year, the FY 2025 budget includes \$25,000 to fund a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which allows us to continue to take advantage of grant opportunities through the State of Michigan and Oakland County.

# Economic Development

Economic Development is the fourth priority and spans both the General Fund and Downtown Development Budgets commented City Manager Marsh. Economic development activity in the General Fund is status quo as we work to complete our Redevelopment Ready status and focus on several new opportunities, such as the redevelopment of East Ten Mile (former Sayers property). Developing a walkable business district has been a focus for our Downtown Development Authority. Over the past year, staff and the DDA have worked on the development of the streetscape plan. The FY 2025 budget for DDA includes \$400,000 as implementation funding for the 11 Mile Streetscaping Project. We are hopeful this budget can be used as a grant matches. As part of this overall streetscape plan, the DDA budget also includes increased funding to be made available for facade grants to businesses.

#### Special Funding

City Manager Marsh discussed a major economic development tool we have utilized: the establishment of marijuana facility licenses throughout our community. Staff will present a comprehensive report related to marijuana facilities, in general, later this year, but this funding does assist the City financially in meeting our general obligations. Since 2019, the City has collected over \$1.1 million from marijuana facility businesses. This includes facility license fees, donations, and revenue sharing from the State. All these facilities have also increased taxable value by redeveloping existing dilapidated properties. In addition, these businesses have donated to the Progress Forward - Community Advisory Board in an amount of over \$500,000. This funding is applied for through a grant process and has been utilized to fund the Food Panty, community events such as Trail Tunes and Juneteenth, bike fix-it stations and backstops in the parks, murals, disc golf – for a full list of items the Progress Forward - Community Advisory Board has funded visit our website. At www.Madison-heights.org Progress Forward.

#### Financial Stability

City Manager Marsh noted that Financial Stability and Efficient City Services has always been a priority in the city. As such, we have taken several steps to deal with one of our major financial challenges that continue to hinder our ability to fully restore services to pre-recession: the legacy cost of Police and Fire pensions. As detailed in the strategic plan, the FY 2025 budget continues to address the City's funding of the Police and Fire Pension. As of June 30, 2023 actuarial report, this fund was only 55% funded. However, the City applied for and received a Protecting MI

Pension Grant for \$3.6 million for pension contributions and has budgeted additional contributions of \$3 million for both FY 2024 and FY 2025. With this additional funding, we are hopeful to reach funding of 65%-70% by June 30, 2025.

#### <u>Sustainability</u>

Two years ago, City Manager Marsh noted that the City Council added a sixth priority area -Sustainability. Since that time, staff have made strides to move the City forward. We have participated in the Michigan Green Communities Challenge and recently received Silver status. With the recent renovation, we have updated the mechanical equipment in our Civic Center Complex and started benchmarking energy usage/savings through the City facilities. We applied for and were awarded a Sustainability Planning grant through EGLE to create the City's first sustainability Master Plan, which was just presented in draft form to the Environmental Citizen Committee two weeks ago and will be finalized and presented to the City Council by the end of May. We have become a Tree City receiving our award for 4 years in a row just last week. Which helps us take advantage of grant opportunities for tree planting, planning over 500 in the past 5 years. The FY 2025 budget includes an additional \$30,000 to continue expanding the tree canopy in Madison Heights. We have also applied for and were recently awarded \$500,000 to create a decarbonization plan for Southeast Michigan, with our partners Lamphere Schools, City of Ferndale, and City of Oak Park. The FY 2025 budget also includes funding for city-wide recycling and trash bin program in the amount of \$1 million. This program is partially grant-funded with over \$500,000 coming from the Recycling Partnership and EGLE and \$538,000 coming from the General Fund.

#### General Fund

Finance Director Kunath noted that due to strong financial management, our city survived the worst economic decline in our history and has emerged with solid financial reserves across significant funds, allowing us to use this reserve to make much-needed investments in our community. As of June 30, 2023, the General Fund's unreserved but assigned fund balance was \$11.5 million, with a planned use of fund balance in FY 2024 of \$2.0 million and no use of fund balance projected in FY 2025 budget. The city has a fund balance policy requiring a minimum fund balance of 16% of operating expenses plus one year of debt payments. For FY 2025, the minimum fund balance will be approximately \$8 million. This budget meets that reserve policy by maintaining a fund balance estimated at the end of FY 2025 to be \$9.5 million.

#### Special Funding - Grants

Since starting strategic planning, Finance Director Kunath stated that one of our guiding principles has been to seek alternative funding for budgeted services and projects when possible. We do a great job advocating for funding, researching options, and reaching out to federal and state representatives as well as private partners to ensure they understand our needs and priorities. While a few of these projects are "wish list" items and would never have been completed without grant funding, over \$700,000 are for items that we would need to fund from General Fund revenues if grants were not applied for and awarded, such as \$525,000 for ballfield light replacements in FY 2025.

## Other Funds – Major Streets and Local Streets

Finance Director Kunath stated that Major Streets construction is proposed in the amount of \$1.4 million and includes \$500,000 for 5-year phase funding of John R road, as well as sectional and street repairs.

Local Streets construction is proposed in the amount of \$1.9 million and includes four road millage projects as well as concrete replacement and street repairs. It is important to note that the local roads millage expires in 2026 and we will have to go out to a vote for R-4 in August 2026 to continue our neighborhood road projects.

# Other Funds – Water and Sewer

In the Water and Sewer Fund, Ms. Kunath stated that \$1.3 million is budgeted for water main replacement and additional funding for a sanitary sewer rehabilitation program. In addition, the City is receiving a 3.06% increase from our water supplier and an anticipated 4% increase for water and sewer treatment. In order to pay for construction and for these third-party increases, we will adjust water and sewer rates to our end users by 4.02%. Further, the city has an extensive 5-year capital improvement plan that details water main replacement needs for the current and next five years. In order to maintain our replacement and repair of water mains the City will need to consider additional increases to the rates and or taking a loan for repairs. Finance Director Kunath noted that even with this 4.02% increase, Madison Heights still has some of the lowest rates in our region. Based on the consumption average of 12 units (748 gallons of water/unit) Madison Heights' average bill is \$132 per quarter.

Finance Director Kunath concluded by stating the City takes pride in its sound financial management, prudent allocation of resources, and steadfast commitment to long-term planning. This proposed budget continues to address evolving conditions and is a statement of our adaptability and resilience. Together, we are witnessing the fruition of our collective efforts, bringing success to our community.

Mayor Grafstein invited the City Council to discuss the proposed budget.

In response to Councilman Soltis' question, Finance Director Kunath stated that Troy and Warren have lower water and sewer rates because they supplement their fund from other general funds.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Bliss' question, City Manager Marsh noted that the money allocated for Special Projects in previous budget cycles have been used for grant matches. Currently there is \$50,000 budgeted for the fiscal year. Mayor Pro Tem Bliss stated that he would like to see the Special Projects budget grow and possibly set aside funds for other areas as well.

In response to Councilman Fleming's question, Finance Director Kunath stated that the sewer rate increase is specifically related to the George W Kuhn Drain. City Manager Marsh added that staff are meeting on this topic tomorrow with Oakland County; however, most of the increase can be attributed to increases in their operational costs which are passed on to the users.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Bliss, Fire Chief Lelito stated the administration is meeting with the union to move forward on the new EMT positions incorporated into the budget. The goal is to have a 4th rescue unit available during peak call volume periods. The City is looking to hire three medically trained personnel to staff the unit. This is a new idea to help address the increase in run volume. While it is in the infancy of the planning stages, we are willing to try this new approach and are still negotiating with the union. Chief Lelito estimated that approximately 84% of runs are EMS related calls. These positions will help to provide the same level of trained professionals for medical runs, but this staff won't respond to fires.

In response to Councilor Rohrbach, DPS Director Ballantine confirmed that the John R overlay will be for the City owned portion from 11 Mile Road north to approximately Dartmouth Street

and will be done in Fiscal Year 2026. Anything north of that is County owned, which they are planning on doing in Fiscal Year 2025. The 11 Mile Sectional will be east of the DDA section, starting around Nanton. Dequindre is a Macomb County road and maintained by Macomb County Road Commission. We have had communications with them regarding the condition of Dequindre; however, currently, Macomb County does not have it on their capital plans.

Councilor Wright confirmed that this budget includes the three EMT positions, but not the Deputy Fire Chief position. City Manager Marsh stated that the three EMT positions are included but they have to be negotiated with the union. We did originally include the Deputy Fire Chief position in the budget, but it is not included in its entirety at this time. The City knows that we will have to add a position if we obtain Ground Emergency Management funding from the federal government as it will be an administrative lift on the department to implement the program, but we can't say for certain when this funding will become available.

In response to Councilman Soltis' question, Chief Lelito stated that the EMS positions will be medics. In addition, the City is hoping that these positions will also serve as a feeder program for recruitment for the Fire Department.

City Manager Marsh advised that under the City Charter, the Council does have to adopt the budget at their May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, so if there are any questions or changes, they need to be made soon to give staff the time to implement them.

Councilman Mier expressed thanks to City Manager Marsh, Finance Director Kunath, and the Department Heads for all the hard work in putting this budget together. A \$66 million dollars budget is a lot of work. He stated that while he didn't have a lot of questions this evening, he had several hours of discussion with City Manager Marsh going over the numbers prior to this meeting.

## MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC:

Deputy City Manager/City Clerk Rottmann read Jerry Campbell's email comment requesting that vehicles be prohibited from parking on the apron and from blocking the sidewalk at 1596 W. 13 Mile Road due to visibility issues.

#### CM-24-87. Consent Agenda.

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as read.

Motion made by Councilman Mier, Seconded by Councilor Wright.

Voting Yea: Mayor Grafstein, Mayor Pro Tem Bliss, Councilman Fleming, Councilman Mier, Councilor Rohrbach, Councilman Soltis, Councilor Wright

Motion carried.

## **CM\_24-88. Autism Acceptance Month Proclamation.**

Motion to approve the Autism Acceptance Month Proclamation.

Motion made by Councilman Mier, Seconded by Councilor Wright.

Voting Yea: Mayor Grafstein, Mayor Pro Tem Bliss, Councilman Fleming, Councilman Mier, Councilor Rohrbach, Councilman Soltis, Councilor Wright

Motion carried.

#### CM-24-89. City Council Special Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2024.

Motion to approve the City Council Special Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2024, as printed.

Motion made by Councilman Mier, Seconded by Councilor Wright.

Voting Yea: Mayor Grafstein, Mayor Pro Tem Bliss, Councilman Fleming, Councilman Mier, Councilor Rohrbach, Councilman Soltis, Councilor Wright

Motion carried.

## CM-24-90. City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2024.

Motion to approve the City Council Regular Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2024, as printed.

Motion made by Councilman Mier, Seconded by Councilor Wright.

Voting Yea: Mayor Grafstein, Mayor Pro Tem Bliss, Councilman Fleming, Councilman Mier, Councilor Rohrbach, Councilman Soltis, Councilor Wright

Motion carried.

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilman Mier wished a Happy Passover next week to those who celebrate. He stated that horrible things are going on overseas, but hopefully you can find some joy as you celebrate. The ITAC and Library Advisory Board are having meetings next week. He stated that he is glad the City honored Michael Sheppard, Telecommunicators, Animal Control Officers, and recognized Autism Acceptance Month. Thanks to all those that worked on the budget. He commented that he would like to see more inclusive events in the City. He stated the Historical Commission did a great job on the *History of Music* presentation.

Mayor Pro Tem Bliss expressed thanks to the Council and for the work of staff for the 2024 naming honorees coming from the Historical Commission. There are always more deserving people that we should honor, but with the help of the Historical Commission, staff, and Council, we will keep chipping away at it. He noted that there is a minimum requirement of serving in an elected capacity for over a decade to even be qualified. He commented that he believes the most exciting part of honoring these individuals is seeing the families and members of the communities at the unveiling event. These ceremonies are a great time to share memories and inspire the next generation. The *History of Music* presentation tonight was a great time and featured phenomenal speakers. For those interested, the presentation was recorded, and it can be found on YouTube. He conveyed his thanks to the staff for their work on the budget and stated that he can say that this is the best budget that he has seen since being on Council. The tax millage is down, there is a record setting amount of money from outside of taxes - \$2.5 million in grants, cannabis contributes \$1.5 million to the budget, funding things like public safety and quality of life initiatives, and the City is maintaining a healthy fund balance. If anyone has any questions on the budget, please reach out.

Councilor Wright expressed kudos on the Historical Commission event noting that it is awesome when we celebrate the history of the City together. He stated that he also wants to acknowledge those silent heroes that may not be known enough to get their name on the wall, they all have made contributions to making this a great community. April is National Minority Health Month, focusing on the disparities that are in our natural health network and he wanted to bring attention to it. Please remember to be kind.

City Attorney Sherman congratulated the Historical Commission on the *History of Music* presentation. Kudos to the Historical Commission on their recommendations on honoring these outstanding public servants tonight. Ed Swanson was prince of a guy who loved people and did an outstanding job. Elva Mills was a leader on the Council and on the Madison School Board. You never had to guess where she stood because she would tell you. Lynn Ross was a tremendous Councilmember, the glue on City Council during some turbulent times in the mid-1980s to 1990s. He was extremely well read and made informed decisions. Rich Clark had a passion for seniors and served as a mentor for others on Council. They all deserve this honor and will be remembered because of their devotion to the City.

City Manager Marsh expressed her thanks to the staff for all their hard work on the budget. She noted that tonight's budget presentation will be available on the City's website.

Deputy City Manager/City Clerk Rottmann had no comments this evening.

Councilor Rohrbach stated thank you to the staff for their work on budget. April 20<sup>th</sup> is the Madison Heights 5K. She reminded those who are doing spring clean up to not completely clear out their brush due to small pollinators still living there. They live in that environment until it is steadily over 50 degrees. Brush pickup day is the week of May 6th, and she encourages participation. On May 18<sup>th</sup> the Friends of Library Book Sale will be in the Breckenridge Room. The price of books is by donation. May 11<sup>th</sup> is the Spring Clean. Items such as bricks, tires, drywall etc. can be brought to the DPS for disposal.

Councilman Fleming had no comments this evening.

Councilman Soltis reminisced about a story with Mayor Swanson after he was first elected and his advice for him to always wear a tie. The Senior Trip to Lansing is May 1<sup>st</sup>. Please call the City Manager's office or himself to sign up. He thanked Councilor Rohrbach for her planting clean up tip.

Mayor Grafstein echoed thanks to City Manager Marsh and the Department Heads for their budget work. She congratulated Adam Owczarzak on his new City position. The DDA meeting is tomorrow morning at 8 a.m., please join us. She noted that the rates of diagnosis for autism are going up and there are 50,000 people diagnosed in Michigan alone. There is no cure, but this is not necessarily a disability; people are just neurodivergent. She also stated that she too would like to see some additional programming for those with different abilities. Please let her know if you have any programming ideas. She stated that she is personally looking forward to Mayor Swanson's naming ceremony, noting he married her many years ago. The next meeting of the City Council is May 13<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Having no further business, Mayor Grafstein adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.