

**Approved  
June 15, 2009**

REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL  
CITY OF SOUTHFIELD

**April 13, 2009**

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REGULAR MEETING  
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CITY OF SOUTHFIELD

MINUTES

**April 13, 2009**

The meeting of the Council convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, Michigan, with Council President Pro Tem Sylvia Jordan in the Chair. PRESENT: Council Members: Myron Frasier, Sylvia Jordan, Sidney Lantz, Bill Lattimore, and Kenson Siver. EXCUSED: Donald Fracassi and Joan Seymour. ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Nancy Banks, City Administrator James Scharret and Assistant City Attorney Susan Ward-Witkowski. There being a quorum, Council was in session. The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first item on the agenda was a presentation by Sharon Carney, Special Projects Director with the Michigan Suburbs Alliance on the Millennial Mayors Congress Update.

Sharon Carney stated that she spoke to Council a few months ago regarding the Millennial Mayors Congress which is a partnership of city leaders and young professionals to discuss regional issues. The first meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2009. Each city may send two delegates. One delegate is a resident who is 18-35 years old and the other delegate is either the Mayor or a member of Council. The group will meet twice a year. The board will hold monthly meetings. She offered to help Council select a representative from the community. The City of Lathrup Village had someone express interest and was interviewed by the Mayor and City Administrator. The City of Huntington Woods put an ad in the paper and conducted interviews.

Mayor Lawrence stated that this is a wonderful opportunity for the City to embrace the next generation. The State is losing many of its college graduates. This provides an opportunity to engage the young people, network and learn what it is they need in a community. She encouraged Council to participate. Ms. Carney is available to help facilitate the selection process.

Councilwoman Jordan referred the matter to a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting in order to fine tune the selection process.

Councilman Siver asked if there was only one representative per community. Ms. Carney replied that some communities have appointed alternates. There have been at least a dozen individuals who have expressed interest in participating in the program. They come from a wide range of backgrounds.

Mayor Lawrence asked if there was a timeline for this process. Ms. Carney replied that there is an introductory session for delegates on either May 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>.

Next on the agenda were the appointments and reappointments to various boards and commissions.

Mayor Lawrence requested Council's confirmation of the reappointment of Felix Seldon to the Local Officers Compensation Commission; the appointment of David Tijerina to the Joint Local Development Finance Authority; the reappointment of William Harvey and James Scharret to the Joint Local Finance Authority; and the appointment of Brent D. Reetz to the Cornerstone Development Authority.

2009.87 Motion by Lattimore; seconded by Siver.

**RESOLVED:** that Council does hereby confirm the reappointment of Felix Seldon to the Local Officers Compensation Commission with term of office expiring April 10, 2016.

Motion passed unanimously.

2009.88 Motion by Lattimore; seconded by Siver.

**RESOLVED:** that Council does hereby confirm the appointment of David Tijerina to the Joint Local Development Finance Authority with term of office expiring June 30, 2013.

Motion passed unanimously.

2009.89 Motion by Lattimore; seconded by Siver.

**RESOLVED:** that Council does hereby confirm the reappointment of William Harvey to the Joint Local Development Finance Authority with term of office expiring June 30, 2012.

Motion passed unanimously.

2009.90 Motion by Lattimore; seconded by Siver.

**RESOLVED:** that Council does hereby confirm the reappointment of James Scharret to the Joint Local Development Finance Authority with term of office expiring June 30, 2013.

Motion passed unanimously.

2009.91 Motion by Lattimore; seconded by Siver.

**RESOLVED:** that Council does hereby confirm the appointment of Brent D. Reetz to the Cornerstone Development Authority with term of office expiring April 30, 2010.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence stated that Mr. Reetz is the new general manager of Northland. She asked James Ralph to come forward and introduce the new acting Director of the CDA.

James Ralph introduced Mary Daley as the CDA's new acting director. He stated that Ms. Daley worked with the former director, Frank Brock, for about three years.

Councilwoman Jordan congratulated Mr. Ralph on being named Small Businessman of the Year.

Mayor Lawrence stated that the job posting for the new CDA Director will be put on the website and advertised in municipal publications.

Next on the agenda was a request for recognition from Pamela Gerald.

Pamela Gerald, PO Box 155, Southfield, pleaded with residents to stop for school buses when the red lights are flashing. You cannot use the left turn lane to get around the buses. She noted that there is a lot of speeding and tailgating on Bell Road. Many seniors walk along Bell Road. No one would want their child or relative get injured due to poor driving. She asked Councilman Siver to explain how the school millage increase would affect taxes. She stated that a millage increase would do a disservice to residents that are in financial distress.

Councilwoman Jordan read the Consent Agenda.

CA-A Award the contract for weed mowing services to R & J Maintenance of Waterford, Michigan and Louie's Landscaping of Brownstown, Michigan.

CA-B Approve the purchase of the Kawasaki Mule 4010 Trans 4 x 4 and Trailer from Rosenau Powersports of Dearborn Heights, Michigan.

2009.92 Motion by Frasier; seconded by Siver.

**RESOLVED:** that Council does hereby award the contract for weed mowing services to R & J Maintenance of Waterford, Michigan for their lowest acceptable bid of \$.0016 and Louie's Landscaping of Brownstown, Michigan for their bid price of \$.00173 per square foot with two one-year renewable options at the initial rates and a price increase from Louie's Landscaping prices on the third year of the contract to \$.00174 per square foot respectively. Funds are provided for this purpose in the 2008-09 Code Enforcement Contractual/Professional Services account (number 101-450-4504-38180), and will be provided in the 2009-10 Code Enforcement budget as Council may approve; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that Council does hereby authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to sign a contract on behalf of the City after review and approval as to form by the City Attorney's Office.

Motion passed unanimously.

2009.93 Motion by Frasier; seconded by Siver.

**RESOLVED:** that Council does hereby approve the purchase of Kawasaki Mule 4010 Trans 4 x 4 and trailer from Rosenau Powersports, Dearborn Heights, Michigan in the amount of \$14,457.53. Funds are available for this purchase through the Federal Drug Forfeiture account number 265-333-7525-49770.

Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was Public Hearing "A"; Single Lot Special Assessments.

David Tijerina, City Assessor, stated that the roll provided in the packet is a certified copy of the special assessments against various properties as provided to him by various City departments. The Charter mandates how special assessments are handled. Unpaid assessments are placed as a lien on the property.

The public hearing was declared open. There being no one wishing to speak, the hearing was closed.

Councilman Lantz stated that he has voted against false alarm assessments for many years. He doesn't understand why residents do not attend the public hearing and voice their complaints. Many of the false alarms are not true false alarms.

Councilman Lattimore asked if everyone was notified of the assessments. Mr. Tijerina replied that each department has notified the property owners and the owners were given an opportunity to explain their position.

Mr. Scharret replied that there is a process in place and appeals are permitted. The cost of responding to the false alarms is the main reason for the enforcement. He asked the Police Chief to explain the process.

Police Chief Joseph Thomas explained that a letter is sent out after each of the first two false alarms and no fine is levied. There is a fine after the third false alarm. An appeal can be made to the Crime Prevention Supervisor. The final appeal is made to the Police Chief. No one appealed their assessments during the past year. Alarms should be set so that wind and animals do not set them off. Alarm companies are held responsible if the Police Department finds that the alarm installation is causing the problem. False alarms are the second highest cause of police calls. Each call takes 12 to 15 minutes of response time and requires two officers. People do not complain about the assessment because they know that it truly was a false alarm. In the business community many of the false alarms are caused by employee error.

Mayor Lawrence noted that one Sidwell Parcel was listed eleven times for weed removal and violation abatement. She asked if the City cuts or weeds property eleven times a year.

Gerry Witkowski, Code Enforcement Manager, replied that properties are inspected every 10-14 days and could easily be cut or weeded 10 to 12 times a summer.

Mr. Scharret added that ample warning is given. People are encouraged to do the work themselves because it would cost less.

Mayor Lawrence asked at what point the City takes someone to court. Does the ordinance need additional teeth for the chronic offenders? She suggested that possibly the fine needs to increase based on the number of offenses. Mr. Witkowski replied that the majority of the residential properties are bank owned properties. In the case of commercial property it is usually a case of total property maintenance and the City takes those cases to court.

Mayor Lawrence expressed concern about the number of chronic offenders. The City needs to relook at the ordinance to address repeat offenders.

Councilman Lattimore replied that the problems will continue as long as foreclosed and vacant properties exist. Raising the amount of the assessment may be an option. The Neighborhood Services Committee has identified banks that own properties in Southfield.

Mr. Scharret replied that Council has expressed great concern over maintaining appearances and keeping up homes for when the market improves. He asked to take a moment to discuss the City's plans for the summer.

Mr. Banda stated that Code Enforcement and the Building Department have been working very hard and they have come up with some unique programs in conjunction with Michigan Works.

Mr. Witkowski stated that he is very excited about the programs planned for this summer. Interns will be hired to ride with each Code Enforcement Officer. The intern will be responsible for entering information into the laptop computers so that the inspector can concentrate on other responsibilities. The intern will also act as a spotter as they drive thru the community. He has spoken to DPS about a program called 4 kids and a bike. Kids will be cleaning the bike paths and possibly check the parks for overflowing trash bins. Two additional clerical people will be working in the office. There will be two grass inspectors working also. The City will be divided up so that properties are cut in a more timely fashion. The City will also be hiring 10 additional people who will be going to vacant properties to weed, clean up debris, paint mailboxes, etc. They will start by doing the front yards and document back yards that need work. The program two kids and a truck will be used to help the handicapped, elderly and low income people.

Mr. Banda added that the foreclosure problem has hit all types of homes. Some of the homes have pools and the City is making sure the pools are drained and are covered. Covers are put on any pools that don't have one. Staff is working weekends and departments are working together to get the job done.

Councilman Frasier replied that the plans for the summer sound really good. As you drive thru the city on a daily basis you see where people are now occupying some of previously vacant homes. He suggested that inspectors have welcome packages in their

cars that they can drop off at newly occupied homes. Mr. Banda replied that as soon as Building Department knows a home has been reoccupied they can forward the information to Code Enforcement.

Councilman Lattimore stated that Code Enforcement is racing against time in terms of overgrown weeds. If the weeds get too long, it can cause the equipment to break down. Code Enforcement does a great job on keeping up neighborhood curb appeal.

Mayor Lawrence stated that she is very proud of Code Enforcement. Mr. Witkowski does an exceptional job. His commitment and pride is great. The City needs to make sure the banks are held responsible and accountable. The City should not have to hire 30 people every summer because of the banks. The City needs to stay on top of the rental properties. A system has to be in place to report homes that are now occupied and whether there are new owners or renters.

Councilman Siver stated that many of the new residents don't know the rules parking on the street, recycling, etc. Over the years a number of the site plans included irrigation and landscaping. Over time they cut the grass less, turn off the sprinklers and do less maintenance. The City needs to step up enforcement of the site plan commitments and maintenance agreements. Mr. Witkowski replied that he and Mr. Banda have discussed the issue and the interns will enable the inspectors to pursue more of the commercial properties.

Mr. Banda added that as the economy slides, businesses turn off the sprinklers and plant fewer flowers. Assigning one inspector to handle just the commercial properties has not worked well in the past. In most cases the City is able to settle without going to court. The Building Department sends the businesses a list of what they are need to do. If it doesn't get done, the City takes them to court.

Councilwoman Jordan stated that Code Enforcement has put together a very extensive plan. The City needs to get word out to the residents. Mr. Scharret replied that the resident handbook needs to be updated and given to new homeowners.

Mayor Lawrence asked that the procedures for going after banks be updated. Mr. Scharret suggested telling banks that the City is trying to protect their assets and expect their cooperation then layout the steps that will be taken if they fail to cooperate.

Mr. Banda replied that the ordinance would need to be changed to make it more punitive for chronic offenders, especially the banks. He will review the ordinance.

2009.94 Motion by Frasier; seconded by Lattimore.

**RESOLVED:** that Council does hereby confirm the 2009 Single Lot Special Assessment Roll.

Motion passed. Councilman Lantz voted nay.

Next on the agenda was Public Hearing “B”; Adoption of the City’s Master Plan.

Mr. Banda stated that the proposed Master Plan is a culmination of a couple years of work. The good news is that the plan is not profound which means the City has done a good job over the years. The Planning Commission approved the Master Plan. A copy of the adopted plan will be distributed. Plante & Moran is conducting a study of the Telegraph Technology Corridor. The City has already been using the Master Plan.

Vern Gustafson, 38000 Telegraph, thanked the Mayor, Council, staff and the community for their dedication, perseverance and hard work in creating a great product.. The City has been very proactive in improving the quality of life. The Master Plan fosters communication and coordination. Chapter 14 outlines the implementation and stewardship. He thanked the residents for filling out the surveys.

Councilwoman Jordan declared the public hearing open.

Pam Gerald, PO Box 155, Southfield, asked that Mr. Gustafson explain the components of the Master Plan.

Mr. Gustafson stated that the latest version is on the website under the Planning Department. The first couple of chapters address the purpose, goals, and recommendations for residential areas, infrastructure improvements and transportation. The plan projects out 20 years. Specific corridors were examined such as Telegraph Road, Southfield Road and the Cornerstone District. P & R looked at existing facilities and how they can be improved and enhanced for passive and active type recreation. They looked at the Civic Center complex, services provided, and community image. The plan addresses improving public areas within the community and provides suggestions for design guidelines. The chapter on stewardship and implementation talks about the role of the Planning Commission, City Council, Administration and how the plan is to be implemented. Potential funding sources were looked at as was sustainable and green technology.

Councilman Lantz stated that given the economy nothing can be done for years. He asked if the City Centre Plan is included and when did they think it would be implemented. Mr. Banda replied that the plan has to be flexible. A new State law requires communities to adopt a Master Plan. Given the current economic conditions the City Centre plan cannot be pursued. A new website for the film industry is a by-product of the Master Plan.

Mr. Gustafson stated that a Master Plan sets goals and objectives and if the staff believes in them the City will be successful and he feels confident that the City has the ability to move the plan forward.

Councilman Lantz replied that he was not ready to vote because he wanted to see the Master Plan in writing and have a chance to study it. Mr. Banda replied that Council has had a copy of the plan for the past year. The Master Plan serves as a guide for the private sector on what the City is looking for in terms of development and redevelopment. Mr. Zorn was able to apply for stimulus money because of the Master Plan.

Councilman Siver stated that he had an opportunity to serve on the Advisory Committee for the Master Plan. Many aspects of the plan are a reflection of the community's input. Southfield's future lies in redevelopment and reinvesting in the community. The current economic climate does not lend itself to that. The Master Plan is a guide for the City and for those who wish to invest in Southfield. The Master Plan will change and evolve. He does not necessarily agree with everything in the Master Plan. The Master Plan was put together based on surveys and public meetings. Components of the Strategic Plan have been included. He suggested including an index in the future.

Councilman Lattimore stated that he is an ambassador of building development. The housing stock is aging and there is a need for redevelopment in the City. In this tough economy some will question how the City can talk about the future. The funding was authorized by Council and it was money well spent. The Master Plan was presented to Council last October. Council has had eight months to review it.

Mr. Banda replied that 99% of the proposed Master Plan is the same as it was when the City presented it last October. Council was given a handout highlighting any changes that were made. During every future presentation he will note that the plan complies with the Master Plan.

Councilman Lantz replied that he never remembers a developer asking Council what the City wants them to build. The developers come to the City with a specific plan looking for Council's approval. Mr. Banda responded that the Master Plan helps fight developers who want to go against the Master Plan.

Councilman Frasier stated that he sees the Master Plan as a benefit when a developer comes in and wants to build something that goes against the Master Plan. The City can encourage people to help strengthen the community. The Master Plan will always be out of date. It is like a road map in that it constantly changes. He questioned the timetable for reviewing the Master Plan. Mr. Banda replied that State Law requires the City to review the Master Plan every five years. The Planning Commission will be looking at it every year. The Census data will need to be updated when the new data is available in a couple years. Ms. Ward-Witkowski added that the statute requires a review within five years.

Councilwoman Jordan stated that the Master Plan was an investment that the City needed to make.

2009.95 Motion by Frasier; seconded by Siver.

**WHEREAS**, on June 5, 2006, City Council authorized the preparation of a Comprehensive Master Plan to establish goals and guidelines to facilitate the direction, redevelopment and growth of the City of Southfield into the future; and

**WHEREAS**, the Planning Department, in concert with a professional consultant, the Mayor, City Council, and Planning Commission, and with input from a cross-section of city administrative officials, city board and commission members and the resident public, has caused the extensive

evaluation of information comprehensive of residential, business, and municipal interests essential to the development of a comprehensive master plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforesaid information has been compiled into a Master Plan document that, in addition to other purposes, will serve to:

- establish a pattern for land use to guide development and redevelopment
- provide a legal basis for zoning and other regulations, and a basis for amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and Zoning map
- preserve or enhance natural resources
- identify and recommend various infrastructure improvements and options
- address the desires and needs of the residents, businesses and property owners; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 17, 2008, pursuant to the requirements of Section 5.59, Comprehensive Master Plan Procedure, of Article 4, Chapter 45, Title V, of the Code of the City of Southfield, the Southfield Planning Commission conducted a public hearing on the proposed Comprehensive Master Plan and forwarded a favorable recommendation to City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, in fulfillment of the aforesaid Comprehensive Master Plan Procedure requirements of the City Code, the Southfield City Council has this date, April 13, 2009, conducted a public hearing on the proposed Comprehensive Master Plan and has made the determination that the Master Plan document, with the revisions outlined by the Master Plan Consultant in the April 1, 2009 memorandum to City Council, will facilitate the overall future planning and redevelopment objectives of the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the proposed Comprehensive Master Plan for the City of Southfield is hereby adopted and that preparation of the final Comprehensive Master Plan document is hereby directed; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that in accordance with the aforementioned Comprehensive Master Plan Procedure requirements of the City Code, that City Council shall not later than five years from this date, review the Master Plan and determine whether to commence the procedure to amend the Plan or adopt a new Plan.

Motion passed. Councilman Lantz voted nay.

Next on the agenda was Public Hearing "C"; 2009-10 Community Development Block Grant Action Plan.

Erica Williams, Housing, stated that the public hearing is the final step before submitting the City's Action Plan to HUD. She then presented a short video that reviewed the recommended allocations for 2009-10. The City's entitlement is \$504,769 plus \$210,000 in revolving funds for a total of \$714,769 available for allocation. The recommended allocations were as follows:

Southfield Home Improvement Program	\$210,000 (Revolving Fund)
Southfield Home Improvement Program	\$ 94,286
Rebuilding Together	\$ 10,000
CHORE Program	\$150,000
Southfield Parks & Garden Club Project	\$ 1,000
Emergency Relief Fund	\$ 30,000
TOSS (Transportation of Southfield Seniors	\$ 35,000
SYA (Southfield Youth Assistance)	\$ 24,000
HAVEN (Help Against Violent Encounters Now	\$ 6,529
Accounting Aid Society	\$ 6,000
Common Ground Sanctuary	\$ 3,000
The Pocket	\$ 2,000
Fair Housing Activities	\$ 2,000
Administration	<u>\$140,954</u>
	\$714,769

The public hearing was declared open.

Pamela Gerald stated that she would like to see more money given to HAVEN. Domestic violence is on the rise. She felt it was disrespectful to have someone ask a question and not receive a response. She noted that the roads need to be restriped and did not see that listed. Mr. Banda replied that roads are restriped twice a year.

Breanna McFadden, 25316 Shiawassee, thanked Council for providing funding for HAVEN in the past. HAVEN is the only agency that provides assistance with PPO's (personal protection orders). They provide counseling for the prevention domestic violence. The funding will help them to continue to provide assistance to the victims.

There being no one else wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Lattimore stated that the City does a good job with CDBG funds every year. Ms. Williams puts a lot of hard work on developing a plan. Domestic violence is on the rise and he would like to see the funding increased to \$10,000 for Haven. He asked how many people were covered by the administration funds. Mr. Scharret replied that the administration costs were spread among those who plan and execute the program. The costs are probably greater than the funding provided.

Councilman Lattimore asked if \$3,000 could be moved from administration to HAVEN. Ms. Williams replied that any increase for HAVEN would have to come from the public services portion.

Councilwoman Jordan replied that it would mean taking from seniors, children and the emergency relief fund. All of the groups need funding.

Councilman Lattimore stated that it's a tough situation but he's only talking about \$3,000.

Mayor Lawrence stated that she gets calls all the time wanting to know what help the City can provide for domestic violence. The poor economy is putting everyone under a lot of stress. HAVEN takes in children and seniors. She asked how many people are assisted by the Accounting Aid Society.

Jim Miller, 6926 Pebble Park Circle, West Bloomfield, stated that the Accounting Aid Society served 275 residents in 2008.

Mayor Lawrence asked if assistance is income based or age based and how many other communities provide their organization funding. Mr. Miller replied that it is based on income. They recruit and train volunteers. He has a very small staff. Detroit provides some funding. The City of Pontiac no longer provides them funding because of their financial problems. He partners with the Human Services Department. Clients schedule appointments through the Human Services Department.

Mayor Lawrence replied that the City had discussed the possibility of talking to SMART in an effort to reduce TOSS funding. Ms. Williams replied that the City will probably receive another \$137,000 in CDBG funds. The City would probably be able to use 15% of that for HAVEN.

Councilman Frasier responded that at the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting on March 2, 2009 Council was given the opportunity to give their input. Many groups are poorly funded. HAVEN has a much larger source of funding than other organizations. He would hate to take money from another organization who works just as hard as HAVEN to provide a service to the community. He opposes making any last minute changes.

2009.96 Motion by Frasier; seconded by Siver.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Southfield has complied with all pre-submission requirements of the Community Development Block Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Southfield has prepared and published a Preliminary Action Plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Southfield has held a public hearing to obtain comments and recommendations on the Preliminary Action Plan.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** that the City Council of the City of Southfield adopts the Final Action Plan for 2009-2010 as follows:

The official application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development contains:

- Strategic Summary of current Consolidated Plan.
- A summary of projected use of funds for both Entitlement and Program Income.

- A description of each project recommended for funding.
- Certifications regarding compliance with all federal laws governing the Community Development Block Grant Program.
- A statement of all other Special Needs Activities conducted by the City of Southfield.

**Total 2009-2010 CDBG Funding**

\$ 504,769 *Entitlement*  
\$ 210,000 *Revolving Funds*  
 \$ 714,769 **Total**

**2009-2010 CDBG Funding Plan**

Southfield Home Improvement Program	\$210,000(Revolving Fund)
Southfield Home Improvement Program	\$ 94,286
Rebuilding Together	\$ 10,000
CHORE Program	\$150,000
Southfield Parks & Garden Club Project	\$ 1,000
Emergency Relief Fund	\$ 30,000
TOSS (Transportation of Southfield Seniors)	\$ 35,000
SYA (Southfield Youth Assistance)	\$ 24,000
HAVEN (Help Against Violent Encounters Now)	\$ 6,529
Accounting Aid Society	\$ 6,000
Common Ground Sanctuary	\$ 3,000
The Pocket	\$ 2,000
Fair Housing Activities	\$ 2,000
Administration	<u>\$140,954</u>
	\$714,769

Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the expense report of Myron Frasier for the NLC Congressional Cities Conference in Washington, DC from March 14-18, 2009.

2009.97 Motion by Siver; seconded by Lattimore.

**RESOLVED:** that Council does hereby approve the expense report of Myron Frasier for the NLC Congressional Cities Conference in Washington, DC from March 14-18, 2009.

Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the expense report of Kenson Siver for the NLC Congressional Cities Conference in Washington, DC from March 14-18, 2009.

2009.98 Motion by Frasier; seconded by Lattimore.

**RESOLVED:** that Council does hereby approve the expense report of Kenson Siver for the NLC Congressional Cities Conference in Washington, DC from March 14-18, 2009.

Motion passed unanimously.

Councilman Lantz stated that on April 9, 2009 there was a fire at an office building on Twelve Mile Road. He heard that there was insufficient water pressure to fight the fire. He wanted to know who was responsible for the low water pressure in that area.

Mr. Scharret replied that the situation was reviewed at length and it was determined that water pressure had little to do with the outcome of the fire. The fire had rapidly progressed prior to the Fire Department being called. Wind was a major factor. The water pressure situation was remedied on site by the Fire Department. It is important that the issue be addressed for the future. A project that is included in the current budget will be expedited to increase water pressure in that area. The project will be brought before Council to be completed this year.

Councilman Lantz expressed concern that if there had been a second fire in the area that there could have been a catastrophe.

Councilman Lantz read a Letter to the Editor that appeared in the Southfield Eccentric. The letter urged residents to call the Michigan Public Service Commission and voice their opposition to the rate hikes proposed by DTE and Consumers Energy. Many people are already under stress due to the economy and rate hikes would make it even more difficult for people to pay their utility bills. Mr. Lantz urged residents to send a letter in with their bill payment requesting shares of stock in the companies.

Councilman Siver stated that it was his understanding that the water main on Southfield Road was going to improve water pressure. Mr. Scharret replied that the water main does not affect pressure in the area where the fire occurred. A full explanation of the water pressure issue will be made at a future meeting.

Councilman Siver announced that National Volunteer Day is April 18<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers should report to Brace Lederle School at 8 a.m.

Councilman Siver announced that Personal Privacy Day is April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Southfield High School. Residents can bring up to 100 pounds of personal documents for shredding. The service is free.

Councilman Lattimore reminded residents that if they receive an estimated bill for a utility they can call in with an actual read and get the bill reduced.

Councilman Lattimore asked if the City had parameters to determine when a police officer backs off on a chase and allows another police department takes over. He referenced a situation in the past week in which four of the City's police cars pursued a pickup truck into the City of Detroit.

Mr. Scharret replied that the City has a pursuit policy that is reviewed regularly. The City's policy is a model used by other agencies. He would prefer having the Police Chief report on the specific incident. He suggested that the topic might be appropriate for a Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting.

Councilman Frasier reminded residents that the annual Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day would take place on Saturday. A shredder will be available for residents to shred documents with personal information..

Next was the expense report of Brenda Lawrence for the U.S. Conference of Mayors Meeting with President Obama in Washington, DC, February 20, 2009.

2009.99 Motion by Lattimore; seconded by Frasier.

**RESOLVED:** that Council does hereby approve the expense report of Brenda Lawrence for the U.S. Conference of Mayors Meeting with President Obama in Washington, DC, February 20, 2009.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Lawrence stated that she recently held a Mayor's Roundtable on taxes. Residents were given an education on how their tax dollars are spent. The consensus of those in attendance was that the City puts its tax dollars to good use. The next roundtable will be on public works.

Mayor Lawrence noted that the Chicken Shack has opened on Northwestern Highway. There will be a grand opening celebration at some point.

Mayor Lawrence stated that property owners have told her that they are excited about the plans for Evergreen Road. The City is drawing some attention for its retail space.

Mayor Lawrence noted that she attended the Final Four and people were very happy with the event. The hotels in Southfield were packed. The region has to continue to work together. She and Council President Fracassi sent a letter to the Mayor and Council of the City of Detroit encouraging them to sit down and resolve the situation regarding Cobo Hall.

Councilwoman Jordan invited the public to attend an Economic Stimulus Update on April 22, 2009 in the Parks & Recreation Building.

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting of April 13, 2009, adjourned at 9:50 p.m., until the next Regular Meeting (conducted as a Committee-of-the-Whole) on April 20, in the Council Conference Room of the Municipal Building, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, Michigan.