

REGULAR MEETING
(CONDUCTED AS A COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE)
OF THE COUNCIL
CITY OF SOUTHFIELD
February 2, 2009

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**Approved
March 9, 2009**

REGULAR MEETING
(CONDUCTED AS A COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE)
OF THE COUNCIL
CITY OF SOUTHFIELD
February 2, 2009

MINUTES

The meeting of the Council convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Conference Room of the Municipal Building, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, Michigan, with Council President Donald Fracassi in the Chair. PRESENT: Council Members: Donald Fracassi, Myron Frasier, Sylvia Jordan, Sidney Lantz, Bill Lattimore, Joan Seymour and Kenson Siver. 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 first item on the agenda was the reallocation of funding for library circulating materials.

Mr. Scharret stated that on September 24, 2007 Council approved the purchase of library circulating materials from the Library Video Company in an amount not-to-exceed \$20,000 annually. Due to a change in offerings that occurred subsequent to the bid award the Library has not made any purchases from the Library Video Company. The Library has found that the Midwest Tape Company can meet the Library's needs. He recommended that the \$20,000 authorized for the Library Video Company be reallocated to the Midwest Tape Company bringing the authorized total to \$70,000 for the Midwest Tape Company.

C-05-2009 Motion by Lattimore; seconded by Frasier.

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 10 of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Southfield City Council on February 23, 1998, Council hereby determines that there is an immediate need to act.

Motion passed unanimously.

C-06-2009 Motion by Siver; seconded by Lattimore.

RESOLVED: that Council does hereby authorize the reallocation of funding, in the amount of \$20,000, originally approved on September 24, 2007 for the purchase of audio-visual materials, from the Library Video

Company to Midwest Tape for purchases through June 30, 2009, bringing Midwest Tape's authorized total to \$70,000. Funds for these purchases are provided in the 2008-09 Library Books and Tapes accounts (account series 271-500).

Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was amending the Council Meeting Schedule.

City Clerk Nancy Banks requested that the Regular Meeting (conducted as a Committee-of-the-Whole) of February 9, 2009 be cancelled as there were no items to put on the agenda.

C-07-2009 Motion by Siver; seconded by Frasier.

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 10 of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Southfield City Council on February 23, 1998, Council hereby determines that there is an immediate need to act.

Motion passed unanimously.

C-08-2009 Motion by Frasier; seconded by Siver.

RESOLVED: that Council does hereby cancel the Regular Meeting (conducted as a Committee-of-the-Whole) scheduled for February 9, 2009.

Motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the 2008 Performance Highlights.

Council President Fracassi asked that Council hold all budget questions until the Mayor presents the budget at a future Council meeting.

Councilman Frasier asked if the City tracks vacant commercial and residential buildings. Mr. Zorn replied that the City tracks both, however, multiple address sites are a problem for GIS. Steps are being taken to correct the problem.

Councilman Frasier stated that Catalpa Park is now a County park and questioned why the City has it listed in the 10 day mowing cycle. Mr. Waterhouse replied that the City was helping the County with mowing. The County is suppose to reimburse the City. Mr. Scharret added that he would check to see if the County owes the City any money.

Councilman Frasier asked about the use of fire hydrants by landscapers and contractors. Mr. Scharret replied that the City is working with the Police Department, Cable 15 and the Legal Department to step up efforts on the issue.

Councilman Frasier stated that a new State Law requires all public pools to have trap guards on their drains. He asked about the status of the Civic Center pool. Mr. Waterhouse replied that the trap guard must be installed before the pool can reopen for the summer.

Councilman Lantz questioned why nothing was done to correct the problem last year. Mr. Waterhouse replied that the law was passed after the pool had closed for the year. The pool has to be drained in order to do the work.

Councilman Lantz asked if the Fire Department keeps track of how much water it uses when using a fire hydrant. Chief Healy replied that the Fire Department can only estimate the amount of water used based on the rate of water flow.

Mr. Scharret responded that water loss can occur due to slow meters, use of water by the Fire Department and the people taking water illegally. Data indicates that there is an increase in water theft. He is working with the Police Chief to ensure that officers know what to look for. Cable 15 is working on getting the word out to residents on what to watch for. He has talked to Legal Department regarding possible fines and penalties for illegal use of fire hydrants.

Councilman Lantz stated that a resident showed him two water bills. One bill was for \$40.00 and the other one for \$80.00. The resident can't understand the why it jumped from one month to the next. Mr. Scharret replied that there are issues with the water billing system. The City is looking to improve the system. One of the jumps in the water bill was probably due to the minimum usage requirement. The infrastructure analysis will include improvements to the billing system.

Councilman Siver stated that the ceiling in Fire Station #4 was damaged. He questioned whether the City was paying for the damage or was the contractor being charged for the repairs. Mr. Scharret replied that he would have to research the matter.

Councilman Siver asked for a report on the loan program for the removal of dangerous trees. Mr. Scharret replied that the program is going very well and he would provide a report for Council.

Councilman Siver noted that 1694 of the 1932 properties on the west side have connected to the sewer system or have passed a septic tank inspection. He asked for an update on the remaining properties. Mr. Scharret replied that some of the remaining properties need to be addressed immediately and others are in various stages. The City will need to comeback to Council with a program to handle the issue.

Councilman Siver asked if the City was on target to do the Beech Road Bridge this year. Mr. Mekjian replied that the bid will be awarded in July.

Councilman Siver asked if the new bridge would be a carbon fiber bridge. Mr. Scharret replied that LTU could not get the necessary funding. MDOT would like to see jobs created by doing a carbon fiber bridge.

Councilman Lattimore noted that 2/3 of the Fire Department calls were for medical emergencies. He asked if a new EMS truck was needed. Chief Healy replied that four new vehicles were purchased in 2006. Three pumper trucks will be delivered in March.

Councilman Lattimore asked if a pumper truck accompanies an EMS vehicle on medical runs. Chief Healy stated that calls are triaged by Dispatch. If it's a basic medical run that can easily be handled by 2 paramedics then only one vehicle is sent. When there are life threatening complicated events then two vehicles are sent. The extra personnel are needed to perform medical procedures. In some cases only the EMS vehicle will use lights and sirens and other times both vehicles will use lights and sirens.

Councilwoman Jordan asked Mr. Banda for a chart showing the 2008 tax abatements.

Councilwoman Jordan asked how much the City charges for rental inspections and whether the fee covers the entire cost. Wayne Jewell, Building Official, replied that the cost is \$200 per unit and covers the cost of two inspections per unit. Additional inspections of a unit are charged by the hour.

Councilwoman Jordan stated that at a recent Council meeting she had asked to have someone look at the No Left Turn sign at Kerby's. Mr. Scharret replied that he took a look at the sign. The sign is not the problem. He will have the Police Department step up enforcement in the area.

Councilwoman Jordan asked how the City can reduce the number of people making illegal turns. Chief Thomas replied that violations can be reduced through enforcement and notification. In some cases the driver does not see the sign. He suggested perhaps a flashing light would call attention to it. Mr. Scharret responded that the City will research possible solutions.

Councilwoman Jordan stated that the Parks & Recreation Department's mission statement should be reflected in the programs offered. The City cannot continue to offer so many free activities. Mr. Waterhouse replied that the staff reviews programs every year. The Daddy/Daughter Dance brings in \$9,000 in revenues. The Tree Lighting and Fireworks are free. However, the Tree Lighting has been scaled back to cut down on expenses. The Boo at the Burgh generates revenue and 95% of those in attendance are residents.

Councilman Lattimore asked for an update on the PEG issue. Lisa Hawkins, Cable 15, replied that the City continues to collect the PEG fee. The money for AT & T is going into a separate account because the PEG channel is not yet available. The City is still working to get AT & T to improve resolution quality. AT & T will not provide the City a

line so that their PEG channel can be monitored. The City would have to pay \$8,000 to \$10,000 for AT & T to send a signal.

Ms. Ward-Witkowski added that a lawsuit was initiated because AT & T is dragging its feet. AT & T downplays the importance of the PEG channel and treats it in an inferior manner.

Councilman Lattimore asked if basketball courts were being considered for the Civic Center complex. Mr. Waterhouse replied that the idea is being looked at. Basketball courts and a skate park are examples of what would be included in the master plan for the future.

Councilman Lattimore expressed concern about the inability of residents to access computers at the Library. Approximately half the computers are being used by young people who are accessing Facebook or MySpace.

Dave Ewick, City Librarian, replied that the Library will be trying a pilot program that requires patrons to use a card to access the computers. City issued library cards would be needed to access computers. Those who do not have a City library card would have to obtain a guest card. The program would allow the Library to limit the amount of time someone can spend on a computer. The City could turn on the monitoring system whenever a certain percentage of computers are in use. Residents would be limited to 4 hours a day and non-residents to two hours a day. The pilot costs \$14,000.

Councilman Lattimore asked if the City can block access to sites such as Facebook. Mr. Ewick replied that legally the City can only block access to pornography, obscenities and programs that slowdown bandwidth. With the pilot program the City could limit them to two hours.

Councilman Siver replied that other libraries limit patrons to one hour and then the patron must get back in line for the computers. Mr. Ewick replied that he only used 4 hours as an example.

Councilman Lattimore suggested two hours for residents and one hour for non-residents. He asked if the Library is still using security guards. Mr. Ewick replied that the Library has five part-time security guards.

Mayor Lawrence stated that at one time the City talked about policing City parks. There is a lot of inappropriate behavior at the parks. The City needs to revisit the idea of park rangers. She suggested that perhaps the cadets could police the parks or use drug forfeiture funds to pay for policing the parks.

Mayor Lawrence stated that renovating the kitchen at the Burgh would provide more opportunities for the using the site. Weddings and other events are held there on a regular basis.

Council President Fracassi referred the park rangers and Burgh site renovations to Administration.

Mayor Lawrence indicated that she would like to see where the City is in regards to the website. The City needs to look at technology policies and what the challenges are. The City needs a progressive plan to evaluate and stay on top of the latest technology.

Councilman Lattimore responded that the Municipal Complex is one of the few city halls that is not wireless. It is time to take a closer look at the issue. He recommended that Council start using laptops for Council meetings. The City needs to stop killing trees by printing agenda packets.

Councilman Lantz asked if the City can establish a policy on the use of computers. Mr. Ewick replied that the City is limited on what they can block because of freedom of speech issues. The City can't block games. The Library is in the process of allocating money for a pilot program.

Councilwoman Jordan asked if there would be a fee associated with the guest passes for the computers. Mr. Ewick replied that there was not a fee currently established, however staff will be meeting on Tuesday to discuss increasing revenues and lowering costs. He will need to work with the Legal Department on what is allowed.

Councilwoman Seymour asked if the same legalities that apply to print apply to computers. Mr. Ewick replied that the City can block non-residents from checking books out but he's not sure if the City can restrict them from using the computers.

Councilwoman Seymour suggested charging a fee to play computer games. Mr. Ewick replied that entertainment is one of the Library's functions and therefore they cannot block computer games.

Next item on the agenda was a discussion on capital projects and infrastructure grants update.

Mr. Zorn stated that there has been much discussion regarding the Federal Stimulus Package. The stimulus package does contain some tax cuts that are relevant to Southfield such as \$700 grants for first time homebuyers and accelerated depreciation. He will not be highlighting the tax cuts in his presentation. The House passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act on January 28, 2009. The bill contains \$609 billion in spending and \$219 billion in net tax cuts over the next ten years. The Senate is expected to pass its own version, possibly as early as this week. A conference committee will convene to negotiate a compromise bill.

The Act contains thirteen Titles. Title I contains general provisions regarding use of funds, transparency, accountability and oversight. Title II deals with agriculture, nutrition and rural development.

Title III is Commerce, Justice and Science. The U.S. Economic Development Corporation will monitor the Commerce program. The monies are for dealing with abandoned manufacturing facilities, development of a high tech incubator.

The Science section includes the Department of Justice Grant that the City has received over the past several years. The COPS hiring program limit has been raised to 33% for the first three years of employment and 100% for the fourth year.

Title IV is Defense. A majority of the funds for Title IV would be used for modernization of defense facilities.

Title V is Energy and Water. A new Weatherization Assistance Program would be created. The City would have clients use that program before using the SHIP program. There may be a way to use grant funds to pay staff salaries. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant would provide funding for improvements to City facilities. It may be as high as \$7 to \$20 per capita. Funding is also available for Advanced Battery Manufacturing. Mr. Zorn would like to think that Southfield would become a major player in that field.

Title VI is Financial Services and General Government. Funds would be made available for improvements to government facilities and loan guarantees through the Small Business Administration.

Title VII is Homeland Security. There are five programs with a total funding of \$1.1 billion including \$200 million for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program.

Title VIII is Interior and Environmental. The Interior portion covers the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The Environmental section includes \$800 million for Superfund Clean Up. The City has twelve underground storage tanks registered with the State of Michigan. Funding is also provided for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds. Mr. Mekjian stated that all states have a Drinking Water Revolving Fund. Those with approved plans will be given priority. Negative interest loans are being discussed. Funding is also provided for grants and loans under the Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA). This may provide an opportunity for departments to experiment with alternative fuel vehicles. Additional funding for Brownfields is also provided.

Title IX is Labor, Health and Human Services and Education. The Southfield Career Center has had a number of new grants come in. The department is facing capacity and staffing issues. The City needs to find a facility for running the programs. The John Grace Center is strapped for space. Funding is provided for youth programs to help young people develop good work habits.

Eileen Bagley, Career Center Manager, stated that the City will be able to place students, 14-24 years of age, into summer jobs.

Mr. Zorn stated that the City has been talking about forming committees to work on the different areas in an effort to bring as much money as possible into Southfield.

Title X is Military Construction and Veterans Affairs.

Title XI is the Department of State.

Title XII is Transportation and Housing & Urban Development. Funding for roads would come from this section. The CDA has talked about building a transit center. The City has also talked about a transit center at Eleven Mile and Lahser Roads. CDBG funding in the House version is \$1 billion. The Senate version has another \$8 billion.

Title XIII is the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund. It would provide \$79 billion in fiscal relief to the States to prevent tax increases and cutbacks in critical educational and other high priority services over the next two years.

The City's Action Plan includes the following:

1. Continue to monitor the proposed legislation.
2. Continue to track relative web sites (SEMCOG, MML, MSA, State Departments, etc.)
3. Form Grant-Project Committees.
4. Continue to Enhance Communications with funding agencies.
5. Continue to engage legislators, lobbyist, etc.

“Shovel ready” means those projects that have been or could reasonably be approved, and all necessary design work and environmental review have been or could reasonably be expected to be completed, such that work on the projects could begin within 90, 120 or 180 days of the federal government releasing funds to the State of Michigan.

Council President Fracassi thanked Mr. Zorn for a great presentation. If the stimulus package is approved it may be 2010 or 2011 before the City sees any money. Mr. Zorn replied that road projects will be moved up. The FHWA process is a 6-year planning process that was designed to slow communities down because of the lack of funding. The five projects being proposed by the City can be ready for design.

Councilman Lantz asked if the City has the staff to do the work. Mr. Zorn replied that the City has the staff and the talent. Mr. Scharret added that that is why the request for outside assistance is on the agenda. The last allowable extension is now up for consideration. When the plan was put together the City made sure it was reasonable and that it did not overextend the City's road fund balance. There is nothing on the “shovel ready” list that was not on the high priority list from the beginning. Staff has been told that they will be part of the grant writing team. The City needs to be aggressive and early.

Councilman Lattimore asked what portion of the COPS Hiring Program funds could the City receive. Mr. Scharret replied that the City did not qualify last time but it will not stop the City from trying again.

Councilman Lattimore asked for a status update on the National Stabilization Program (NSP) application process. Mr. Zorn replied that the City was asked to make two changes. Dearborn is the only city to get formal approval as of today.

Councilman Lattimore asked about plans to help deal with foreclosures. Mr. Zorn responded that the NSP does not help someone who is about to lose their home. There is some discussion about a new Federal program.

Councilwoman Jordan stated that she attended a NLC conference last week and the “shovel ready” issue was stressed. The City needs to be ready because funding will be coming soon. She asked if Mr. Scharret wanted separate approvals for each item.

Mr. Scharret replied that MDOT requires that the City emphasize non-motorized transportation facilities. He asked that Council adopt the proposed Non-Motorized Transportation Facilities Policy in order to conform with the technical requirements of MDOT.

Council President Fracassi asked if Beech Road meets the non-motorized policy. Mr. Mekjian replied that the policy is on the agenda because of Beech Road. The City would like the State to pay for the walkways on either side of the bridge. The State won't pay for it without this policy in place.

Councilman Siver asked if the City can substitute the Beech Road project for one of the other “shovel ready” projects. Mr. Mekjian replied that no one knows for sure, however, those projects designed and on the shelf have the best chance of approval.

Mr. Scharret replied that the City needs to move ahead with Beech Road because of safety issues.

Councilman Frasier stated that the resolution states that non-motorized transportation facilities have to be part of any project. He noted that many neighborhoods do not want sidewalks. If the policy mandates it, how does the City handle the situation? Ms. Ward-Witkowski replied that if the policy is to flexible the City could get resistance from MDOT. The policy would only apply to roads covered by Act 51.

C-09-2009 Motion by Frasier; seconded by Jordan.

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 10 of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Southfield City Council on February 23, 1998, Council hereby determines that there is an immediate need to act.

Motion passed unanimously.

C-10-2009 Motion by Frasier; seconded by Jordan.

BE IT RESOLVED: that as part of the City's comprehensive master planning process the Southfield City Council does hereby establish a policy to address sidewalk, non-motorized and bicycle path construction along all roads within the City of Southfield deemed a "Collector" or "Major" road (herein a "road") by the MDOT Act 51 funding maps; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that sidewalks, or alternatively, safety paths or bicycle paths, if approved by the City's Engineering Department, shall be located along each side of a Road to provide continuity and mobility for the residents of the City as well as to encourage the non-motorized use of the public rights-of-way and to encourage exercise, recreational activities, and cohesive relationships between neighbors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that sidewalks, or alternatively, safety paths or bicycle paths, if approved by the City's Engineering Department, shall be installed along a Road frontage as part of a newly constructed adjacent public or private development in the City where such sidewalks, safety paths, or bicycle paths have not previously been installed; provided however, such sidewalks, safety paths or bicycle paths shall not be required when the installation thereof is determined not to be feasible by the City's Engineering Department due to topographical or environmental concerns or public safety related issues: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that sidewalks, or alternatively, safety paths or bicycle paths, if approved by the City's Engineering Department, shall be installed upon and at the time of any Road widening or reconstruction; provided however, the installation thereof may be deferred to be installed at some future date as a distinct project when determined necessary or advisable by the City's Engineering Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the inclusion of sidewalks, or alternatively, safety paths or bicycle paths, if approved by the City's Engineering Department, shall be an integral part of any development or redevelopment plans considered by the Southfield Planning Commission and the Southfield City Council; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED: that your Honorable Body determine an immediate need to act pursuant to Council Rule 10, based upon the need to meet established deadlines and keep related projects on schedule.

Motion passed unanimously.

Next was the contract extension for professional engineering services with Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. and Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc.

Council President Fracassi asked if the City could get a better deal by extending the contract for more than one year. Ms. Ward-Witkowski responded that the original contract would have to be amended to allow for an additional option.

Mr. Scharret suggested approving the one year extension and bringing the matter back on February 17, 2009 after some negotiating.

Councilwoman Jordan voiced her opposition to extending the contract for more than one year.

Council President Fracassi responded that everyone is looking at contracts and trying to get the best deal for the money. The City could possibly save money. Mr. Scharret replied that the original contract requires the companies to live within the Consumers Price Index. The flat rate is less than what the companies could have charged.

Mr. Mekjian replied that consistency is the key. The RFP process for engineering services can take six to nine months.

Councilwoman Seymour noted that Council couldn't extend the contract past one year tonight because it requires an amendment to the contract. Consistency is important because projects are multi-year in nature. She voiced support for negotiating a possible amendment to the original contract.

Councilman Frasier stated that when Council approved the original contract it was agreed the contract would be renegotiated at that time. The City has a year to negotiate a new contract. These companies are professional and are not timid about bidding.

C-11-2009 Motion by Siver; seconded by Frasier.

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 10 of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Southfield City Council on February 23, 1998, Council hereby determines that there is an immediate need to act.

Motion passed unanimously.

C-12-2009 Motion by Siver; seconded by Frasier.

BE IT RESOLVED: that Council does hereby approve a one (1) year contract extension for professional engineering services with the firms of Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc. of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and Orchard, Hiltz & McCliment, Inc. of Livonia, Michigan commencing on February 1, 2009 and terminating on February 1, 2010, with no unit price increases for the contract extension period; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized to execute the appropriate contract documents on behalf of the City, said documents having been reviewed and approved as to form by the City Attorney.

Motion passed unanimously.

Councilwoman Jordan left the meeting.

Next was the approval of the selection, funding and design of the "Shovel Ready" Infrastructure Projects.

Mr. Zorn reviewed the five recommended projects.

Project #1 was Inkster Road from Nine Mile Road to Eleven Mile Road. The road is in poor condition and is presently on the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) list for federal funding in 2012. The estimated cost of the project is \$2.3 million.

Project #2 was Evergreen Road from Ten Mile Road to Eleven Mile Road. The project would include extending the existing storm sewer to the Rummel County Drain and the reconstruction of the existing roadway. The estimated cost of the project is \$12 million.

Project #3 was Evergreen Road from Eight Mile Road to Nine Mile Road. The project includes reconstruction of the existing roadway and the replacement of the traffic signals at Eight Mile, Midway and Nine Mile. The estimated cost of the project is \$3.5 million.

Project #4 was Eleven Mile Road from Inkster to Pebble Creek. The project includes the reconstruction of Eleven Mile Road from Pebble Creek to Inkster. Funding was not available when MDOT widened Eleven Mile Road during the I-696 interchange project. The estimated cost of the project is \$2 million.

Project #5 was the Eleven Mile Road Bridge at the Pernick Drain. The project includes the total replacement of the bridge with a four sided precast concrete box culvert. The estimated cost of the project is \$1.25 million.

The estimated cost of the design engineering for the five projects is \$865,000.

Councilman Siver stated that Evergreen Road needs curbs and sidewalks between Eight Mile and Nine Mile. There are tremendous safety issues because there is nowhere for people to walk especially in the winter. Mr. Mekjian replied that sidewalks, curbs and gutters are included in the project.

Councilman Lattimore asked for an update on Ten Mile Road. Mr. Mekjian replied that the County originally estimated the cost at \$2.1 million. However, HRC looked at it and determined that there are some unique construction issues and more repairs are needed.

The estimated cost has increased about \$1 million. The project will be done this summer.

Gary Tressel stated that the original funding was \$2.2 million and the RCOC put aside \$1.1 million, the other half of the cost would be covered through Tri-Party Funding. The road is continuing to self-destruct which is why the cost of the project is going up. The City's estimated cost is \$770,000. The remaining costs will be covered by Oakland County and the RCOC. In addition, the City was asked to look at Berg Road, north of Ten Mile, which is severely deteriorating for several hundred feet and will cost an additional \$98,000. The City must also bring sidewalk ramps and crosswalks into ADA compliance. Bidding will be done in late July and construction would take place in the Fall.

Councilman Siver responded that the road needs to be completely replaced. There is no point in spending good money into an unstable base. Mr. Tressel replied that a total replacement would cost \$12 million as opposed to \$3 million for an overlay. The cracks will be pushed down and filled in before the overlay is done. This is the best solution with the money available.

Council President Fracassi asked what the project life would be. Mr. Tressel replied that joint sealing and crack sealing should be done in three to five years and maintenance will be needed in about 10 years.

Mr. Mekjian noted that Ten Mile is on the County's economic stimulus list. Mr. Tressel added that if the County is successful in obtaining additional funding then Ten Mile Road would be totally reconstructed.

Councilman Frasier asked how the City determines whether to use concrete or asphalt. Mr. Mekjian replied that the policy has always been to replace with what ever surface is currently in place whenever possible. Evergreen Road is a main corridor and drainage work is needed therefore a total reconstruction is needed.

Rhett Gronevely, OHM, stated that the cost of asphalt has risen significantly in the past year. Concrete has become a more reasonable option.

C-13-2009 Motion by Siver; seconded by Frasier.

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 10 of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Southfield City Council on February 23, 1998, Council hereby determines that there is an immediate need to act.

Motion passed unanimously.

C-14-2009 Motion by Siver; seconded by Frasier.

BE IT RESOLVED: that City Administration and the Department of Public Works wish to pursue funding from the proposed Federal Economic Stimulus Package for infrastructure improvements within the City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that following a comprehensive review of major street pavement conditions and projects listed in the capital improvement program, the Department of Public Works has identified five (5) major road projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that Council does hereby approve the selection of the following five (5) projects to design and have “shovel ready” in order to aggressively pursue proposed Federal Economic Stimulus Package funds:

<u>Project Location</u>	<u>Design Estimate</u>
1) Inskter Road from 9 Mile to 11 Mile Road	\$114,000
2) Evergreen Road from 10 Mile to 11 Mile Road	\$450,000
3) Evergreen Road from 8 Mile to 9 Mile Road	\$185,000
4) 11 Mile Road from Inkster to Pebble Creek	\$ 56,000
5) Freeway 11 Mile Road Bridge at Pernick Drain	<u>\$ 60,000</u>
Total	\$865,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that Council does hereby authorize an adjustment to the 2008-09 Major Street construction budget (account #202-451-4515-49740) in the amount of \$865,000 from the Major Street Fund Balance for these purposes.

Motion passed unanimously.

Next was a request for authorization to seek proposals for outside assistance to evaluate structural and mechanical systems of the Southfield Sports Arena.

Mr. Scharret requested authorization to seek proposals for assistance in assessing the mechanical systems of the Sports Arena. There are some who believe that failures may be imminent. The cost of the assessment would not exceed \$50,000. The matter will be back for Council approval once proposals have been received.

Councilman Frasier asked if the pool would be included in the assessment or is it limited to the ice arena. Mr. Scharret replied that the City needs to determine what type of assistance is needed and include it in the specifications.

Mr. Waterhouse replied that P & R is looking to assess the ice making equipment and the pool filtration system.

C-15-2009 Motion by Frasier; seconded by Lattimore.

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 10 of the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Southfield City Council on February 23, 1998, Council hereby determines that there is an immediate need to act.

Motion passed unanimously.

C-16-2009 Motion by Lattimore; seconded by Frasier.

RESOLVED: that Council does hereby authorize the Parks & Recreation and Purchasing Departments to seek proposals for outside assistance to evaluate the structural and mechanical systems of the Southfield Sports Arena; any award for such services being subject to the approval of City Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

Next was an update on the Business Appreciation Program.

Mr. Banda stated that Stellar Fundraising has agreed to honor their contract for another year. They understand the City's position.

Mr. Banda stated that a team was put together to find a way to thank businesses for being in Southfield and to let them know how their tax dollars are being spent. A list of businesses has been created based on size. The businesses would be broken down into groups of 500. The City will host a continental breakfast in the Pavilion. The focus of the program will be what the City does with their tax money and how can the City help them. The Mayor and Council President will welcome them. Key department heads will be in attendance.

Rochelle Freeman stated that the businesses will be asked to provide their names and e-mail addresses and to register their business. Quick fact cards with phone numbers will be given to each attendee.

Mr. Banda stated that the City will acknowledge the challenges that businesses are facing and let them know that the City is here to help them survive. Business retention is the goal.

Councilman Lattimore stated that there are several reports about a movie coming into Southfield. Ms. Freeman replied that she stays in contact with the Michigan Film Office and has not seen anything recently. Mr. Banda added that a Southfield production studio is being used.

Councilman Siver stated that the Principal of Bradford Academy was quoted in the paper regarding the expansion of Bradford Academy and seeking more students. Mr. Banda replied that the City is not getting much traction at the State level.

Councilman Siver responded that it was previously suggested that the City sue them. Ms. Ward-Witkowski answered that the City has not been able to find a legal basis for suing. The Legislature has empowered Bradford Academy to do it.

Councilman Siver noted that the owner of the Taste of Ethiopia restaurant is coming back for a liquor license. Ms. Banks replied that after reviewing the status of liquor licenses it was determined that the City has two Class C licenses available.

Council President Fracassi recommended that the presentation on liquor licenses be made at the next Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

Councilman Frasier asked about the box on the front lawn near Evergreen Road. Mr. Banda replied that it's the electrical switch box for the Civic Center complex.

Councilman Frasier recommended giving the box a coat of paint. Council President Fracassi recommended putting in landscaping to hide it.

There being no further business, the Regular Meeting (conducted as a Committee-of-the-Whole) adjourned at 10:21 p.m., February 2, 2009, until the next Regular Meeting on February 17, 2009, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 26000 Evergreen Road, Southfield, Michigan.

Donald Fracassi, Council President

Nancy L. M. Banks, City Clerk