



City of Plymouth

City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 18, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.

City of Plymouth
201 S. Main
Plymouth, Michigan 48170-1637

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Phone 734-453-1234
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Meeting was held online at Zoom.us – Meeting ID 810 9491 5234

Statement on the reason the public body is meeting electronically:

On March 10, 2020 the Governor of the State of Michigan declared a state of emergency across the State of Michigan under section 1 of Article 5 of the Michigan Constitution of 1963, the Emergency Management Act, 1976 PA 390, as amended, MCL 30.401 – 421, and the Emergency Powers of the Governor Act of 1945, 1945 PA302, as amended, MCL 10.31 – 33. These sections provide the Governor with broad powers and duties to cope with dangers to this state or to the people of the state.

As a part of the response to the emergency, the Governor has deemed it reasonable and necessary to temporarily suspend rules and procedures relating to physical presence at meetings and hearings of public bodies and other governmental entities in Michigan. These public bodies and entities must continue to conduct public business during this emergency. Due to the emergency situation and the request of the Governor to not gather in groups of 10 or more it is necessary for some public boards to meet electronically.

1. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Mayor Wolcott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance
- b. Roll call

Present: Mayor Oliver Wolcott, Mayor Pro Tem Nick Moroz, Commissioners Suzi Deal, Ed Krol, Kelly O' Donnell, Marques Thomey, Tony Sebastian

Also present: City Manager Paul Sincock, Attorney Robert Marzano, City Clerk Maureen Brodie, Public Safety Director Al Cox and various City Department Heads

- c. Proclamations

Mayor Wolcott read proclamations for the following:

- i. National Public Works Week
- ii. Emergency Medical Services Week

2. CITIZENS COMMENTS

District Director for Congresswoman Hayley Stevens, Colleen Pobur said she appreciates the efficiency of emergency services in the City. She announced that there is a bipartisan and bicameral bill in Congress called the SMART Act. The bill would provide emergency funding based on a governmental unit's population, the impact of COVID-19 on the community and revenue replacement.

Ellen Elliott ,404 Irvin, thanked the DMS, Police, Fire and DDA for their continued excellent service.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Krol made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thomey to approve the agenda for Monday, May 18, 2020.

ROLL CALL VOTE - MOTION PASSED 7-0

4. ENACTMENT OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

- a. Approval of May 4, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. Approval of April 2020 Bills
- c. Special Event: Plymouth Lion's Club Memorial Day Ceremonies, Monday, May 25, 2020

Commissioner O'Donnell asked that item 4.c be moved to the regular agenda as item 7.c.

ROLL CALL VOTE - MOTION PASSED 7-0

5. COMMISSION COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Moroz reminded residents to keep following social distancing guidelines so Plymouth's COVID-19 rates remain low.

Mayor Wolcott asked residents to fill out their Census 2020 reports. He commented that there has been great cooperation between local, county, state and federal governments during the pandemic.

6. OLD BUSINESS

a. Alarm Code Ordinance Update – Final Reading

The following Resolution was offered by Commissioner Thomey and seconded by Commissioner Krol.

RESOLUTION # 2020-38

WHEREAS The City Commission of the City of Plymouth hereby wants to amend the Plymouth City Code Section 54-47,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Commission of the City of Plymouth does hereby adopt at its Second and Final Reading the following amendment to the Plymouth City Code Section 54-47:

Section 54-47(a) –

REMOVE THE FOLLOWING:

The alarm user shall be required to pay a fine, as set forth in subsection 54-47(c), for each false alarm in excess of three false alarms occurring within the calendar year.

INSERT THE FOLLOWING:

The alarm user shall be required to pay a fine, as set forth in subsection 54-47(c), for each false alarm in excess of two false alarms occurring within a calendar year.

Mayor Wolcott left the meeting briefly and Mayor Pro Tem Moroz opened the public hearing on the resolution below. Hearing no public comments, he then closed the hearing. Mayor Wolcott returned to the meeting.

ROLL CALL VOTE - MOTION PASSED 7-0

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Tentative Agreement with POAM/COAM

The following Resolution was offered by Mayor Pro Tem Moroz and seconded by Commissioner Thomey.

RESOLUTION # 2020-39

WHEREAS The City of Plymouth has certain labor agreements with certain unions who represent various employee groups, and

WHEREAS The Labor Agreement between the City and the Plymouth police officers represented by POAM have a contract expiring on December 31, 2020 and the Plymouth Police command officers, represented by COAM have a contract expiring on December 31, 2020, and

WHEREAS The two unions put forth a proposal for a one year, status quo contract with no scheduled increase in salary or benefits,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Commission of the City of Plymouth does hereby accept a one year, status quo contract agreement between the City and City of Plymouth Police officers effective July 1, 2020 and the City of Plymouth Police command officers effective January 1, 2021.

There was discussion about the positive relationship between the City administration and the police department staff that led to a quick resolution.

ROLL CALL VOTE - MOTION PASSED 7- 0

b. Social Distance Designation – Patio Expansion

The following resolution was offered by Mayor Pro Tem Moroz and seconded by Commissioner Krol.

RESOLUTION # 2020-40

WHEREAS The City of Plymouth has several outdoor patios for local restaurants and these spaces are very popular during the summer months, and

WHEREAS The entire State of Michigan has been under a State of Emergency for several weeks and this emergency situation has caused the Governor of the State to issue several emergency orders, some of which caused restaurants and retail stores to be closed, and

WHEREAS The City Commission is desirous to take quick action to allow restaurants and in some cases, retail stores to use public property for the expansion of their businesses, and

WHEREAS City Commission has already established policy related to the use of public property for expanded business space.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Commission of the City of Plymouth does hereby authorize the City Administration make additional public space available for the use of expanded areas for use by restaurants, within the scope of the rules and regulations of the State of Michigan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the City Administration is directed to use public properties, including streets, alleys, and walkways for this program.

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Commission of the City of Plymouth does hereby designate public spaces in front of or on the side of a business as space available for and shall be designated as a Social District, further the City Administration has the authority to make adjustments in the Social District plan to better facilitate the use of the public space for this purpose.

BE IT STILL FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the use of the public space shall be available until and including November 1, 2020, unless revoked in accordance with the rules and regulations established or prohibited by the State of Michigan or revoked by the City Commission. Further, the use of the public space under the terms of this Resolution shall NOT be renewable unless there is further action by the City Commission.

Colleen Pobur said Congresswoman Hayley Stevens met with a number of local officials in communities with a downtown and was told that restaurants are suffering. As a result, the Liquor Control Commission has begun expediting applications for outdoor service.

Kerri Pollard, 443 S. Main, said as a merchant, she typically doesn't like street closures but feels that in this case, she would support closing the streets for outdoor eating.

Jim Burrows, 1014 Dewey, said he thinks Plymouth should consider closing Main St. for the whole summer, as Traverse City is doing.

Dan Johnson of Ironwood Grill said their customers have told them they'd be more comfortable eating outside.

Ellen Elliott, 404 Irvin, said she thinks just using parking spaces wouldn't give restaurants enough space. She would support closing streets as well.

Karen Sisolak, 939 Penniman, asked the administration to consider walkability when expanding outdoor seating.

Kelly Katynski, 986 Dewey, said she believes if seating is expanded into the street, restaurant owners might be more likely to invest in equipment such as rain protection.

Pete Mundt, 643 N. Harvey, said he wondered if this could be a permanent change if it aligns with the Downtown Master Plan.

Commissioner Thomey said he appreciates how everyone is working together. Commissioner O'Donnell said she is also supportive of closing streets and would like to see an option for dining in Kellogg Park. Commissioner Sebastian said he understood that closing and reopening streets on a weekly basis would be costly in terms of labor. Mayor Pro Tem Moroz commended the staff for expediting the process and feels a metered approach would work best. Commissioner Krol said he thinks closing streets is a good idea and he would like to see it in Old Village as well. Mayor Wolcott said he likes the way this resolution is flexible and allows administration to change the arrangement as needed. Commissioner Thomey said the administration may want to work with SEMCOG to ensure we are proceeding in an acceptable way.

ROLL CALL VOTE - MOTION PASSED 7 – 0

c. Plymouth Lion's Club Memorial Day Ceremonies, Monday, May 25, 2020

Commissioner O'Donnell offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Thomey to remind residents that the procession is not a public gathering and that they need to maintain social distancing guidelines.

ROLL CALL VOTE - MOTION PASSED 7 – 0

6. REPORTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

a. Liaison Reports

Commissioner O'Donnell said the Cemetery Board met and approved some changes regarding monument size.

Commissioner Krol said the ZBA had one item at their last meeting – a variance request of 3.5 inches. The request was approved.

Mayor Wolcott thanked Adam Covington for his hard work on the DDA Board, saying he recently resigned due to family and work obligations.

Commissioner Deal offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Krol to reappoint Pat Grzywacz to the Cemetery Board.

ROLL CALL VOTE - MOTION PASSED 7 – 0

7. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further discussion, Mayor Wolcott asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Krol and seconded by Commissioner Sebastian.

ROLL CALL VOTE - MOTION PASSED 7 – 0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

OLIVER WOLCOTT
MAYOR

MAUREEN A. BRODIE, CMC, MiPMC
CITY CLERK