



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

January 17, 2024

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

A session of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners was held at the Administration Building, in the City of Ann Arbor, Michigan, on January 17, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 07:06 PM by Comm. Hodge, Chair of the Board of Commissioners.

Members Present: Comms. Shannon Beeman, Justin Hodge, Andy LaBarre, Crystal Lyte, Jason Maciejewski, Yousef Rabhi, Caroline Sanders, Katie Scott, Annie Somerville

Members Absent: None.

Others Present Greg Dill, County Administrator; Andrew DeLeeuw, Deputy County Administrator; Alize Asberry Payne, Racial Equity Officer; Michelle Billard, Corporation Counsel; Crystal Campbell, Public Information Officer; Tina Gavalier, Finance Officer; Toni Kayumi, OCED Executive Director; Jimena Loveluck, Public Health Officer; Guillermo Hernandez, Director of Human Resources; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Terrence Williams, Administration; Tara Cohen, OCED; Jeff Rose, ITS; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Bryce Allmacher, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Rachel Lipson spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda, Lipson provided detail on some of the human rights abuses currently taking place in Gaza.

A member of the public spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda and detailed their experience at a Palestinian solidarity event at which they were physically attacked.

Luna spoke about the County's Mental Health and Public Safety Millage, Luna asked for a breakdown of millage dollars which are allocated to police services versus mental health services. Luna spoke in support of federal divestment from Israel, investments in housing and homelessness, and a reimagining of public safety in Washtenaw County.

Kristina Bulaha spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Denz spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda. They advocated for their tax dollars to be used towards human services rather than military action abroad.

Jessica Alexander advocated for amendments to tonight's bilateral ceasefire resolution to condemn antisemitism.

Abe spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Rita Shah spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

David spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Welby Sealy spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Nathan Rosenberg said that ceasefire resolutions taken up by local units of government have created division among different groups on the University of Michigan's campus.

Robert Drus spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda, Drus noted the absence of language detailing other human rights abuses which have taken place in Gaza and the West Bank.

Ben Corsch read a letter in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution written by their Rabbi.

Ori spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Kathryn Slocum spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda. Slocum also spoke in support of the resolution to accept the grant to make improvements to Gordon Hall in Dexter Township on tonight's agenda.

Carol Burke thanked the Board for their support of the work being done at Gordon Hall and historic preservation in general.

Lauren Wesley spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

James Clark spoke about an eviction of a County resident set to take place and asked the Board to prevent the eviction.

Gee spoke about their experience with homelessness.

Cynthia Price spoke about the need for additional shelter in Washtenaw County.

Cam spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Fadwah spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Josh Brown said that this bilateral ceasefire resolution causes divisiveness in the community and has no effect on Israel or Palestine.

Scathit spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Raym spoke about the violence experienced by a friend living in Palestine, they stated that taxpayer money should be used to solve issues at home rather than to support military action abroad.

Hibba Kahn spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Lana spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda, Lana said that such a resolution is a show of support to Palestinians living in the United States.

Gisele Ribarrios spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda, Ribarrios shared a story pertaining to the importance of working to solve seemingly unsolvable issues.

Dylan Cohen spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda, Cohen asked that the Board address homelessness in the community.

Melissa Robinson spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Samuel Hayes shared an excerpt from the "Letters from Birmingham Jail" written by Martin Luther King Jr. Hayes advocated for the Board to expand its collaboration with other local jurisdictions in its efforts to solve the housing crisis.

Aryeh spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Abby Allman spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Sarah Eransen spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

McKenzie Rokenson spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Tess Brauster spoke in support of the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda. Brauster asked that the Board encourage County Administration to disburse the funding allocated to housing and homelessness as quickly as possible.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. LaBarre expressed concern that some of his constituents may feel excluded from the intent of the ceasefire resolution, Comm. LaBarre noted that he will vote yes on the bilateral ceasefire resolution after much deliberation.

Comm. Somerville said that the County has resources to immediately assist in housing emergencies, Comm. Somerville encouraged constituents to reach out to their Commissioner to access these resources.

Comm. Somerville spoke about two recent sweeps of homeless camps in her district. Comm. Somerville noted that the County Sheriff's Office is committed to refraining from removing people from camps without alternatives being in place first.

Comm. Somerville thanked Commissioners Hodge, Rabhi, and several Ann Arbor City Councilmembers for their work to craft the bilateral ceasefire resolution on tonight's agenda.

Comm. Somerville stated that the bilateral ceasefire resolution represents a commitment to peace at home and abroad.

Comm. Beeman stated that she will abstain from the vote on the bilateral ceasefire resolution due to her work away from the County.

Comm. Scott spoke about various global conflicts and stated that those discussions are not germane to the business of the Board. Comm. Scott said that because the ceasefire resolution is before the Board, she will vote in favor of it.

Comm. Scott indicated a desire to return the Board's focus exclusively to local issues.

Comm. Sanders noted that the Board has not addressed issues of foreign policy in the past. Comm. Sanders said that it is the Board's responsibility to take care of everyone in the community.

Comm. Sanders condemned individuals and groups on each side of the Israel-Palestine conflict who seek to inflict violence.

Comm. Lyte said that it is her job as a Commissioner to protect County residents and that she has concern passing a resolution which may bring about further division.

Comm. Maciejewski stated that he hopes those in position to achieve a ceasefire do everything in their power to achieve it. Comm. Maciejewski said that he is uncertain of how he will vote on the bilateral ceasefire resolution.

Comm. Rabhi spoke about his experiences with racism in the wake of September 11th, he noted the similarities between his experiences then and his experiences in the months following October 7th. Comm. Rabhi said that the bilateral ceasefire resolution is a recognition of the effected communities' humanity.

Comm. Hodge thanked Commissioners Rabhi and Somerville for their work to develop the bilateral ceasefire resolution.

Comm. Hodge stated that he will vote yes on the bilateral ceasefire resolution.

Comm. Hodge called a recess at 9:31pm.

The Board reconvened at 9:53pm.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. LaBarre said that the Youth Assessment Center which the Board has funded in the past will soon be taking input from the community.

Comm. Lyte said that the Dexter Bicentennial kick-off is this Saturday at Monument Park.

Comm. Sanders said that her and Comm. Lyte were able to attend the MiWorks Southeast

meeting at their new location. Comm. Sanders said that she received input from a constituent regarding the state of the roads during the recent Winter storm. Comm. Sanders said that the Road Commission recently hired new employees who are still in training, leading to some sections of County roads being under-serviced.

Comm. Scott said that the Parks and Recreation Commission is seeking Commissioner input on the future of parks in the County.

Comm. Maciejewski said that the County's Materials Management Planning Process may now formally commence.

Comm. Maciejewski said that the Chelsea Human Relations Commission held an event on housing, Andrew DeLeeuw represented the County in that event.

Comm. Rabhi said that Meri Lou Murray recreational center will be performing renovations and that a section of the Border-to-Border trail will be converted to a paved pathway. Comm. Rabhi said that WCPARC has convened a subcommittee to explore augmenting the fee structure for Meri Lou Murray memberships.

Comm. Hodge distributed copies of the "Michigan Guide to Public Health for Local Governing Entities" to the rest of the Board.

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

VII. APPOINTMENTS

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution appointing a member to the Agricultural Lands Preservation Advisory Committee be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
2. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution appointing a member to the Natural Areas Technical Advisory Committee be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the minutes of the January 3, 2024 meeting of the Board of Commissioners be approved. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
2. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the communications be received and dealt with as recommended. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)

R-0002 RECEIVED: January 2, 2023. City of Ann Arbor: Notice of intent to develop a new Comprehensive Plan.

3. Report of Standing Committees - None.

4. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the following reports be received: Report of Special Committees. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
5. Other Reports
- A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the following reports be received: a report on contracts in the amount of \$25,000 and under from November 28, 2023 through December 31, 2023. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
- B. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the following reports be received: A report from the Washtenaw County Road Commission on the summary of service requests for the month of December, 2023. Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
6. Report of the Treasurer - None.

IX. RESOLUTIONS

1. First Reading
- A. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution ratifying the application to the State of Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Community Energy Management Grant Program from Facilities Management be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.
- B. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution to authorize a subrecipient agreement with the City of Ann Arbor under the Community Geothermal Heating and Cooling Design and Deployment Funding (CGHCDDF) from Facilities Management be approved.

Comm. Rabhi asked whether these grant funds will be used for construction.

Jason Fee, Director Facilities Management, stated that this grant is to be used exclusively for planning.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the ownership and fee structure for the geothermal system.

Mary Braun, Washtenaw County Facilities, stated that this planning process will be used to determine the ownership structure and that the County will have influence in those discussions.

Comm. Rabhi asked that County staff advocate for full public ownership of the system.

Voice vote - motion carried.

- C. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution authorizing the Facilities Management Department to serve as a host partner site for a MI Healthy Climate Corps Member from Facilities Management be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.
- D. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution authorizing the approval of the mid-year budget adjustment for the Washtenaw County Health

Department and position creations from the Health Department be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.

- E. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution to approve the Cybersecurity Grant Program Local Consent Agreement from Information Technology be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.
- F. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution ratifying the application and acceptance of the Community Violence Intervention Initiative Grant, from the Sheriff's Office be approved.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the long-term funding plan for the new positions being created under this grant.

Derrick Jackson, WCSO Director of Community Engagement, stated that the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage will be used to fund these positions in the future.

Comm. Rabhi asked for a breakdown of union versus non-union positions being created.

Jackson stated that each position will be non-union, Jackson stated that this is in alignment with outreach positions that currently exist in the Sheriff's Office.

Comm. Rabhi expressed concern with the County's reliance on seasonal workers.

Voice vote - motion carried.

- G. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution approving the electronic submission of the grant application and agreement for the Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program, authorizing the County Administrator to sign the Notice of Grant Award, amending the budget and authorizing the Administrator to sign delegate contracts from the Sheriff's Office be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.
 - H. Comm. Scott seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution approving the Tentative Agreement with TPOAM Supervisors and Probation Agents for it's 202402027 Collective Bargaining Agreement be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.
- 2. Final Reading - None.
 - 3. Single Reading
- A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution ratifying the signature of the County Administrator on the contract with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) Clean Sweep Grant from Public Works be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
 - B. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution ratifying the signature of the chair of the Board of Commissioners on the grant application to the State of Michigan, Office of the Highway Safety Planning, for the continuation of the Sheriff's Department Secondary Road Patrol Program from the Sheriff's Office be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
 - C. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a Resolution to Authorize Grant Funds Application for the completion of structural improvements at Gordon Hall and

Memorandum of Understanding with Dexter Area Historical Society for Grant Execution from OCED be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

- D. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution to approve the Washtenaw Urban County Executive Committee (UCEC) ByLaws as Amended by UCED on December 6, 2023, from OCED be approved.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he will vote no on this resolution as it removes the requirement that meetings take place in-person.

Tara Cohen, Housing and Infrastructure Manager, stated that the Urban County Executive Committee will be moving to a mostly hybrid format, and that in-person meetings were thoughtfully scheduled with regards to public hearings and other opportunities for extra public participation.

Comm. Somerville said that the expansion of opportunities for virtual participation from members of the public has increased accessibility to some bodies.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 1 (Rabhi) ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

- E. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution creating four (4.0) FTE positions in the Housing Access for Washtenaw County Call Center at the Office of Community and Economic Development be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- F. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution of appreciation to Brenda Kerr for 20 years of service from Information Technologies be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- G. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the Resolution Denouncing Rising Hate and Discrimination in Washtenaw County and Calling for a Lasting Bilateral Ceasefire in Gaza and Israel be approve.

Comm. Scott stated that this resolution is neither pro-Palestinian nor pro-Israel and that the passing or failure of this resolution should not be viewed as a "win" for any individual or group.

Comm. LaBarre stated that the current iteration of Board rules does not restrict the type of issues addressed at the table. Comm. LaBarre indicated a willingness to work with the Board to ensure future discussions on international affairs do not take place at the table.

Comm. Somerville stated that she has heard from Zionist constituents who believe the language in this resolution denotes a call for peace. Comm. Somerville highlighted the language which denounces all forms of discrimination based on personal background or identity.

Comm. Somerville noted that there is precedent for other local units of government adopting resolutions pertaining to international affairs.

Comm. Sanders said that she hopes that this resolution will be viewed as a statement of solidarity with the innocent people who have been victimized by the violence in Palestine and Israel.

Comm. Lyte reiterated her desire to protect County residents first and foremost. Comm. Lyte asked members of the public to continue to progress forward on issues germane to the Board.

Comm. Scott said that she supports the rights of Palestinians and Israelis to live in peace.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 8 NAYS 0 ABSENT 1 (Beeman). Motion carried.

4. Approval of Claims

- A. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that a resolution authorizing the payment of claims commencing with the last previously approved claim and continuing through the date of January 8, 2024 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

X. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

1. Administrator Dill introduced Patrick Conlin, Chief Judge of the Circuit Court.
2. Administrator Dill introduced Ann Frushour, Chief Judge of the 14A District Court.

XI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

Commissioners discussed their desire to have DTE Executives come before the Board in a public meeting.

XIII. PENDING

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Scott, moved that the Board enter a closed session to receive an update on the County's ongoing negotiations with its bargaining units.

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Sanders, moved to adjourn. Voice vote - motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 AM.

Justin Hodge, Chair of
the Board of
Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Bryce Allmacher, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: February 7, 2024