



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 21, 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 February 21, 2024.

The meeting was called to order at 07:10 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; Tina Gavalier & Catherine Jones-Alther, Finance; Guillermo Hernandez, Director of Human Resources; Brady Peck, Director of Operations; Terrence Williams, Administration; Jason Fee, Facilities Management; Ashley Hall, BOC Communications and Operations Manager; Bryce Allmacher, Clerk's Office; and members of the public.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Written Public Comment through February 21, 2024

A member of the public said that money that is used for short-term hotel stays for unsheltered people should be used for more sustainable long-term solutions to the housing crisis.

Gill read the demands of the Shelter Now organization in Ypsilanti which include ending camp sweeps, building a permanent shelter in the City of Ypsilanti, ensuring homeless communities have democratic control of the shelters in which they stay, and opening a temporary shelter immediately.

Aaron read the demands of the Shelter Now organization in Ypsilanti which include ending camp sweeps, building a permanent shelter in the City of Ypsilanti, ensuring homeless communities have democratic control of the shelters in which they stay, and opening a temporary shelter immediately.

Tegwin reiterated the demands of previous speakers for a 24/7 shelter in Ypsilanti.

Lindsay Calka reiterated the demands of previous speakers for a 24/7 shelter in Ypsilanti.

Dani Hoover encouraged the Board to work swiftly to ratify contracts with AFSCME Units 3052 and 2733.

IV. COMMISSIONER FOLLOW-UP TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Comm. Rabhi said that the County can more effectively spend the money which goes towards short-term hotel stays every Winter.

Comm. Rabhi asked for clarity on the Sheriff's Office potential orchestration of camp sweeps, Comm. Rabhi stated that he supports the County's various camping communities.

Derrick Jackson, WCSO Director of Community Engagement, stated that the Sheriff's Office is responsible for overseeing judicially-ordered evictions and making sure they are conducted safely, but that WCSO does not conduct random sweeps.

Comm. Rabhi suggested that the County consider a policy to place a permanent moratorium on Court and WCSO-led sweeps.

Comm. LaBarre stated that the County needs to identify a structural funding source for housing and homelessness. Comm. LaBarre stated that while the costs for the hotel program are high, hotel rooms provide a level of physical flexibility that common shelter spaces do not provide.

Comm. Somerville said that she supports dedicating County-owned land for safe camping space. Comm. Somerville noted that the recently passed statewide budget includes a \$1.4 billion allocation to housing.

Comm. Scott said that she believes the prospect of extending the shelter season is a practical short-term goal.

Comm. Lyte reiterated Comm. LaBarre's suggestion that community advocates submit written proposals directly to their Commissioner.

Comm. Lyte asked union members reach out to their leadership for further clarity as to why contracts have not yet been ratified.

Comm. Beeman clarified that local land use and policing is not within the County's purview. Comm. Beeman said that the Mobile Support Services Initiative will be used to help keep people in their homes, and should be used to provide services to homeless communities Countywide.

V. LIAISON REPORTS

Comm. Sanders reported that the Washtenaw County Road Commission has a feature on their website that allows residents to report road issues directly, this feature can be used to report and remove roadkill from County roads.

Comm. Maciejewski stated that the Board of Public Works provided a report on the 2023 County Cleanup Days, Comm. Maciejewski stated that costs for the cleanup days increased this year.

Comm. Scott spoke about various programs and events recently organized by Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation. Comm. Scott said that the Meri Lou Murray Recreation Center recently lost power for several days, Comm. Scott said that the costs relating to this outage should be deferred to DTE.

Comm. Sanders said that the Road Commission is interested in having their millage renewal appear on the August 6, 2024 Primary Ballot.

VI. SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

VII. APPOINTMENTS

1. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Advisory Council on Reparations be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
2. Comm. LaBarre, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that a resolution appointing members to the Community Action Board be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that the minutes of the February 7, 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. Scott, seconded by Comm. Somerville, 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-0005 RECEIVED: February 1, 2024. Lima Township: Notice of Updated Master Plan

3. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that the following reports be received: Report of Standing Committees - Working Session (February 7, 2024). Voice vote - motion carried. (Complete report is on file in the County Clerk/Register's Office.)
4. Report of Special Committees - None.
5. Other Reports
 - A. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. Somerville, moved that the following reports be received: a report on contracts in the amount of \$25,000 and under from January 30, 2024 through February 13, 2024. 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 and acceptance of the 2022 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Local Solicitation from the Sheriff's Office be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.
- B. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution ratifying the application and acceptance of the 2023 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) Local Solicitation from the Sheriff's Office be approved. Voice vote - motion carried.
- C. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution creating 1.0 FTE Behavioral Health Specialist within the Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office be approved.

Comm. Rabhi asked if the Behavioral Health Specialist in CMH is a non-union position and how it compares to similar positions Countywide.

Comm. Rabhi asked for clarification as to why this is a non-union position.

Director Derrick Jackson said that this position is in alignment with similarly situated positions in Community Corrections which are non-union.

Hernandez stated that the CMH Behavioral Health Specialist is a union position.

Comm. Rabhi stated that the non-union designation is not in alignment with similar positions Countywide, and therefore will not support the resolution as currently proposed.

Voice vote - motion carried with Comms. Rabhi and Scott voting NAY.

2. Final Reading

- A. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution amending compensation paid to the Washtenaw County Board of Canvassers from Clerk/Register of Deeds be approved.

Comm. Rabhi reiterated concerns with the structure of payment being proposed under this resolution and suggested that a flat rate be paid to County Canvassers.

Comm. Rabhi indicated a desire to return to this issue with County Clerk Kestenbaum.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

- B. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution reclassifying two (2.0) FTE positions as a result of the 2023 Position Description Questionnaire Process from Human Resources be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

3. Single Reading

- A. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution authorizing the signature of the County Administrator on the contract for the Michigan Marijuana Operation and Oversight project from the Health Department be approved.

Comm. Rabhi stated concerns with messaging relating to the consumption of cannabis, especially as it pertains to Washtenaw County Youth.

Jimena Loveluck, Public Health Officer, stated that the Health Department's communications strategy on this program is primarily informed by community and stakeholder input. Loveluck also emphasized that a central goal of this program is to educate marijuana users on safe storage and responsible consumption.

Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

- B. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution approving the Health Department's Plan of Organization be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- C. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution establishing and appointing members to an Opioid Settlement Steering Committee be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- D. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution approving the Washtenaw County Advisory Council on Reparations Bylaws be approved.

Comm. Rabhi asked about the ACR bylaws' adherence to the Open Meetings Act.

Alize Asberry Payne, Racial Equity Officer, stated that while the bylaws comply with the spirit of the OMA, the ACR is not officially subject to the OMA according to these bylaws.

Comm. Rabhi stated that he will vote no on this resolution because he believes all County Boards and Commissions should be subject to the OMA, regardless of whether they are required to do so.

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

- E. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution to recognize the Rotary Club of Chelsea as the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Business Leadership Award Winner be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- F. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution recognizing Anne Mann as the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award Winner be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.
- G. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution recognizing Eder & Diver Insurance Agency as the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Small Business Leadership Award Winner be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

H. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution recognizing Warriors Management as the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Large Business Leadership Award Winner be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

I. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution recognizing Kira Grifka as the Chelsea Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Award Winner be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

4. Approval of Claims

A. Comm. Scott, seconded by Comm. LaBarre, moved that a resolution authorizing the payment of claims commencing with the last previously approved claim and continuing through the date of February 12, 2024 be approved. Roll Call Vote: YEAS 9 NAYS 0 ABSENT 0. Motion carried.

X. REPORT FROM THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

XI. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

XII. ITEMS FOR CURRENT/FUTURE DISCUSSION

XIII. PENDING

XIV. ADJOURN TO NEXT SESSION

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

The meeting adjourned at 08:19 PM.

Justin Hodge, Chair of
the Board of
Commissioners

Lawrence
Kestenbaum,
Clerk/Register

By: Bryce Allmacher, Deputy Clerk

Board Approved: March 6, 2024