

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

June 4, 2024
Conference Room #119
5:30 P.M.

Present: Commissioners: Mayor Pro-Tem Robert Coughlin, Betsy Artz, Maurice Groce, David Moore II, Clarkston Morgan, Jessica Ann Tyson and Mayor Stephen Kepley.

Staff present: Executive Assistant Stephanie Fox, Deputy City Administrator Shay Gallagher, Finance Director Keyla Garcia, City Clerk Dan Kasunic, Police Chief Bryan Litwin, Fire Chief Brent Looman, Community Development Director Terry Schweitzer, Fire Department Administrative Assistant Nancy Shane, City Attorney Jeff Sluggett, and Sabo Representatives.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT:

A. RECOMMEND RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE WATER AND SEWER FUNDS BUDGETS AND SET WATER AND SEWER RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025.

Engineering & Inspections Director Kirkwood and Finance Director Garcia presented the two options to the Committee. The first option without providing some of the funding through the Water Fund, having a combined increase of 23.6%, and the second option with using funding from the Water Fund to aid to reduce the spike in water rates to a combined rate of 7.8%. staff noted this increase would go into effect July 1st. staff spoke of having a study completed to learn the ideal reserve needed and any additional information to aid in decision making.

Motion by Artz, seconded by Morgan to recommend to the City Commission to adopt a resolution to approve the seconded option to the Water and Sewer Budgets and to set the rates for Water and Sewer services in the City of Kentwood (Wyoming Water District) for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025.

Motion Carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

A. RECOMMEND PURCHASE OF PLATFORM LADDER TRUCK.

Fire Chief Looman reviewed his memorandum dated June 4, 2024 regarding the purchase of a Aerial Platform Ladder Fire Truck noting the benefits in purchasing the truck this year and what the cost may be if purchased as expected in 2028. He informed the committee the equipment on the current truck would be moved onto

the new truck for additional savings and the timeframe in receiving the new truck and of how long it would be to receive a new truck if the continued to wait until the intended year to purchase.

The committee discussed many concerns and requested clarity because of the concern with making a large financial purchase, including continuing to use the older truck,

Motion by Tyson, seconded by Groce, to recommend to the City Commission to authorize the purchase of a 2024 Spartan 100-foot Aerial Platform Ladder Truck form CSI Emergency Apparatus, LLC at a total cost not-to-exceed \$2,045,546.00, including a \$93,740.00 discount for prepayment and \$25,000.00 contingency for auxiliary items, with funds from the FY 202-2025 Fire Equipment Fund.

Motion Carried.
(Artz and Kepley Dissenting)

MAYOR'S OFFICE:

A. SHORT-TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE UPDATE.

Deputy City Administrator Gallagher reminded the committee of the moratorium on rental homes for less than 28 days and of the civil fines the city could access. He stated from the information they have obtained some homeowners continue to have short-term rentals and the fines are part of doing business. The city is requesting the commission to increase the fines to first offense \$500, second offense to \$2500 and third offense to \$5000. The committee discussed the amounts, with City Attorney Sluggett explaining the amount is to try to have the homeowners come into compliance with the ordinance and not to use it in any punitive way. Staff noted that section three of the proposed ordinance should be pulled out and sent to the Planning Commission for their review. A brief discussion ensued. One resident in attendance spoke of the effects the rentals are having on his neighborhood and questioned what the city is trying to do.

Motion by Morgan, seconded by Groce, to recommend to the City Commission to amend the Short-Term Rental Ordinance with Section Three to be removed.

Motion Carried.

CLOSED SESSION:

Motion by Groce, seconded by Tyson, to enter closed session for negotiation sessions connected with the negotiation of a collective bargaining agreement as permitted under Section 8(c) of PA 267 Michigan Open Meetings Act of 1976.

Roll Call Vote: Yeas: All. Nays: None. Absent: None.

Motion Carried.

Committee of the Whole
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The meeting was adjourned at: 6:47 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened from closed session at: 6:56 p.m.

Motion by Groce, seconded by Artz, to recommend to the City Commission to approve the Letter of Agreement with the Firefighters Union.

Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 P.M.

Dan Kasunic
City Clerk

Robert Coughlin
Mayor Pro-Tem