

**MINUTES
ST. CLAIR SHORES CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023**

Regular Meeting of the City Council, held in the Council Chambers, located at 27600 Jefferson Avenue., St. Clair Shores, Michigan.

Present: Mayor Kip C. Walby, Council Members Peter Accica, John Caron, Ron Frederick, David Rubello, Candice Rusie, and Chris Vitale

Also Present: Assistant City Manager Michael Greene, City Clerk Abby Barrett, Director Denise Pike, Director Bryan Babcock, Director Renae Warnke, Director Henry Bowman, City Engineer Chris Liebert, Fire Chief James Piper, Police Chief Jason Allen, and City Attorney Robert Ihrie

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Walby called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Barrett, City Clerk, called the roll, and a quorum was present.

2. PROCLAMATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

a. PROCLAMATION FOR FATHER RON'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

b. BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

**Proclamation 2023 Beautification Award
ROBERT & FRANCES ALEXANDER**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Clair Shores on behalf of the Beautification Commission deem it fitting and proper to publicly recognize the outstanding efforts made by individuals in helping to beautify our neighborhoods and maintain the image of our City; and

WHEREAS, ROBERT & FRANCES ALEXANDER, have displayed community spirit and a willingness to enhance the beauty of their property, which demonstrates a strong sense of civic pride;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Clair Shores, on behalf of our citizens, deem it an honor and pleasure to extend our congratulations to **ROBERT & FRANCES ALEXANDER** on receiving the 2023 Beautification Award.*

Presented this 18th day of September 2023.

**Proclamation 2023 Beautification Award
JIMMIE & JEANNE LIMBACK**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Clair Shores on behalf of the Beautification Commission deem it fitting and proper to publicly recognize the outstanding efforts made by individuals in helping to beautify our neighborhoods and maintain the image of our City; and

WHEREAS, JIMMIE & JEANNE LIMBACK, have displayed community spirit and a willingness to enhance the beauty of their property, which demonstrates a strong sense of civic pride;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Clair Shores, on behalf of our citizens, deem it an honor and pleasure to extend our congratulations to **JIMMIE & JEANNE LIMBACK** on receiving the 2023 Beautification Award.*

Presented this 18th day of September 2023.

**Proclamation 2023 Beautification Award
ESTHER BIANCHI**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Clair Shores on behalf of the Beautification Commission deem it fitting and proper to publicly recognize the outstanding efforts made by individuals in helping to beautify our neighborhoods and maintain the image of our City; and

WHEREAS, ESTHER BIANCHI, has displayed community spirit and a willingness to enhance the beauty of their property, which demonstrates a strong sense of civic pride;

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Clair Shores, on behalf of our citizens, deem it an honor and pleasure to extend our congratulations to **ESTHER BIANCHI** on receiving the 2023 Beautification Award.*

Presented this 18th day of September 2023.

Item 2b Continued

**Proclamation 2023 Beautification Business Award
GTJ CONSULTING**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Clair Shores on behalf of the Beautification Commission deem it fitting and proper to publicly recognize the outstanding efforts made by commercial businesses in helping to beautify our business districts and maintain the image of our City; and

WHEREAS, GTJ CONSULTING has displayed community spirit and a willingness to enhance the beauty of its property which demonstrates a strong sense of civic pride;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Clair Shores, on behalf of our citizens, deem it an honor and pleasure to extend our congratulations to **GTJ CONSULTING 2023 Beautification Business Award winner.**

Presented this 18th day of September 2023.

**Proclamation 2023 Beautification Business Award
ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CATHOLIC CHURCH**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Clair Shores on behalf of the Beautification Commission deem it fitting and proper to publicly recognize the outstanding efforts made by commercial businesses in helping to beautify our business districts and maintain the image of our City; and

WHEREAS, ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CATHOLIC CHURCH has displayed community spirit and a willingness to enhance the beauty of its property which demonstrates a strong sense of civic pride;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Clair Shores, on behalf of our citizens, deem it an honor and pleasure to extend our congratulations to **ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND CATHOLIC CHURCH 2023 Beautification Business Award winner.**

Presented this 18th day of September 2023.

**Proclamation 2023 Beautification Business Award
DR. JEHAN WAKEEM, DDS, MS**

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Clair Shores on behalf of the Beautification Commission deem it fitting and proper to publicly recognize the outstanding efforts made by commercial businesses in helping to beautify our business districts and maintain the image of our City; and

WHEREAS, DR. JEHAN WAKEEM, DDS, MS, has displayed community spirit and a willingness to enhance the beauty of its property which demonstrates a strong sense of civic pride;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and Council of the City of St. Clair Shores, on behalf of our citizens, deem it an honor and pleasure to extend our congratulations to **DR. JEHAN WAKEEM, DDS, MS 2023 Beautification Business Award winner.**

Presented this 18th day of September 2023.

c. CONSTITUTION WEEK

**PROCLAMATION DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 17-23, 2023
AS "UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION WEEK"**

WHEREAS, September 17, 2023, marks the two hundred and thirty-sixth anniversary of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States of America by the 1787 Constitutional Convention; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate this grand occasion; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Council do hereby proclaim the week of September 17-23, 2023 as **UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION WEEK** in the City of St. Clair Shores and ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.

Presented this 18th day of September 2023.

3. **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION ON AGENDA ITEMS (2 MINUTE TIME LIMIT)** - None

4. **REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO SELL PARCEL NUMBER 09-14-22-401-005**

Background Brief: Mark Schultz, resident of 22022 Sunnydale submitted a permit application for a privacy fence to replace an existing chain link fence. During the permit review, it was discovered that a portion of the backyard abutting Greater Mack is actually owned by the city. Pictures demonstrate that since at least 1982 the property has been used and maintained by the family. Administration is asking for Council approval to sell the surplus parcel to the owners of 22022 Sunnydale. Currently, the property is held in the Patricia S. Schultz trust. Patricia is deceased and Mark Schultz is, according to the trust documents, allowed to reside there so long as it remains his primary residence. Anthony Kowalski, Jr. is the Trustee and executor of the trust.

Previous Action: N/A

Economic Impact: The property owner has offered \$3,500 to purchase the property from the city. The 2024 Taxable Value of the property is \$45,109. However, as a stand-alone parcel, this lot does not meet the minimum lot size under the zoning ordinance, making it a non-conforming lot. Furthermore, due to its unique shape, the lot is considered unbuildable. Lastly, the family has maintained the lot for at least the previous five decades.

Recommendation: Recommend that Council approve the sale of Parcel Number 09-14-22-401-005 to the Patricia S. Schultz Trust for \$3,500.00.

Tony Kowalski spoke on behalf of the family that has been maintaining the property since 1968.

Mayor Walby said if it had been divided back then, it may have been for zero. He said he is in favor of a zero price.

Mr. Rubello said the parcel is unbuildable and the family has been taking care of the parcel since 1968. He said over the years they have saved the City from the cost of the maintenance which is worth more than \$3500. He asked Mr. Ihrie if the City could sell the parcel for less than proposed.

Mr. Ihrie said yes it can.

Mr. Rubello said he would be in favor of a lot less.

Mr. Vitale asked how we arrived at a \$46,000 taxable value when it is an unbuildable lot.

Ms. Pike said that would be a question for the City Assessor.

Mr. Vitale said there seems to be a sentiment to sell at a reduced price and asked the family what type of fence they are proposing.

Mr. Schultz said he originally looked at a white vinyl fence.

Mr. Vitale said he would like to see a premium type of fence.

Ms. Rusie said she is fine with a reduced sale amount. She thanked the family for the years of maintenance. She asked if other parcels would also be subject to the same thing in that area.

Ms. Pike said there are currently City-owned parcels that are in use by residents.

Ms. Rusie said it is a triangle-shaped parcel that is useless to anyone except the resident, and she is fine with getting it cleaned up off the books.

Mr. Caron asked what the past practice has been if there was a financial value. He does not want to set a precedent on selling parcels for zero and will vote no if that is the case.

Mr. Ihrie said he agrees it should not be zero but it should be some dollar amount. This property has little if any value except to the homeowner, but it should not be given away.

Mr. Frederick said the resident has done everything as if the property was theirs. He said we need to look at the process going forward. He said he thinks a lot of it has to do with adverse possession, although you cannot use that with a City, you can look at how many things they have done with the property.

Item 4 Continued

Motion by Frederick, seconded by Accica to approve the sale of Parcel Number 09-14-22-401-005 to the Patricia S. Schultz Trust for \$1.00.

Ayes: 6-1
Nays: Caron

5. REQUEST TO TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF THE 2023 CLASS C & SDM LICENSE WITH SUNDAY SALES PERMIT (PM); NEW ENTERTAINMENT PERMIT; NEW SUNDAY SALES PERMIT (AM); NEW SUNDAY SALES PERMIT(PM) FOR THE SDM LICENSE- MIXED SPIRIT DRINK; NEW OUTDOOR SERVICE AREA FROM ARDMORE CAFÉ LLC TO THE ARDMORE RESTAURANT LLC AT 26717 LITTLE MACK AVE

Background Brief: The Ardmore Restaurant LLC has made the necessary application and their transfer request is being processed by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

The City Ordinance requires the City Clerk to place on a Council Agenda the request for approval of an On-Premises Class C Liquor license within 60 days of filing the documents in her office. Their application was filed on August 2, 2023.

They have completed our application process in compliance with City Ordinance Sec 4-54.- Transfer of existing licenses "...The transfer of any existing liquor license covered hereunder shall be subject to each of the requirements, criteria, and procedure, including fees, set forth in this article for the granting of a new quota liquor license." City departments have reviewed their application as follows:

City Department Review

Police Department	Reviewed and no objections.
Fire Department	Reviewed and no objections.
Tax/Finance/Assessing	Reviewed and no objections.
Community Development & Inspections	Reviewed and complied with CDI. <u>2 Engineering Violations:</u> -Handicap spots need signs (2) -Dumpster enclosure has no doors
City Clerk	The required application and fees have been received.

Previous Action: N/A

Economic Impact: N/A

Recommendation: Staff recommends the approval of the request to transfer of ownership of the 2023 Class C & SDM License with Sunday Sales Permit (PM); New Entertainment Permit; New Sunday Sales Permit (AM); New Sunday Sales Permit (PM) for the SDM License- mixed spirit drink; New Outdoor Service Area from Ardmore Café LLC to The Ardmore Restaurant LLC at 26717 Little Mack Ave.

Mr. Caron thanked the previous owners for all their years of taking care of Ardmore Park Place. He said he is glad they found owners who love it as much as they do. He thinks it is great that they are going to continue and grow the business.

Mr. Rubello thanked the previous owners. He said he agrees with Council Member Caron’s sentiments. He asked if the license has gone through all the processes that are needed.

Mayor Walby said yes.

Mr. Vitale thanked the previous owners and discussed the tour he took. He said he is looking forward to it.

Moved by Council Member Rubello, supported by Council Member Rusie to approve the request from The Ardmore Restaurant LLC for the transfer of ownership of the 2023 Class C & SDM License with Sunday Sales Permit (PM); New Entertainment Permit; New Sunday Sales Permit (AM); New Sunday Sales Permit(PM) for the SDM License- mixed spirit drink; New Outdoor Service Area from Ardmore Café LLC to The Ardmore Restaurant LLC at 26717 Little Mack Ave.

Ayes: All-7

6. FY2024 CARRYOVER REQUESTS

Background Brief: Each year as part of the year-end process, departments are allowed to carry over funds for certain projects and purchases with Council approval. The initial criteria that has been established previously by Council for funds to be carried over include 1) the project/purchase was budgeted in FY 2023 and 2) a sufficient balance was available in the account at year-end to cover the amount of the carryover. Additionally, for FY22/23 City Administration has added the requirement that the project had already been started before the end of the fiscal year in order to be considered to be carried over.

Previous Action: N/A

Economic Impact: The fund balance for FY2023 would have been higher since we did not incur the expense in that year. We do, however, recognize these carryovers in our audit report as an Assigned fund balance reducing the Unassigned fund balance as if they had been paid.

Recommendation: Staff recommends the approval of the attached carryover requests by fund and department for FY 2024 (Budget Amendment 24-01).

Ms. Rusie said there is one additional item for Selinsky-Green Farmhouse Museum funding that had been allocated which is in process. She said they have gotten some proposals and it is in process and asked if we can consider carrying those over as well.

Mr. Lent said the Historical Commission has its own account so it has its own fund balance so we will just do a budget amendment that will automatically carry over.

Ms. Rusie said they did not want to lose the ability to use those funds as it is a much-needed project.

Mr. Caron said he appreciates the new policy that the project needs to be started in the fiscal year to be carried over to the next. In the past, it led to many issues where we had some that ended up being carried through three different budgets before being executed, which shows it was not a priority.

Mr. Frederick said there is a typo in the packet on Brys Park Arboretum. He asked if the Champine Park seawall repair was completed.

Ms. Pike said it is not complete yet.

Moved by Council Member Caron, seconded by Council Member Frederick to approve the proposed FY 2024 Carryover requests (BA 24-01) as presented.

Ayes: All-7

7. BIDS/CONTRACTS/PURCHASE ORDERS

a. REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE FINAL PAYMENT TO PAMAR FOR VISNAW STREET RECONSTRUCTION

Background Brief: Pamar Enterprises was awarded the contract to reconstruct Visnaw Street in 2019. At that time, HRC was the City's engineering firm. The last progress payment application (Pay App #6) releasing the bulk of the retention was submitted on July 27, 2020. After that payment, CDI records indicated that the amount remaining on the contract was \$292.03, and \$2,500 in retention was still being held. In November 2020 HRC sent a balancing change order to Pamar to close out the project. Pamar did not respond to the balancing change order until July of 2021, disputing project quantities and requesting additional funds. In the interim, the City changed engineering firms. A representative from Pamar contacted the City Engineer in late 2022 requesting payment for the Visnaw project. I responded with the aforementioned amounts that the City showed were owed and asked him to submit an invoice for that amount. Additionally, I told him there was no additional budget for this project. Pamar contacted legal counsel and a meeting was held between CDI, the City Attorney, Pamar, and their counsel at which we agreed to remeasure the project. The results of remeasuring are included. Pamar agreed to accept the City Engineer's calculation of \$17,863.66 and the additional \$2,500 retention that was still being held for a total of \$20,363.66.

Previous Action: Pamar Enterprises received the contract to reconstruct Visnaw Street in 2019. The last progress payment application (Pay App #6) releasing the bulk of the retention was submitted on July 27, 2020.

Economic Impact: The total cost of \$51,919.41 in FY 22-23.

Item 7a Continued

Recommendation: I recommend approving a final payment in the amount of \$17,863.66 from the street fund to Pamar Enterprises for the reconstruction of Visnaw Street and the release of the balance of retention in the amount of \$2,500.

Mayor Walby asked Mr. Liebert, the City Engineer, if he believes this to be a fair amount.

Mr. Libert said yes.

Mr. Vitale asked if the mistake was made by HRC.

Mr. Liebert said he was not sure. He said we did not ask HRC to come to remeasure, he went out and field-measured it multiple times together and compared it. He said there was some additional work that was done that was not included in the initial payout.

Moved by Council Member Frederick, supported by Council Member Caron to approve a final payment in the amount of \$17,863.66 to Pamar Enterprises from the Street fund for the reconstruction of Visnaw Street and release of the balance of retention in the amount of \$2,500.

Ayes: All-7

8. **CONSENT AGENDA** – All items listed on the consent agenda are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion and approved by a vote of the City Council. There will be no separate discussion of the items unless the Mayor and or a Council Member so requests, in which event the item will be removed from the general order of business and considered under the last item of the Consent Agenda.

Moved by Council Member Caron, supported by Council Member Frederick to approve the Consent Agenda items a – h

a. **Bills**

September 12, 2023 \$38,336,945.36

Resolved to approve the release of checks in the amount of \$38,336,945.36 for services rendered, of the report that is 18 pages in length, and of the grand total amount of \$38,336,945.36, \$36,115,953.64 went to other taxing authorities.

b. **Fees**

Shifman Fournier	\$ 540.00
Ihrie O'Brien	\$ 21,145.92

c. **Progress Payments**

Resolved that the following Progress Payments be approved as presented:

B&B Pool Services	\$ 30,000.00
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d. **Approval of Minutes - None**

e. **Receive & File Boards, Commissions & Committee Minutes**

Resolved that the following minutes be received and filed:

<u>Minutes</u>	<u>Meeting Date</u>
Animal Ordinance Committee	July 10, 2023
Council Sub Committee on Boards & Commission	June 27, 2023
Cultural Committee	August 9, 2023
Election Commission	July 17, 2023
Historical Commission	August 1, 2023
Police & Fire Health Care Board	July 27, 2023
Police & Fire Pension Board	July 27, 2023
Water Resources Development & Advisory Board	August 1, 2023
Zoning Board of Appeals	August 3, 2023

f. **Request for approval of 2024 City Council Schedule**

January 8 +	July 1 – No Meeting
January 22 +	July 15

Item 8f Continued

February 5	August 5 – No Meeting
February 20 (Tues)*	August 19
March 4	September 3 (Tues)*
April 1	October 7
April 15	October 21
May 6	November 4 – No Meeting
May 20	November 18 (Regular & Organizational)
June 3	December 2
June 17	December 16

+ January Meetings are on the 2nd and 4th Monday due to how the New Year Holiday Falls

* When City Offices are closed on Monday due to a legal holiday, Council meetings are held on the Tuesday of that week.

h. Request to deny the following claims and refer to the City Attorney for response

Resolved to deny the following claims and refer to the City Attorney for response.

- i. Five Star Asset Management, LLC v. City of St. Clair Shores
- ii. Jason Spencer and Flora Wellness Spa, LLC v. City of St. Clair Shores
- iii. Mary Randazzo-Lamber v. City of St. Clair Shores
- iv. Michael Lewis Butz v. Amy Anikewich, Deputy City Clerk of St. Clair Shores and City of St. Clair Shores

Ayes: All-7

9. UPDATES AND FOLLOW-UPS FROM PRIOR COUNCIL MEETING

- Mayor Walby requested Mr. Ihrle to develop a methodology for complaints regarding Michael P. Kavanaugh to be brought to Council's attention. **After discussion with the Court and Mr. Ihrle's office, we will forward to Council every quarter any complaints and issues that we may receive.**
- Council Member Vitale requested the breakdown of costs emailed for patrol cars and pickup trucks. **Refer to Sergeant Campbell's email of 9/5/2023**
- Council Member Rusie requested the investment policy to be reviewed and brought to Council annually. **An annual review of the investment policy will be submitted to Council**
- Council Member requested status on Gabe's and available grants. **Gabe's is still expecting to open in the spring of 2024, plans have been submitted and approved. They are waiting for the general contractor to pay for their permit. The grant information was emailed.**
- Council Member Vitale requested an update on Greencrest street cleanup. **There is a sewer repair is needed at the location, the excavation is larger and deeper than our backhoe can dig. We are working with one of our contractors to make repairs. In the meantime, DPW will make sure the temporary stone on the road is cleaned up and leveled.**
- Council Member Accica requested stump be removed from 20841 Ardmore Park Drive. Our stump grinding contractor will be starting to remove our current list of stumps the week of 9/18/2023 and we will make sure this stump is removed as a priority.

10. COMMENTS BY INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Council Members spoke on issues in the City and thanked committees, participants, sponsors, and volunteers for successful events, along with reminders for upcoming meetings, events, and charitable causes.

Mr. Caron said he had nothing to speak on tonight.

Mr. Frederick said we lost a long-time Library Board Member, Joan Perry, who did a lot for the library and sent condolences to her family. He gave updates on Library events.

Mr. Vitale said the issues on Greencrest between Norcrest and Gary Lane were with tree stumps and tree roots that were on several properties where the stump grinding was incomplete. This is on City property and the idea was to try to get that cleaned up. He noted that when the stump grinding was done, they damaged some of the sidewalks.

Mr. Vitale said there are concrete pitch issues on Gordon Street as well as concrete dust cleanup. He said he would like these addresses noted so the residents are not hit with sidewalk replacement charges in the future.

Item 10 Continued

He said that at the corner of Ridgeway and Harper, there is splatter on the building that was not cleaned up after construction as well as the easement repair not being completed. There is also an easement issue at Statler and Harper. He said the utilities leave our easements a mess and we should have some kind of liaison to take care of it.

Mr. Vitale said on a piece of private property, there is a utility line drop that goes through the properties from the 1940s. He said someone let DTE or a builder do a five-way line drop across these 200-foot-deep properties. Now the problem 50-60 years later, one of these properties is full of garbage trees and has been causing problems for the residents, ripping their power line down for at least a decade. Finally, the tree died more than 50% and was going to be taken down but stopped short and said they did not have to take the last ten feet. He asked why we left a 10-foot dead stump and what the cost differential was as opposed to taking it all the way down.

Ms. Pike said the cost differential to the homeowner was \$2000 and they said they could not afford \$2000 and because there was an arborist statement saying that ten feet could stay, we did not have justification to force them to take the rest of the tree down. Ms. Pike said Ms. Foster sent an email about it and she will go back and find it to forward to Council.

Mr. Vitale asked when we take trees like this down or when we allow them to sit and rot.

Ms. Pike said this is an issue between two homeowners and ideally, we would like this to be a civil issue and the City not be involved in trees in backyards on private property.

Mr. Vitale said in the site plan for the Saratoga Village Condominiums, they were supposed to build a wall separating it from the residential area. The residential homeowners said they wanted landscape instead and what they got was a handful of arborvitae that are small and spaced out.

Mr. Vitale asked what our Police body cam policy is.

Chief Allen said we got all new cameras for the cars, so there are cameras for patrol and traffic. We have 36 body cameras. Each one came with a mount. We also ordered 12 extra mounts that are kept in a bin where staff can access them. Patrol and traffic always have them then they go out. We are never short of body cameras on regular shifts. For events like the fireworks or car cruise, we may not have enough for all 84 people who are out in the field. He said he feels it is a waste of money to order the extras for limited use. He said we put in for Federal grant money for that but did not get approved. Chief Allen said we did receive or are in the process of receiving, between grants and Congressionally directed spending money, just over \$300,000 out of a \$386,000 project. He said the Officers wear them when they go out and we are ordering more mounts as we speak so everyone will have their own mount, that way a lack of mounts will not prohibit someone from wearing a camera. He said he thinks they are a great tool and they've already been helpful in several cases. The footage is crystal clear from the body cameras and the car cameras. He said our policy mirrors the State's best practices policy which says that when we are in contact with the public, the mic and the video have to be on and that is what we comply with. Supervisors regularly review the use of the cameras. He said the majority of Officers want them because they know we are doing good work.

Mr. Vitale said he believes it protects us as a City from accusations. He said maybe the confusion about the number of cameras and mounts may have arisen from the idea that we did not have enough for everyone during events.

Mr. Vitale discussed the Meet The Candidates event. He asked if it was going to be a live show.

Ms. Rusie said it is taped and will be on the City cable channel and website.

Mr. Vitale noted that he was against early voting, and gave an example of why he is against it. He said he had a neighbor who told him she went to City Hall and another resident approached her asking where to drop off their ballot. He said this bothers him because there has not been any coverage of the candidates by any news outlet to date, so people are voting essentially for people they do not know anything about.

Ms. Barrett said Ballots have not gone out yet. She said many people get confused that the application for an absentee ballot is their ballot, but you have to fill out the application and return it for us to mail a ballot. She said we have not received the ballots yet. Once we receive them and proof them, ballots will be available over the counter and mailed on September 28.

Mr. Accica said he got a call that a contractor for Marc Anthony Concrete was dry saw-cutting concrete next to the soccer field around the kids at the Senior Center and would like staff to address it. He said Kyte Monroe has limited parking during tournaments, and they should coordinate better between baseball and soccer and possibly use some of the other soccer fields in the City.

Item 10 Continued

Mr. Rubello asked Ms. Pike to look into an application for the MI Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity Community Grant program. He said Mt. Clemens received \$900,000.

Ms. Pike said she believes the grant Mt. Clemens received was a Transportation Alternatives Program grant and we received a planning grant that will support the DDA in planning for us to submit for a Transportation Alternatives Program grant in 2024 for 2025 construction.

Mr. Rubello asked about the Cotrell Drain fencing project.

Ms. Pike said the Macomb County Department of Public Works has ordered a fence that will be put along the white pedestrian railing. It will be a black fence that will say City of St. Clair Shores and have our logo.

Mr. Rubello asked about the Benjamin Pump Station.

Ms. Pike said the residents were unhappy with the first location for the pump station, they were unhappy with the control panel for the second location, and we met with them on Thursday with a third option and we are waiting on some measurements and the residents' decision.

Mr. Rubello asked how water usage in the City is trending.

Ms. Rusie announced the Historical Commission's upcoming events. She reminded residents about the Meet the Candidates event. She thanked the Senior Center volunteers who helped with the apple pies.

11. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Lent reminded residents of the household hazardous waste and e-waste collection event at the Civic Arena parking lot on September 23, 2023. Mr. Lent said they have had interviews for the Controller position, but no candidates are moving forward. He said we have reached out to Plante Moran to help while we readvertise.

12. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Daryl Mukdechian, a St. Clair Shores resident spoke on the body camera policy.

Lawanda Turner, a St. Clair Shores resident spoke on a rental issue.

13. MAYOR'S COMMENTS - None

14. REQUEST TO MEET IN CLOSED SESSION

Moved by Council Member Caron, supported by Council Member Frederick to enter into closed session at 8:41 p.m.

Roll Call Vote
Ayes: All-7

Motion by Frederick, seconded by Caron to return to open session at 8:58 p.m. Approved 7-0

All-7

15. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Caron, seconded by Frederick to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. Approved 7-0

Ayes: All-7

KIP C. WALBY, MAYOR

ABRIAL J. BARRETT, CITY CLERK

(THE PRECEDING MINUTES ARE A SYNOPSIS OF A CITY COUNCIL MEETING AND DO NOT REPRESENT A VERBATIM RECORD).