



# **GLADSTONE CITY COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING**

City Hall Chambers – 1100 Delta Avenue

July 08, 2024

6:00 PM

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## **MINUTES**

Mayor Thompson called the meeting to order, gave the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

City Clerk, Kim Berry called the roll:

**PRESENT**

Mayor Joe Thompson

Mayor Pro-Tem Brad Mantela

Commissioner Robert Pontius

Commissioner Steve O'Driscoll

**ABSENT - Excused**

Commissioner Judy Akkala

Public Safety Director Ron Robinson presented Gladstone Public Safety Officer Dylan Nadeau-Enright, State of Michigan Troopers Stephen Strom and Isaac Cooper life saving awards for the rescue of the residents of New Dahn Rising Assisted Living on May 30, 2024 during a structure fire.

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela, Seconded by Commissioner O'Driscoll to approve the consent agenda as presented.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela, Seconded by Commissioner Pontius to table the ATC Offer for Easement to Monday, July 22, 2024 regular City Commission meeting at 6:00 PM.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela, Seconded by Mayor Thompson to approve the request for disbursement of funds Draw No. 24 totaling \$953,843.00 for the Wastewater Upgrades Project.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion made by Mayor Thompson, Seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela to approve the IBEW 906 Supervisory Union Contract as presented dated April 1, 2024-March 31, 2027 and authorize Mayor Joe Thompson and City Manager Eric Buckman to sign.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion made by Commissioner O'Driscoll, Seconded by Commissioner Pontius to approve the letter of agreement between City of Gladstone and POLC Command Officers as follows and authorize Mayor Joe Thompson and City Manager Eric Buckman to sign:

## **LETTER OF AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, Michigan Employment Retirement System (MERS) has contacted the City of Gladstone ("EMPLOYER") regarding the Defined Benefit language in Gladstone Public Safety Command ("UNION").

WHEREAS, both the Employer and the Union acknowledge that no active employee in Defined Benefit retirement is currently in the Union and the Employer no longer offers it as a retirement choice.

NOW IT IS THEREFORE AGREED by both parties:

To change the language of Section 17.0, RETIREMENT, as follows: (changes hi-lited)

### RETIREMENT

Section 17.0 The retirement Defined Benefit plan will be the Michigan Employees Retirement System Benefit B-4, FAC-3 with Employees being allowed to retire at any age with a minimum of 25 years of service.

Effective 4/1/07 employees promoted into the bargaining unit, who were enrolled in the MERS defined benefit plan, will continue in that system. Employees who qualify for the MERS defined benefit plan will contribute one (1) percent of **gross** wages to the MERS obligation, to be deducted from salary.

All employees hired after April 1, 2007, will be required to enroll in the MERS Defined Contribution retirement. The City will contribute 8 %; the employee may contribute an additional 4%, of which no more than 3.0% shall be matched by the City for a total of 11 % Employer contribution. Employees may contribute additional funds to a City participating 457 retirement plans as per IRS guidelines.

**MOTION CARRIED**

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela, Seconded by Commissioner O'Driscoll to approve the letter of agreement between City of Gladstone and POLC Officers as follows and authorize Mayor Joe Thompson and City Manager Eric Buckman to sign:

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## LETTER OF AGREEMENT

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WHEREAS, both the Employer and the Union acknowledge that no active employee in Defined Benefit retirement is currently in the Union and the Employer no longer offers it as a retirement choice.

NOW IT IS THEREFORE AGREED by both parties:

To change the language of Section 17.0, RETIREMENT, as follows: (changes hi-lited)

### RETIREMENT

Section 17.0 The retirement benefit plan, for employees hired prior to April 1, 2007, will be the Michigan Employees Retirement System Benefit B-4 with FAC-3 rider with Employees being allowed to retire at any age with a minimum of 25 years of service.

All employees hired after April 1, 2007, will be required to enroll in the MERS Defined Contribution retirement. The City will contribute 8 %; the employee may contribute an additional 4%, of which no more than 3.0% shall be matched by the City for a total of 11 % Employer contribution. Employees may contribute additional funds to a City participating 457 retirement plans as per IRS guidelines.

Commencing with April 1, 2013, Employees who qualify for the MERS defined benefit plan will contribute two (2%) percent of gross wages to the MERS obligation, to be deducted from salary. Effective April 1, 2015, the employee's contribution shall increase to three (3) per cent of gross wages to the MERS obligation, to be deducted from salary.

Commencing April 1, 2013, a maximum of 240 paid leave hours may be added to the FAC calculation and no overtime will be calculated into the FAC. The City will still pay the balance on vacation, comp time and 25% of sick leave to the employee, but only 240 will be added to the FAC calculation.

For employees covered by MERS Defined Benefit plan, if State law changes and the City loose EVIP due to B4 benefit and level, the Union agrees to reopen this section only.

MOTION CARRIED

Motion made by Mayor Pro-Tem Mantela, Seconded by Mayor Thompson to authorize City Clerk, Kim Berry to appoint the necessary election inspectors as needed for August 6, 2024 State Primary Election for Precinct 1, 2, Absent Voter Counting Boards, Receiving Board, Public Accuracy Testing and Early Voting Precinct.

MOTION CARRIED

City Manager Eric Buckman reported on the following:

- Public Safety Director Robinson, City Treasurer Schroeder and I finished off the School Resource Officer Contract and will be presented at the next regular meeting
- City Assessor Frizzell and I have been working on four tax tribunals
- A Public Assembly Inspector from the State Fire Marshall's office was invited by Public Safety to inspect City Hall because of a citizen complaint. All accusations/violations from the citizen were false. City Hall was built in 1936, the City has adopted the International Fire Code so the State of Michigan can't enforce that code. However, he made some recommendations for improvements. Installation of illuminated exit signs, no extension cords on the floor, the chamber door does not need to be two-hour fire rated but installation of a panic bar would be improvement, the occupancy limit for the chamber area is 52 people and move the fire extinguisher for the chamber area from the back hallway to the chamber area under the clock.
- Community Development Director Barron and I have been working with AEG on a new permit for their fiber as they must replace the merit cable because it was installed at 3' not 4'.
- Auditors are in town for annual audit

Commissioners thanked the City employees, especially the Parks & Recreation Department, for the great 4th of July event!

Clerk Kim Berry reported that the State Primary Election is August 6, 2024 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM for in person voting at the precincts, Early Voting at the Wells Township Hall begins Saturday, August 27, 2024-Saturday, August 44, 2024 from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM, Absent Voter Ballots are available from the Clerks office and Saturday, August 3, 2024 from 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM she is available to register voters, receive and issue absent voter ballots or answer general election questions.

There being no further business before the Commission, Mayor Thompson adjourned the meeting at 6:39 PM.

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Mayor Joe Thompson

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City Clerk Kimberly Berry