

**CITY OF SOUTHGATE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2023
301 W. Walnut St.**

Call to Order: Mayor Hamberg called the meeting to order. The meeting location was changed for an ADA compliance request.

The following answered roll call: Council Members Anderson, Messmer, Okura, Melville, and Lycans were present. Council member Wegener was absent. Also present: City Clerk Barton, Finance Director/Treasurer Edgley, Police Chief Christmann, Public Works Foreman Bowman Fire Chief Beatsch, and Assistant City Attorney Olivia Amlung.

Public Comments: Resident Gene Blanchet said he attended the Campbell Co. Planning and Zoning hearing last night and voiced his disapproval of the Sunrock development by Woodland Hills.

Approval of regular meeting minutes 11/1/23. Motion/Second: Melville/Okura. Approved by vote: Aye 5 Nay 0.

Public Works: Councilman Melville reported that he, Councilman Wegener, Mayor Hamberg, Public Works Foreman Bowman, Finance Director Edgley, and City Engineer Shumate met to discuss the road projects for next year. The City would like to repair Electric and the top of Beech Rd. Mr. Shumate will get cost estimates. The City will look at taking a bond with KLC to do the project. This was budgeted in this fiscal year. Council Melville also said that Public Works are picking up leaves and putting up Christmas decorations. Public Works Foreman Bowman had no report.

Public Safety: Councilman Anderson said that the Police Dept. will not pass the next accreditation in 2026 in its current state. The property room needs to be larger to store evidence. There was discussion about what could be done to make this happen. Mayor Hamberg said he will get a committee together to discuss options.

Police Chief Christmann said that all the police officers have been scheduled for 2024 training. A new police officer was sworn in by the Mayor this week. Rich Whitford is retired from Ft. Thomas and will start with the City as a part-time officer. The new police Durango was picked up and is ready to use. It still needs to get the graphics put on it. Three officers attended the drone training and are now certified.

Fire Chief Beatsch said that SWEMS has had a record number of runs this year. There have not been any major fires in the City. There are not enough volunteers who respond to fire calls. Adult Night was a success which is helpful because the Block Party didn't do as well as expected.

Code Enforcement: Councilman Messmer had no report.

Community Relations & Recreation: Council Member Okura said the City Fall Clean up event is going on now thru 11/20. The Christmas Tree Lighting is 11/25. The Community Christmas Party is 12/17. First Church is having a Christmas Musical 12/17. The VFW made a donation to Park & Tree Board for several trees in the City.

Public Buildings: Councilman Lycans had no report.

Finance and Administration: Council Member Wegener was absent.

Finance Director Edgley said the downpayment for the playground equipment is being sent out this week. City Clerk Barton said tax collection is at 35% currently. Kids Night on Council will be Dec. 6. Ms. Barton said that she will send the scripts to council to update for the meeting.

Assistant City Attorney Amlung had no report, but read the following:

Order 23-13 Appoint Nate Snyder as Police Officer Specialist

Order 23-14 Appoint Rich Whitford as Police Officer

Old Business: Mayor Hamberg said the Campbell County Planning & Zoning meeting was last night to discuss the Sunrock development. This recommendation will come back to Council probably Jan. 17 and Feb. 7 for first and second readings.

There was a motion to cancel the Dec. 20th meeting. Motion/Second: Mellville/Messmer. Approved by vote: Aye 5 Nay 0.

Mayor Hamberg discussed the request that he submitted for a traffic light at US 27 and Memorial Pointe with the State. He talked to Senator Frommeyer about it.

New Business: none.

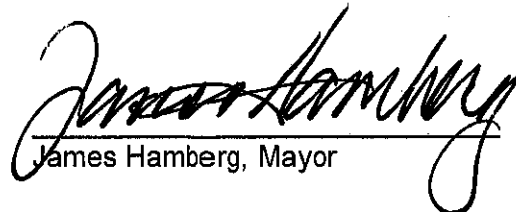
Payment of Vouchers: Check vouchers #24009-34035 were presented for Council's review.

Mayor & Council Comments: Council Member Anderson asked for Executive Session regarding personnel issue. Mayor Hamberg said that we can't do that since it was not on the agenda. There was discussion about hiring another Police Officer and the possibility of an officer leaving. New recruits going to the academy have to be put on a waiting list which is full until April currently. Mayor Hamberg said he'd like to meet in a committee to discuss the Police Dept. needs in Jan. for next budget.

Announcements: none.

Adjournment: There being no further business, **Motion/Second: Anderson/Lycans. Approved by vote: Aye 5 Nay 0.**

ATTEST: Brandi Barton
Brandi Barton, City Clerk


James Hamberg, Mayor