CITY OF SOUTHGATE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Oct. 21, 2026
301 W. Walnut St. Southgate

Call to Order: Mayor Hamberg called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

The following answered roll call: Council Members: Hartman, Okura, Melville, and Whitehead were present. Council Member Messmer arrived late and Member Curry was absent. Also present: City Clerk Barton, Police Chief Christmann, Public Works Foreman Stortz , Finance Director/Treasurer Edgley, Fire Chief Beatsch and Assistant City Attorney Shultz.

Public Comments: Council Member Okura read the Park & Tree Board Green Thumb awards for 207 and 214 Linden Ave.

Approval of meeting minutes 9/16/26. Motion/Second: Hartman/Okura. Approved by vote: Aye 4 Nay 0.

Public Works: Council Member Melville reported that the street project on Valley View is moving along and the final layer of asphalt should be completed soon. The contractor has started on Tracy Ln. Public Works was tarring the cracks in the streets. The community center parking lot will be getting the final coat of asphalt. Resumes for a Public Works Laborer are being received. One of the Public Works Laborers was injured on the job today. He may be off for awhile.
Public Works Foreman Stortz said the contractor was working on Tracy Ln. and hit a couple of gas lines that were only six inches from the surface. This will delay the work until Duke Energy can lower the lines. There is a meeting tomorrow to discuss.

Public Safety: Council Member Messmer had no report. Fire Chief Beatsch said the VFW Stagette was a big success. St. Therese Church said the Fire Dept. can use their ice machine. The old one at the firehouse can be removed since it doesn't work.
Police Chief Christmann said an individual was convicted in Campbell Co. court from a Southgate crime. The Commonwealth Attorney complimented the Police Dept. for doing a good job. The Southgate Community Center was noted as the best event center in Campbell Co.

Code Enforcement: Council Member Curry was absent.

Community Relations & Recreation: Council Member Okura said the Pumpkin Walk was a success. Trick or Treat will be 10/31 from 5:30-7:30 pm. There will be a costume party at the VFW at 7:30. The next Park & Tree Board meeting is 11/9. The planters donated by Southbank Partners were painted and setout around the sidewalks on Electric Ave. The Christmas tree lighting will be 11/28. Sweets with Santa sponsored by the Fire Dept. will be 12/12.

Public Buildings: Council Member Whitehead said he has an estimate from RTM Engineering Consultants to do the specifications for bidding the generator for the Fire Dept. and the City bldg. The cost is $7,300. **There was a motion to approve the estimate and have RTM Engineering Consultants do the specs to bid the generator for the Fire Dept. and City bldg. Motion/Second: Whitehead/Hartman. Approved by vote: Aye 5 Nay 0.**

Finance and Administration: Council Member Hartman reviewed payables. Motion to approve the August financials. **Motion/Second: Hartman/Okura. Approved by vote: Aye 5 Nay 0.**

Finance Director Edgley said the revenues look good for being two months into the new fiscal year. The auditors will be onsite next week. They should have the audit wrapped up and ready for Council in January. We did a draw request from the KLC street bond project. City Clerk Barton said tax payments are coming in and due by Nov. 30. Assistant City Attorney Shultz had no report, but read the following:

Ordinance 26-17 Prohibit smoking in city owned buildings (second reading) is being postponed until the next council meeting.

Proclamation for Donna Mills, VFW National Auxiliary President

Proclamation for VFW "buddy" poppy

Old Business: Mayor Hamberg said the City applied for a Transportation Alternative grant for sidewalks on US 27 by the car wash and St. Therese. This is a 80/20 grant for $827,500. This grant will not be available until 2030. The City will set aside funds for the next couple of years for this.

Public Comments on Flock cameras:
Laura DeLaRosa (2413 Joyce Ave. Southgate) said she is concerned with the privacy and safety of the data stored. Flock doesn't have security. Other police departments in other states have misused this data.

Kevin Cook (207 W. St. Newport) said websites are unsecured and have been hacked. He thinks people will avoid the city because of the cameras.

Austin Morrison (2429 Alexandria Pk. Southgate) said he agrees with what the other people said.

Kyle Randall (729 Liberty St. Newport) asked if mass surveillance is popular? Why were other cameras put up? City should put money into sidewalks.

Karilynn Fulbright (235 Ridgeway Southgate) said the city should cease the use of cameras. There should be no mass surveillance. Flock is a for profit company who misuses data. She doesn't want it in the city.

Alec Angel (121 Harvard Pl Southgate) Is the initial intent of the cameras relevant? How does the city use information with other cities. If the area cities are opting out, is it effective? How is data used?

Wendy Rice (223 Beech Rd Southgate) said she has a petition with 120 signatures to remove the Flock cameras. Council should do what the residents want. They want it to end.

Michelle Reuter (106 Joyce Ave Southgate) said she has a constitutional right to privacy per the law. There should be mutual trust between city and residents.

Kevin Cook asked about the Verkada cameras that were put up.

Police Chief Christmann said that Verkada (CCTV) cameras are different than Flock (License plate reader) cameras. There has been damage in the parks that were caught on CCTV cameras. This is the same technology as ARTIMIS for traffic accidents. There is no facial recognition on

these cameras. Chief Christmann said it is a useful tool to stop crime. He said the police dept. has strict policies and only shares information with other states adjoined with KY. Mayor Hamberg opened the floor for Council to comment.

Council Member Messmer said he didn't know much about the cameras. There was a lot of misinformation about the cameras. He has no concern about the integrity of Southgate Police Dept. He understands the concern of fourth amendment rights.

Council Member Melville said the cameras have accomplished good things for the police dept. It has helped protect the public. The cameras only take pictures of the license plates, it does not harm the individual. Amazon can do more damage with the data they collect than LPR cameras.

Council Member Okura asked if this issue could be put on the ballot. She asked if we could pause the cameras until further investigation.

Council Member Hartman said we don't know what other agencies are doing with the data.

Council Member Whitehead said he looked up the information presented by Kyle Randall after the last meeting. All of the speakers tonight were negative, but no one talked about the pros of the cameras. He is willing to give up a little liberty to keep his family safe.

Mayor Hamberg said he met with other mayors, city managers, and went to Frankfort for the hearing about Flock cameras and they expect some changes coming next year. He said the residents should have a voice and they were able to express those tonight. The City heard their concerns. Moving forward, the options are to keep the cameras, suspend, or cancel them. He asked Council for a motion. **There was a motion to suspend the Flock cameras until new legislation comes about in early 2027. Motion/Second: Hartman/Messmer. Roll call was taken: Approved by vote: Aye 3 (Hartman, Messmer, Okura) Nay 2 (Melville, Whitehead).** Mayor Hamberg said the cameras will be covered for now and service will be suspended. This issue will come back to Council for discussion when legislation passes.

New Business: none.

Payment of Vouchers: Check vouchers #36597-36653 were presented for Council's review.

Adjournment: There being no further business, **Motion to adjourn. Motion/Second: Messmer/Whitehead. Approved by vote: Aye 5 Nay 0.**

Jim Hamberg, Mayor

Brandi Barton, City Clerk