

**Official Proceedings  
Pontiac City Council  
218<sup>th</sup> Session of the Tenth Council**

**Call to order**

A Study Session of the City Council of Pontiac, Michigan was called to order electronically, on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. by Council President Kermit Williams.

**Roll Call**

<b>Members Present</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Location</b>
Carter	Remotely	Pontiac, Oakland County, MI
Miller	Remotely	Pontiac, Oakland County, MI
Pietila	Remotely	Pontiac, Oakland County, MI
Shramski	Remotely	Pontiac, Oakland County, MI
Taylor-Burks	Remotely	Pontiac, Oakland County, MI
Waterman	Remotely	Oakland County, MI
Williams	Remotely	Pontiac, Oakland County, MI

Mayor Waterman was present.  
Clerk announced a quorum.

**Amendments and Approval of the Agenda**

21-63 **Motion to amend resolution #4 (resolution to sanction Council President Pro Tem Randy Carter) with a new resolution and make it an action item along with item #5. (Resolution for closing of the Ottawa Towers.)** Moved by Councilperson Waterman and second by Councilperson Taylor-Burks.

Ayes: Shramski, Taylor-Burks, Waterman, Williams and Carter  
No: Miller and Pietila  
**Motion Carried**

**Approval of the Agenda**

21-64 **Motion to approve agenda as amended.** Move by Councilperson Taylor-Burks and second by Councilperson Miller.

Ayes: Shramski, Taylor-Burks, Waterman, Williams, Carter and Miller  
No: Pietila  
**Motion Carried**

**Approval of Minutes**

21-65 **Approve meeting minutes for March 2, 2021.** Moved by Councilperson Miller and second by Councilperson Taylor-Burks.

Ayes: Shramski, Taylor-Burks, Waterman, Williams and Miller  
No: Carter and Pietila  
**Motion Carried**

### **Public Hearing**

Council President Kermit Williams opened up the public hearing for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2021 at 6:22 p.m.

There were eleven (11) individuals who submitted public hearing comments that was read by the City Clerk.

1. Wilma Bell 2152 Chestnut Circle lake Orion, MI 48360. She said she support using CDBG funds to upgrade Senior Centers.
2. Debra L. Burkett 2317 Mattie Lu Dr. Auburn Hills, MI 48326. I'm in support of funds used to upgrade the Senior Centers in Pontiac, Michigan. I'm a product of Pontiac and attend a lot of functions put on at the Senior Centers.
3. Kimberly Etchen. I support using CDBG funds to upgrade the senior centers.
4. Kreshayla Ealy 158 Russell St. Pontiac, MI 48342. I support the city using CDBG Funds to upgrade the senior buildings.
5. Justina Fowlkes 627 E. Mansfield Ave., Pontiac, MI 48340. I want to acknowledge that I am in support to use CDBG funds to upgrade the senior centers in Pontiac.
6. Gladys M. Smith. I am in support of using CDBG funds for improving the Senior Centers.
7. Manuela Martinez 133 Oliver St. Pontiac, MI. 48342. I support using CDBG funds to upgrade the senior Centers and especially upgrading the Ruth Peterson Senior Center.
8. Carolyn Jennings. I am a resident and taxpayer of the City of Pontiac. I am responding to a call I received from Mr. Nathan Braswell regarding our Senior Citizen Centers. I am just appalled that we would have to voice our support to reopen and keep our Senior Citizens open. Prior to COV-19, I was a faithful citizen who attended the Bowen Center for senior fitness. There were also many other seniors there interacting with others, playing various games, in an effort to keep their minds active. We as seniors need programs and mechanism to keep us active, physical fit along with socialization. Therefore, I would highly recommend you to fund and reopen the senior citizens centers for the betterment of the seniors.
9. Jessie Cohen. I support use of CDBG funds to update the Senior Centers.
10. Deborah K. Findley. Good evening, I am Deborah Findley, one of the senior specialist at the Bowen Center. I am in support of the usage of the CDBG funds for the improvements of our senior centers. These centers as you know are important resources to enhance the quality of life for our seniors in Pontiac. Thank you for your time.
11. Nathan Braswell. I am a senior specialist at the Ruth Peterson Senior Center. The CDBG funds to upgrade the senior center are an essential need to the city of Pontiac. Although COV-19 has temporarily shut the centers down this past year, we have made tremendous strides with the senior community with our on-going programs such as Meals on Wheels and the Senior Zoom meetings. I personally take to heart what I do with serving the community and it brings joy to our seniors as well. I hope and pray that you approve the use of the CDBG funds to upgrade the buildings. Thank you for your time.

Council President Kermit Williams closed public hearing at 6:26 p.m.

### **Public Comment**

Three (3) individuals submitted public comment read by the City Clerk

### **Discussion**

The impact of COVID-19 on City Income Tax

**Resolutions  
City Council**

21-66 **Amended Resolution to sanction Council President Pro Tem Randy Carter.** Moved by Councilperson Waterman and second by Councilperson Taylor-Burks.

WHEREAS, members of the Pontiac City Council believe that Pro Tem Randolph Carter acted unethically by discussing and supplying Lawrence Jasper with information that was disseminated as Attorney Client/Privileged information which violated the Code of Ethics and the policy of the 10th Pontiac City Council; and,

WHEREAS, matters should be addressed and Pro Tem Randolph Carter should be sanctioned for the ethical violations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the Pontiac City Council hereby sanction Pro Tem Randolph Carter from subcommittee leadership and from attending any and all subcommittee meetings for a period of three months from the date of passage of this resolution.

Ayes: Taylor-Burks, Waterman, Williams, Pietila and Shramski

No: Carter and Miller

**Amended Resolution Passed**

21-67 **Resolution for closing of the Ottawa Towers.** Moved by Councilperson Waterman and second by Councilperson Pietila.

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2020, the Pontiac City Council passed a resolution approving the Global Settlement regarding the Ottawa Towers litigation; and,

WHEREAS, on November 21, 2020, the Pontiac City Council approved a Resolution for the execution of the Purchase and Sale Agreement with Dearborn Capital Partners, LLC; and,

WHEREAS, documents related to Dearborn Capital Partners, LLC were subsequently modified removing language referencing the necessity of a Land Contract and Co-borrowing as they were no longer required; and,

WHEREAS, on February 23, 2021, the Pontiac City Council passed a resolution authorizing the Mayor to include and execute a Parking Lease Agreement as a closing document to be included in the package submitted at the scheduled February 26, 2021 closing of the Global Settlement Agreement and Sale and Purchase Agreement for the Ottawa Towers; and,

WHEREAS, the scheduled closing did not occur; and,

WHEREAS, the Administration explained that additional steps, documents and recordings were required for closing; but a closing will occur in the future. No date was given.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the members of the Pontiac City Council hereby request that the Mayor provide Council with advanced notice of at least forty-eight (48) hours of any and all meetings, and court hearings related to the Ottawa Towers litigation, the closing date for the Global Settlement Agreement and Sale and Purchase Agreement for Ottawa Towers and provide Council with all documents to be submitted and executed at the closing; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Pontiac City Council is to be provided all logistical information regarding the closing including, the date, time and location (zoom information if applicable) and to be afforded the opportunity to have at least one Council member present at the closing whether in person, via zoom or telephonically.

Ayes: Waterman, Williams, Carter, Miller, Pietila and Shramski

No: None

**Resolution Passed**

21-68            **Motion to reallocate crime awareness funds to sidewalk funds in the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2021 Application.** Move by Councilperson Miller and second by Councilperson Carter.

Ayes: Williams, Carter, Miller, Pietila, Shramski and Waterman

No: None

**Motion Carried**

Councilwoman Taylor-Burks did not vote

Councilwoman Patrice Waterman left the meeting

**Suspend the rules**

21-69            **Motion to suspend the rules to vote.** Moved by Councilperson Pietila and second by Councilperson Shramski.

Ayes: Carter, Miller, Pietila, Shramski, Taylor-Burks and Williams

No: None

**Motion Carried**

**The motion to reallocate funds was made again since the rules had not been suspended prior to the vote.**

21-70            **Motion to suspend the rules to reallocate crime awareness funds to sidewalk funds in the Community Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2021 Application.** Move by Councilperson Miller and second by Councilperson Pietila.

Ayes: Miller, Pietila, Shramski, Taylor-Burks, Williams and Carter

No: None

**Motion Carried**

**Resolution**

**Economic Development**

21-71            **Amended Resolution to approve projects and application for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program Year 2021.** Moved by Councilperson Miller and second by Councilperson Pietila.

Whereas, the City of Pontiac is submitting an application for the Community Development Block Grant; and

Whereas, the grant application will be submitted to the County on March 10, 2021 to Oakland County for Program Year 2021 projects; and

Whereas, the following projects being considered:

1. Neighborhood Cleanup - \$100,000: Efforts to remove trash and debris from neighborhoods, neighborhood cleanup and graffiti removal. Purchase of small hand tools, gloves, bags and trash containers. Fees for dumping and disposal of debris, staff to enforce code citations. Also, signage and promotion of the campaign. Promote on COF website, social media and PontiaConnect app.

March 9, 2021 Approved Minutes

2. Senior Center Facilities - \$175,000: Rehabilitation of the two senior centers; Robert Bowen and Ruth Peterson upgrades to ADA compliance for doors, interior walls, ceiling tiles and blinds.
3. Sidewalks - \$523,883: to repair sidewalks throughout the City of Pontiac as outlined in Sidewalk Repair Area Map with costs for 9 areas in each of the 7 Districts.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Pontiac City Council approve the submission of the CDBG Program Year 2021 application with the proposed allocations to the Oakland County Community and Home Improvement Division for the total approximate allocation of \$798,883.

Ayes: Pietila, Shramski, Taylor-Burks, Williams, Carter and Miller

No: None

**Resolution Passed**

**Adjournment**

President Kermit Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

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GARLAND S DOYLE  
INTERIM CITY CLERK