An electronic meeting was held through Zoom due to the Wayne County Public Health Order and to continue decreasing the spread of COVID-19.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Denner and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The following were electronically present: Councilmembers Relan, Read, McConnell, Hodges, Robson, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner.

Also electronically present: Nick Sizeland, City Manager; Jane M. Blahut, Finance Director/Clerk; Jake Howlett, City Attorney; Bryan Jarrell, Director of Public Safety; Pat Thomas, Director of Public Works; Patrick Droze, OHM Advisors, City Engineer; and Courtney Delmege, Deputy Clerk.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE JUNE 25-26 STORM**

City Manager Sizeland presented the financial update from the June 25-26 storm event provided by Finance Director/Clerk Blahut.

Due to the unprecedented precipitation events on June 25-26, 2021, the city hired additional contractors for the removal of rubbish throughout the city for a two-week period. Included are the losses the City incurred for property that was damaged from the flooding including some of the 911 equipment located in the public safety basement as well as the list of overtime hours worked by the public works department. To date, the City impact was about $779,000; $34,940.49 in overtime/double-time wages and $742,015.81 in contractors throughout the City.

The City feels confident we will be reimbursed a majority, if not all of these expenses and that a budget amendment is not needed at this time. If it is determined a budget amendment is needed, it will be brought forth to the Council.

Finance Director Blahut noted the city received $570,000 in grants, the majority for public safety wages that were expensed in fiscal year 6/2020. Also, for fiscal year 2021, $140,000 was budgeted for unemployment compensation. The unemployment invoice was paid in October, 2020, for approximately $7,000 for calendar year 2019. Therefore, Finance director Blahut stated $140,000 was budgeted for fiscal year 2022 for unemployment compensation as a result of COVID 19. Theater & concession stand expenditures were nonexistent due to the closure of the theaters, resulting in approximately $150,000 not incurred.

**INTEGRATED PUBLIC ALERT & WARNING SYSTEM (IPAWS)**

Public Safety Director Jarrell began by recapping the Reverse 911 system and Nixle Alert system which can be signed up for by residents. The Integrated Public Alert Warning System, also known as IPAWS is FEMA’s national system for local alerting that provides authenticated emergency and life-saving information to the public through mobile phones using Wireless Emergency Alerts, to radio and television via the Emergency Alert System, and on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration’s Weather Radio. All dispatchers and supervisors will be trained on how to use IPAWS. There may be a cost to acquire compatible software that meets system requirements which is being explored. Public Safety Director Jarrell has signed a memorandum of agreement with FEMA which will now go to the State of Michigan for approval.

Public Safety Director Jarrell reiterated that all FEMA assistance is only applicable for the June 25-26 storm event and no subsequent storms. FEMA and the State of Michigan have opened a Disaster Recovery Center at the Golightly Career and Technical Center located at 900 Dickerson Avenue, Detroit, MI 48215. Hours are Monday through Sunday from 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. More detailed information is available on the City website. When applying for assistance, if a denial is received, it is very important to read the denial letter thoroughly as you can appeal the denial up to three times.

At the Disaster Recovery Center, the State of Michigan has a Multi-Agency Resource Center (MARC). The MARC can guide you through the process of applying for a one-time payment of $1500.00 to low-income residents who need home repairs due to flooding.

In Grosse Pointe City at the Public Safety Department, there is a FEMA DDO which is a Document Drop-Off Center for the collection of FEMA applications and documents. The DDO also aids with those who have questions regarding their FEMA application or denial letter.

CITY SEWER PROGRAM

OHM Advisors City Engineer Patrick Droze provided a presentation displaying an approach to addressing sanitary capacity sewer issues with the City. The presentation including goals of “dry out” the sanitary sewer system through removal of inflow and infiltration; optimize the existing sewer system to maximize wet weather capacity and storage; and creating relief points to control system surcharge under extreme events.

The City can work towards obtaining these goals through a combination of efforts to help attack the problem from all directions. Given the scale and urgency, an aggressive approach is needed to increase available data and vet alternatives for improvement. A multifaceted approach is envisioned to accomplish this including the following: asset management, targeted Inflow removal, operations and optimalizations, resiliency, and public engagement.

Over the next several months, it is proposed that the City accelerate efforts to assess, add instrumentation, model and repair the sewer system. As asset information and modeling data are completed, the City will also look to advance several other tasks to set the stage for continual system improvements. The tasks will work to align the system operations with the Community’s expected level of service. Ultimately, the work will result in a sanitary sewer master plan which will detail an orderly approach to projects along with anticipated budgets and a recommendation relative to water and sewer rates.

City Council would like to move forward and look to broaden the assessment of the system beyond the recommended twenty percent.
City Manager Sizeland presented information regarding disconnecting downspouts on homes within the City. Downspout disconnection is the process of separating roof downspouts from the sanitary sewer system and redirecting roof runoff onto pervious surfaces, most commonly a lawn or to the storm sewers in the streets. Downspout connections are significant contributors to basement flooding and are a tremendous added expense for conveyance and treatment of wastewater. A 1,500 sq.ft. home can redirect 25,000 gallons of water each year away from the sewer system by disconnecting downspouts.

Director of Public Works Pat Thomas brought forward the importance of checking grade as far as water being shed away from homes which also creates an impact on the sewer system. Director Thomas also advised residents to reach out to the Public Works department for any questions or assistance.

City Attorney Jake Howlett presented the proposed amendment to the downspout ordinance for approval. The amendment strengthens the ordinance and conforms to similar ordinances in other communities. The purpose of the amendment is to reduce the sudden inflow of rainwater into the sanitary sewer system, the overflow of the drainage system and the resulting pollution of Lake St. Clair, and the reduction of basement flooding. Another purpose of the proposed amendment is also to formalize the decision and appeal process.

Motion by Councilmember Read, supported by Councilmember Robson to table the amendment of the ordinance until the next City Council meeting scheduled for August 23, 2021.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, McConnell, Hodges, Robson, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

City Manager Sizeland read two written comments that were received.

Ten residents made verbal comments.

Motion by Mayor Denner, supported by Councilmember McConnell, to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: Councilmembers Relan, Read, McConnell, Hodges, Robson, and Fluitt, and Mayor Denner

NAYS: None

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.