CITY OF OAK PARK, MICHIGAN
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
38th OAK PARK CITY COUNCIL
February 15, 2021
7:00 PM

MINUTES

Mayor McClellan called the virtual meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Oak Park City Hall, 14000 Oak Park Boulevard, Oak Park, MI 48237. (248) 691-7544.

PRESENT: Mayor McClellan, Mayor ProTem Burns, Council Member Radner, Council Member Edgar, Council Member Whitehead

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Tungate, City Clerk Norris, City Attorney Krause

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

CM-02-041-21 **(AGENDA ITEM #3) ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED – APPROVED**

Motion by Edgar, seconded by Whitehead, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, to approve the agenda as submitted.

Voice vote:	Yes:	McClellan, Burns, Radner, Edgar, Whitehead
	No:	None
	Absent:	None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

CONSENT AGENDA:

CM-02-042-21 **(AGENDA ITEM #4A-C) CONSENT AGENDA - APPROVED**

Motion by Whitehead, seconded by Burns, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following items:

A. Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of February 1, 2021 **CM-02-043-21**
B. Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2020 **CM-02-044-21**
C. Licenses New and Renewals submitted for February 1, 2021 **CM-02-045-21**

Voice Vote:	Yes:	McClellan, Burns, Radner, Edgar, Whitehead
	No:	None
	Absent:	None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

RECOGNITION OF VISITING ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Commissioner Yolanda Smith Charles provided an update on activities related to Oakland County. State representative Regina Weiss provided information pertaining to activities in Lansing.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION/PRESENTATIONS:

(AGENDA ITEM #6A) Black History Month Special Presentation
Arts and Cultural Diversity Commission Vice Chairperson Stephanie Crawford presented a video that recognized community leaders Patrick Poteet and Juanita Bell.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

(AGENDA ITEM #7A) Public Hearing to receive public comments on the allocation of the 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds

Mayor McClellan opened the public hearing to receive public comments for the allocation of the 2021 Community Development Block Grant Funds at 7:28 P.M. There were no members of the public who wished to speak and there were no written comments received to enter into the record. The public hearing was closed at 7:30 PM.

CM-02-046-21 **(AGENDA ITEM #7B) RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RECOMMENDED ALLOCATIONS OF THE 2021 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE APPLICATION AND SUB RECIPIENT AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY - APPROVED**

Motion by Burns, seconded by Radner, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, to approve the following resolution approving the recommended allocations of the 2021 Community Development Block Grant Funds and to authorize the Mayor to sign the application and sub recipient agreement on behalf of the City:

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2021
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, Oakland County is preparing an Annual Action Plan to meet application requirements for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, and other Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs; and

WHEREAS, Oakland County has requested CDBG eligible projects from participating communities for inclusion in the Action Plan; and

WHEREAS, the City of Oak Park is a participating local unit of government in the Oakland County Community Development Block Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, the City Of Oak Park has duly advertised and conducted a public hearing on February 15, 2021 for the purposes of receiving comments regarding the proposed use of Program Year 2021 Community Development Block Grant funds in the approximate amount of $128,952.00; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing conformed to the guidelines of the Oakland County Community Development Division; and

WHEREAS, The City of Oak Park found that the following projects meet the federal objectives of the CDBG program and are prioritized by the community as high priority need:

Account Number	Project Name	Amount
172170-730310	Code Enforcement	$98,952.00
172160-732170	Public Service/Yard Services	$30,000.00

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Oak Park CDBG application is hereby authorized to be submitted to Oakland County for inclusion in Oakland County's Annual Action Plan to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and that the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute all documents, agreements, or contracts which result from this application to Oakland County.

Roll Call Vote:	Yes:	McClellan, Radner, Burns, Edgar, Whitehead
	No:	None
	Absent:	None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

COMMUNICATIONS: None

SPECIAL LICENSES: None

ACCOUNTING REPORTS:

CM-02-047-21 (AGENDA ITEM #10A) APPROVAL FOR PAYMENT OF INVOICES SUBMITTED BY GARAN, LUCOW, MILLER, P.C. FOR LEGAL SERVICES IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF $13,956.52 - APPROVED

Motion by Radner, seconded by Edgar, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, to approve payment of invoices #555191, #555192 and #555193 by Garan, Lucow, Miller P.C., for legal services rendered through January 31, 2021 in the total amount of $13,956.52.

Roll Call Vote:	Yes:	McClellan, Burns, Edgar, Radner, Whitehead
	No:	None
	Absent:	None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

CM-02-048-21 (AGENDA ITEM #10B) PAYMENT OF AN INVOICE SUBMITTED BY THE LAW OFFICES OF HOWARD L. SHIFMAN, P.C. FOR LEGAL SERVICES IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF $18,000.00 - APPROVED

Motion by Burns, Seconded by Edgar, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, to approve payment of invoice #14450 to Howard L. Shifman, P.C. for legal services from January 1, 2021 – March 31, 2021 in the total amount of $18,000.00.

Roll Call Vote:	Yes:	McClellan, Burns, Edgar, Radner, Whitehead
	No:	None
	Absent:	None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

BIDS: None

ORDINANCES: None

CITY ATTORNEY: No Report

CITY MANAGER:

Administration

CM-02-049-21 (AGENDA ITEM #14A) REQUEST TO APPROVE AN AMENDMENT TO THE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN OAKLAND COUNTY AND CITY OF OAK PARK REGARDING MIDC CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE AMENDMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY - APPROVED

Motion by Edgar, seconded by Burns, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, to approve an amendment to the Interlocal Agreement between Oakland County and City of Oak Park regarding MIDC continuing legal education requirements and to authorize the City Manager to sign the amendment on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:	Yes:	McClellan, Burns, Edgar, Radner, Whitehead
	No:	None
	Absent:	None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Director of Strategic Planning and Special Projects VanVleck summarized the amendment and reported the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission was created by legislation in 2013 to ensure the state's public defense system is fair, cost-effective, and constitutional. The Commission has released a set of standards to be followed by all courts in the State, which have been approved by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. Each local system is asked to create a plan to ensure compliance with these standards, with costs for compliance being borne by the State. As a part of our plan, in order to ensure our system is in compliance with Standard 1 "Education and Training of Defense Counsel" we have entered into an interlocal agreement with Oakland County to participate in their CLE Program, which is administered by the Oakland County Bar Association (OCBA), ensuring that our criminal defense attorneys are meeting their continuing legal education requirements. Oakland County has proposed an amendment to Section 2.2 of the agreement, effectively placing an automatic renewal of the agreement for December 31st of each calendar year unless terminated by either party.

Public Safety Department

CM-02-050-21 (AGENDA ITEM #14B) REQUEST TO RENEW THE INTER LOCAL AGREEMENT WITH OAKLAND COUNTY FOR CLEMIS IT SERVICES AND TO AUTHORIZE THE CITY MANAGER TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY - APPROVED

Motion by Radner, seconded by Burns, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, to renew the Inter Local Agreement with Oakland County for CLEMIS IT Services and to authorize the City Manager to sign the agreement on behalf of the City.

Roll Call Vote:	Yes:	McClellan, Burns, Radner, Edgar, Whitehead
	No:	None
	Absent:	None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Public Safety Director Cooper summarized the Inter Local Agreement for CLEMIS IT Services with Oakland County. The acronym "CLEMIS" stands for (Court and Law Enforcement Management Information System). CLEMIS is a multifaceted regional public safety information management system, operated and maintained by Oakland County Department of Information Technology. CLEMIS is comprised of many software applications. The purpose of CLEMIS is to provide innovative technology and related services to criminal justice/public safety agencies to enable them to share data and improve the delivery of criminal justice/public safety services.
The Oak Park Public Safety Department currently uses CLEMIS for prisoner processing (fingerprinting, booking, mugshots), report writing for police and fire incidents, In car computers, on-line crash reports, e-citations, daily log sheets, evidence and property system. This system is also used to access incident reports throughout the various agencies in multiple counties (Oakland, Macomb, Wayne and Genesee, etc.). Various components of the system are also used by other departments within the City. The Oak Park Department of Public Safety has used CLEMIS for over 25 years and is invaluable and an absolute must for Public Safety.

Finance/Assessing

(AGENDA ITEM #14C) Quarterly Investment Report for period ending 12/31/2020
Finance Director Crawford presented the second quarter investment report.

Second Quarter Fiscal 2020/2021 Investment Report

The State of Michigan Public Act 213 of 2007 requires the City's investment officer to provide a written report quarterly to the governing body concerning the investment of all funds of the City that fall under Public Act 20. Public Act 20 governs how non-pension and non-OPEB funds can be invested. The attached report details the cash and investments (citywide for all funds) held by the City at December 31, 2020. The report includes a description of each investment by type, market and book values, current and yield to maturity interest rates and the number of days to maturity.

The second quarter investment report shows total citywide cash and investments of $33,659,956 (market value) including cash in the operating account of $1,234,717 (excluding outstanding checks and other adjustments), short-term investments in the Oakland County Investment Pool of $30,131,354, and long-term investments total $2,293,885. The City has maximized investment return on short-term cash by utilizing the Oakland County Investment Pool and minimizing the amount maintained in the checking and daily depository accounts. Investment income for the months of October through December 2020 totaled $78,657.

During the second quarter overall investment returns are still at the same low levels as in the first quarter of FY 2020-21; as Economists predicted. The return for the second quarter was approximately 0.90% primarily due to COVID-19 and the Federal Reserve rates set at nearly zero. As a result, the City is investing short-term and locking up longer term investments if the individual interest rate is favorable.

Interest rates for the next quarter are expected to remain low and overall investment will continue to fall as long-term investments continue to mature.

(AGENDA ITEM #14D) Quarterly Financial Report for period ending 12/31/2020
Finance Director Crawford presented the second quarter financial report.

GENERAL FUND

REVENUES
Total revenues for the first quarter total approximately $19 million, representing approximately 84% of the annual budget. Overall revenues are on track with budget with the following items of note:

- Property Tax Revenue – City property tax levies are billed July 1 and payable in full without penalty by August 31, 2020. As of the end of the second quarter approximately 94% of the taxes billed had been paid. Any unpaid real property taxes will be purchased from the City by Oakland County in May 2021. Property tax revenue is the primary reason the overall revenues are at 84% to date.

- Intergovernmental Revenue (State Revenue Sharing) – The City receives six bi-monthly payments annually for state-shared revenue. The second quarter report reflects two fiscal 2020/21 payments totaling $1,344,770 as the August 31, 2020 payment by statute is included as part of the June 30, 2020 revenues. The City will receive the remaining payments on February 28, April 30, June 30 and August 31 (2021) related to the current fiscal year. The estimated annual revenue included in the budget totals $3,570,123.

- Fines and forfeiture revenue received from the 45th District Court is budgeted for a total of $1,700,000 of which $645,441 or 38% was received in this second quarter. Overall court revenue continues to be less than prior year and less than budget due to COVID-19 and the reduced number of drivers on the road and tickets written. The court has done a good job reducing their costs to offset some of the lost revenue. The revenue received is used to offset a portion of the court's operating costs. Finance will continue to monitor both the court revenue and expenditure budgets and amended as necessary.

- Federal grants revenue is higher than originally anticipating as the City is receiving federal CARES funds passed through the State of Michigan and Oakland County related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The revenue will be used to offset both unbudgeted expenditures incurred since March 2020 along with reimbursement of some allowable budgeted costs (which will be used to offset some of the revenue lost). Finance will be bringing forward budget amendments for both the revenue and any related unbudgeted expenditures.

- Recreation program fees continue to lag behind both prior and the current year reduced budget due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related shutdown. Program fees are currently at approximately 35% of budget and historically represent closer to 50% through the second quarter. Some of the revenue loss has been offset by cost savings and budget amendments will be forthcoming in this second quarter to reflect the most recent projects.

EXPENDITURES
Total expenditures for the second quarter total approximately $9.4 million, representing approximately 43% of the annual budget. Overall departmental expenditure budgets are on track with the following items of note (departments over 50%):

- The Human Resources Department is at 57% for the second quarter due to the increase in the defined contribution retirement amount for the new Human Resource Director. This will be amended in this second quarter of budget amendments.
- The Prosecuting Attorney is at 58% of their budget due to the timing of when payment is made.
- Elections is at 73% of their budget due to the timing of when the elections take place. The presidential primary was during the first quarter and the general election is in this second quarter resulting in the majority of the budget being expended during the first six months of the year. The overall net budget for the department is in line with current annual projections.
- The Special Events Recreation Department is at 59% of their budget due to the seasonality nature of recreation programs. The overall net budget for the department is in line with current annual projections. All other recreation departments are running significantly under budget due to the COIVD-19 pandemic and will be amended in this second quarter of budget amendments (see note on recreation revenues above).
- Communications Department is at 52% of their budget due to all of the capital outlay expense, being expensed in this second quarter.

Overall the General Fund operations are in line with the annual budget. However, Finance will continue to monitor the revenues and expenses and bring forth the budget amendments that are necessary. The projected fund balance remains at the targeted level of 20% of annual expenditures.

CM-02-051-21 (AGENDA ITEM #14E) BUDGET AMENDMENT #2021-3 FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020 - APPROVED

Motion by Weiss, seconded by Burns, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, to adopt the following resolution approving Budget Amendment #2018-1 for period ending December 31, 2017 as follows:

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following
Budget Amendment #202-3 is authorized:

	INCREASE (DECREASE)
GENERAL FUND	
REVENUES	
PROPERTY TAXES	$ -
LICENSE AND PERMITS	50,875
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	1,842,681
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	(136,000)
FINES AND FORFEITURES	(400,000)
INTEREST INCOME	(4,015)
OTHER REVENUE	77,694
TOTAL REVENUES	1,431,235
EXPENDITURES	
CITY COUNCIL	-
CITY MANAGER	(9,000)
HUMAN RESOURCES	(6,000)
COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	(2,130)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY		-
CITY CLERK - ELECTIONS		27,500
CITY CLERK		(1,500)
FINANCE		(21,000)
TECHNICAL AND PLANNING		(30,000)
PUBLIC SAFETY		(7,000)
RECREACTION		(117,000)
PUBLIC WORKS		(3,000)
NON-DEPARTMENTAL		276,365
PUBLIC INFORMATION		23,125
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		130,360
Net Increase to Fund Balance	$	1,300,875

LIBRARY FUND

REVENUES		
PROPERTY TAXES	$	-
INTERGOVERNMENTAL		-
CHARGES FOR SERVICES		-
FINES AND FORFEITURES		-
INTEREST INCOME		-
OTHER REVENUE		-
TOTAL REVENUES		-
EXPENDITURES		
SALARIES		(9,000)
UTILITIES - WATER		-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		(9,000)
Net Increase to Fund Balance	$	9,000

MAJOR STREETS FUND

REVENUES		
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	$	79,976
INTEREST INCOME		(2,976)
OTHER REVENUE		-
TOTAL REVENUES		77,000
EXPENDITURES		
SALARIES		(18,000)
FRINGES		-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		(18,000)

Net Increase to Fund Balance	$ 95,000

LOCAL STREETS FUND

REVENUES	
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	$ 31,533
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	-
INTEREST INCOME	2,467
OTHER REVENUE	-
TOTAL REVENUES	34,000
EXPENDITURES	
SALARIES	(3,000)
FRINGES	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	(3,000)
Net Increase to Fund Balance	$ 37,000

SOLID WASTE FUND

REVENUES	
PROPERTY TAXES	$ -
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	-
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	-
INTEREST INCOME	3,000
OTHER REVENUE	-
TOTAL REVENUES	3,000
EXPENDITURES	
SALARIES	(9,000)
OPERATIONS	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	(9,000)
Net Increase to Fund Balance	$ 12,000

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT FUND

REVENUES	
PROPERTY TAXES	$ -
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	$ -
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	-
INTEREST INCOME	1,708
TRANSFERS IN	44,000
TOTAL REVENUES	45,708

EXPENDITURES		
SALARIES		-
FRINGES		-
CAPITAL OUTLAY		124,057
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		124,057
Net Increase to Fund Balance	$	(78,349)

CITY OWNED PROPERTY FUND

REVENUES		
INTEREST INCOME	$	-
SALE OF FIXED ASSETS		-
TOTAL REVENUES		-
EXPENDITURES		
CAPITAL OUTLAY		
TRANSFERS OUT		44,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		44,000
Net Decrease to Fund Balance	$	(44,000)

MUNICIPAL COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION FUND

REVENUES		
INTEREST INCOME	$	-
TOTAL REVENUES		-
EXPENDITURES		
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES		44,558
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		44,558
Net Decrease to Fund Balance	$	(44,558)

WATER AND SEWER FUND

REVENUES		
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	$	13,000
INTEREST EARNINGS		(3,422)
OTHER REVENUE		12,500
TOTAL REVENUES		22,078
EXPENDITURES		
SALARIES		(66,000)

OPERATIONS	11,078
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	(54,922)
Net Decrease to Fund Balance	$ 77,000

MOTOR POOL INTERNAL SERVICE FUND

REVENUES	
CHARGES TO OTHER FUNDS	$ -
TOTAL REVENUES	-
EXPENDITURES	
SALARIES	3,000
OPERATIONS	(3,000)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	-
Net Decrease to Fund Balance	$ -

Roll Call Vote:	Yes:	McClellan, Burns, Edgar, Radner, Whitehead
	No:	None
	Absent:	None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

CM-02-052-21 (AGENDA ITEM #14F) RATE OF COMPENSATION FOR THE BOARD OF REVIEW MEMBERS AND THE 2021 MEETING DATES AND TIMES – APPROVED

Motion by Burns, Seconded by Edgar, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, to approve the rate of compensation for the Board of Review at $120.00 for a full day and $60.00 for a half day of service and the following dates and times for the 2021 Board of Review Meetings to be held at City Hall:

Monday	March 8, 2021	9:00 am to 1:00 pm & 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Tuesday	March 9, 2021	6:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Monday	March 22, 2021	9:00 am to 1:00 pm & 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Roll Call Vote:	Yes:	McClellan, Burns, Radner, Edgar, Whitehead
	No:	None
	Absent:	None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Finance Director Crawford indicated the City Charter (Section 10.6) states that the rate of compensation for the Board of Review shall be established by City Council and (Section 10.7) states that the Board of Review shall meet on the second and fourth Monday in March for the purpose of hearing tax assessment appeals. The Assessing Department is requesting to schedule one additional date with the option to add additional dates if needed.

CM-02-053-21 (AGENDA ITEM #14G) CITY OF OAK PARK 2021 POVERTY EXEMPTION POLICY – APPROVED

Motion by Burns, Seconded by Whitehead, CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, to adopt the following City of Oak Park 2021 Poverty Exemption Policy:

CITY OF OAK PARK
2021 POVERTY EXEMPTION POLICY

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines to be used by the Board of Review in determining whether a homeowner is eligible for a poverty exemption from property taxes.

SCOPE:

The poverty exemption policy applies to qualified low income individuals who own homesteads in the City of Oak Park. The policy limits the length of poverty exemptions to one year.

POLICY:

The Board of Review shall use the following guidelines to determine if a property owner qualifies for a poverty exemption from property taxes:

1. Exemptions will be granted to owners of homesteads only. Property must be granted at least a 50% homestead exemption from the State of Michigan.

2. Per, MCL 211.7u(3), the application for consideration must be received by the Assessor's Office at least one day prior to the last session of the Board of Review. The application can be made by mail, if received one day prior to the last session of the Board of Review.

3. All applicants must file a claim with the Board of Review on a form prescribed by the State Tax Commission. The application must be filled out in its entirety and all requested documentation must be attached. If an area does not apply to the applicant, "N/A" must be used. If the application is not complete or requested documentation is not included, the Board of Review will deny the exemption. All pages included with this application must be returned when the application is submitted for review.

4. Per MCL 211.7u(7), a person who files a claim for Poverty exemption IS NOT prohibited from also appealing the assessment on the property to the Board of Review in the same year.

5. The poverty threshold for eligibility for a poverty exemption is a figure which is equal to the Federal income standards established annually by the United States Office of Management and Budget for the previous calendar year. To be eligible for a poverty exemption from property taxes, the income of the property owner (household) must be <u>less than</u> the poverty threshold for the number of persons within the household.

6. All income and assets for persons in the household are reported in accordance with a form prescribed by the State Tax Commission.

a. Per MCL 211.7u(2)(b), federal and state income tax returns for all persons residing in the principal residence must be included with the application including any property tax credit returns. The tax returns may be from the current or preceding tax year. If any person in the household is not required to file federal or state tax returns, the included affidavit, form 4988, must be completed by each person that does not file taxes.

b. The most recent statement for all bank accounts, investments, IRAs, CDs, 401Ks, money market, annuities, etc. The statement submitted must be complete with no missing pages and submitted for all persons residing in the home.

c. Proof of income/assets from the Social Security Administration, Veterans Administration, Medicare, Medicaid, Bridge Card, and any College/University scholarships for all persons residing in the home.

d. The most recent mortgage statement of the primary residence under review, including any reverse mortgages.

e. If primary residence being sought for exemption was purchased within the past two years of this application, homeowner's closing statements must be submitted with application.

7. Maximum total allowed assets, including amounts in banking/investment accounts may not exceed the amount of the federal poverty guideline for the number of persons in the household. Maximum total allowed liquid assets, specifically amounts in banking/investment accounts may not exceed the amount of projected 2021 taxes PLUS 50% for the entire household. The Asset Level does not include the primary residence for which exemption is being sought. It does include, but is not limited to:

   a. A second home, additional land not associated with the primary residence, or other buildings other than the primary residence being sought for exemption.
   b. Vehicles and other recreational vehicles such as motor homes, campers, ATVs, boats, and motorcycles.
   c. Jewelry, antiques, artwork, equipment, and other personal property of value.
   d. Bank accounts, stocks, bonds, and investments. This also includes the money received from the sale of stocks, bonds, investments, cars, and houses unless a person is in the specific business of selling such property.
   e. Withdrawals of bank accounts and borrowed money.
   f. Gifts, loans, lump-sum inheritances, and one-time insurance payments.
   g. Food or housing received in lieu of wages and the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms.
   h. Federal non-cash benefits programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, food stamps, and school lunches.

   i. The total interest income in all accounts (checking, savings, CDs, IRAs, 401Ks, money market, annuities, etc.)
   j. The applicant shall not have ownership interest in any real estate other than the primary residence being considered for exemption.

8. Applicants that meet the income and asset qualifications will have the taxable value reduced by 50% for the current year.

9. Poverty exemptions shall be granted for one year only. The property owner must apply every year in order to receive an exemption.

Roll Call Vote:	Yes:	McClellan, Burns, Radner, Edgar, Whitehead
	No:	None
	Absent:	None

MOTION DECLARED ADOPTED

City Assessor Powers reported that in accordance with section 211.7u of the Michigan Compiled Laws, the City of Oak Park has offered a partial poverty exemption, through the Board of Review, to qualified homeowners. The City of Oak Park has historically averaged less than 20 applicants for this exemption per year.

On December 23, 2020, the Governor signed Public Act 253 which made additional changes to the poverty exemption section. The most significant of these changes was revising the guidelines in calculation of the reduction to the taxable value. If a person meets all eligibility requirements in statute, the Board of Review must grant a full exemption equal to a 100% reduction in taxable value OR a partial exemption equal to a 25% or 50% reduction in taxable value OR any other percentage reduction in taxable value approved by the STC.

Additionally, the State adopted an application for use in applying for a Poverty Exemption. Other changes exclude the Boards ability to deviate from the policy and guidelines for extraordinary circumstances. The City's previous policy also considered an applicant's state income tax refund under the Michigan Property Tax Credit (MI1040CR), in determining the amount of reduction in taxable value. This practice accounted for the fact that income tax refunds, especially for seniors, are adversely affected if property taxes are decreased. This is no longer allowed.

Upon review of past Board of Review actions reductions in taxable value have averaged close to 50% for qualifying applicants. The recommended policy adopts that stance. The proposed policy, application and guidelines are in compliance with PA 253 of 2020.

Communications

(AGENDA ITEM #14D) Event and Activity Update

Communications Director Davis reported upcoming activities and events.

CALL TO THE AUDIENCE:

There were no members of the audience who wished to speak.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the City Council, Mayor McClellan adjourned the meeting at 8:17 P.M.

T. Edwin Norris, City Clerk

Marian McClellan, Mayor