

Southgate City Council Agenda

Council Chambers

14400 Dix-Toledo Rd., Southgate, Michigan 48195

Wednesday November 19, 2025

6:30pm Work Study Session

1. Halloween Home Decorating Awards
2. Officials Reports
3. Discussion of Agenda Items

7:00 pm Regular Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Ayres-Reiss, Gawlik, George, Graziani, Kuspa, Price, Rauch

Minutes:

1. Work Study Meeting Minutes dated November 5, 2025
2. Regular City Council Meeting Minutes dated November 5, 2025

Scheduled Persons in the Audience:

Consideration of Bids:

Scheduled Hearings:

Communications "A"

1. Letter from Mayor; Re: Appointment of Legal Services (Zelenak)
2. Letter from Mayor; Re: Appointment of Legal Services (Shifman Fournier)
3. Letter from Mayor; Re: Appointment of City Auditors

Communications "B" – (Receive and File):

1. Letter from Mayor; Re: Appointment of City Engineers
2. Letter from Compensation Commission; Re: Elected Officials Compensation

Ordinances:

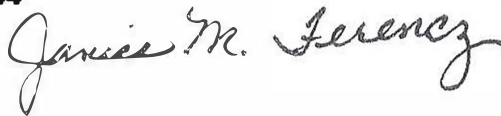
Old Business:

New Business:

Unscheduled Persons in the Audience:

Claims & Accounts: Warrant #1533 \$1,971,258.44

Adjournment:



Janice M. Ferencz, City Clerk

City Council

Work Study Session

November 5, 2025

An Informal Meeting of the Council of the City of Southgate was held on November 5, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. and called to order by Council President Zoey Kuspa.

Present: Victoria Araj, Priscilla Ayres-Reiss, Edward Gawlik, Jr., Karen George, Christian Graziani, Zoey Kuspa, Phil Rauch

Absent:

Also Present: Mayor Joseph G. Kuspa, City Attorney Edward Zelenak, City Administrator Daniel Marsh, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Doug Drysdale, City Clerk Janice Ferencz, City Treasurer Chris Rollet, City Engineer John Hennessey, Public Safety Director Joseph Marsh, Police Chief Mark Mydlarz, Fire Chief Justin Graves, DPS Director Kevin Anderson, Recreation Director Julie Goddard, Building Director Tim Leach

Mayor Kuspa read a proclamation for National American Indian Heritage Month.

Discussed the following agenda items:

- Closed Session to Discuss Teamsters 214, TPOAM 2018 & AFSCME 1917 Employee Contract Extensions and Pending Litigation Strategy of Southgate Public Schools vs City of Southgate
- Boy Scout Troop 1783 Re: Wreath Sales
- Award Bid for Sycamore Street Sewer Project
- Contract Extension with Teamsters 214
- Contract Extension with TPOAM 2018
- Contract Extension with AFSCME 1917
- Planned Development Extension-11555 Allen Rd
- Library Design Consulting Services (Waiver of Bid)
- Library Worksite Design Consulting Services (Waiver of Bid)
- Kennebec Park Play Area (Waiver of Bid)
- Renewal of UFED Touch Ultimate Software License
- Library Replacement Drinking Fountain and Water Bottle Filling Station
- Sale of City Owned Vacant Lots – 11699 Mulberry & 14282 Fordline
- Dominion Voting Systems Inc. Name Change (Receive & File)

This meeting ended at 6:57 p.m.

City of Southgate

Regular City Council Meeting

November 5, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Southgate was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2025 in the Southgate City Hall Council Chambers and was called to order at 7:00 PM by Council President Zoey Kuspa.

This meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Victoria Araj, Priscilla Ayres-Reiss, Edward Gawlik, Jr., Karen George, Christian Graziani, Zoey Kuspa, Phil Rauch
Absent:
Also Present: Mayor Joseph G. Kuspa, City Attorney Edward Zelenak, City Administrator Daniel Marsh, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director Doug Drysdale, City Clerk Janice Ferencz, City Treasurer Chris Rollet, City Engineer John Hennessey, Public Safety Director Joseph Marsh, Police Chief Mark Mydlarz, Fire Chief Justin Graves, DPS Director Kevin Anderson, Recreation Director Julie Goddard, Building Director Tim Leach

Minutes:

Moved by Ayres-Reiss, supported George, RESOLVED, that the minutes of the City Council Work Study Session dated October 15, 2025 be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Rauch, supported by Araj, RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting dated October 15, 2025 be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Scheduled Persons in the Audience

1. Boy Scout Troop 1783; Re: Wreath Sales moved by George, supported by Rauch, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council waive the city's permit fee for Boy Scout Troop 1783 to sell wreaths at the Southgate Shopping Center on November 28, 29 & 30, plus December 5 - 7. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session:

Closed Session re: Teamsters 214, TPOAM 2018 & AFSCME 1917 Employee Contract Extension and Pending Litigation Strategy of Southgate Public Schools vs City of Southgate.

Moved by Ayres-Reiss, supported by Gawlik, RESOLVED that the Southgate City Council hereby enters into a closed session at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Araj	Yes
Ayres-Reiss	Yes
Gawlik	Yes
George	Yes
Graziani	Yes
Kuspa	Yes
Rauch	Yes
Motion Passes	7-0

Moved by George, supported by Rauch, RESOLVED that the Southgate City Council hereby closes the closed session at 7:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Araj	Yes
Ayres-Reiss	Yes
Gawlik	Yes
George	Yes

Regular City Council Meeting November 5, 2025

Graziani	Yes
Kuspa	Yes
Rauch	Yes
Motion Passes	7-0

Consideration of Bids:

1. Letter from Mayor; Re: Award Bid for Sycamore Street Sewer Project moved by Araj, supported by Gawlik, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council award the bid for the Sycamore Street sewer project to Springline Excavating, LLC in the amount of \$1,097,852.00, plus 10% contingency in the amount of \$109,785.20. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications "A":

1. Memo from Administrator; Re: Contract Extension-Teamsters 214 moved by Ayres-Reiss, supported by Rauch, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council adopt the proposed two-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Teamsters Local 214 and to authorize the Mayor, City Clerk and City Administrator to sign on behalf of the City. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Memo from Administrator; Re: Contract Extension-TPOAM 2018 moved by Gawlik, supported by George, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council adopt the proposed two-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the TPOAM Local 2018 and to authorize the Mayor, City Clerk and City Administrator to sign on behalf of the City. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Memo from Administrator; Re: Contract Extension-AFSCME 1917 moved by Rauch, supported by Araj, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council adopt the proposed two-year Collective Bargaining Agreement with the AFSCME Local 1917 and to authorize the Mayor, City Clerk and City Administrator to sign on behalf of the City. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Memo from Administrator; Re: Planned Development Extension-11555 Allen Rd moved by Ayres-Reiss, supported by Rauch, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council to extend the Planned Development District Zoning at 11555 Allen Road for a two year period. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Letter from Mayor; Re: Approve Library Design Consulting Services-Waiver of Bid moved by Araj, supported by George, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council waive the city bid process and approve the proposal from Library Design Associates, Inc. for library design consulting services for an amount not-to-exceed \$3,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Letter from Mayor; Re: Approve Library Worksite Design Consulting Services-Waiver of Bid moved by Rauch, supported by Araj, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council waive the city bid process and approve the proposal from Library Design Associates, Inc. for library workspace design consulting services for an amount not-to-exceed \$6,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Letter from Mayor; Re: Approve Kennebec Park Play Area-Waiver of Bid moved by Gawlik, supported by George, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council approve the agreement between the Charter County of Wayne and the City of Southgate for improvements to Kennebec Park and authorizing Mayor Kuspa to execute the grant agreement on behalf of the City of Southgate. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Gawlik, supported by Rauch, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council waive the city bid process and approve the proposal from Penchura, LLC for the Kennebec Park Play Area Project in the

Regular City Council Meeting November 5, 2025

amount of \$62,915.00, with funding to be provided by a Wayne County Parks Millage grant in the amount of \$61,500.00 and remaining funds of \$1,415.00 to be funded from the City's Parks & Rec Millage Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Letter from Mayor; Re: Renewal of UFED Touch Ultimate Software License moved by Ayres-Reiss, supported by Gawlik, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council approve the UFED Touch Ultimate software license renewal for a one-year period expiring December 8, 2026, with Cellebrite Inc. in the amount of \$6,900.00. Motion carried unanimously.
9. Letter from Mayor; Re: Approve Library Replacement Drinking Fountain and Water Bottle Filling Station moved by Rauch, supported by George, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council approve proposal from Quint Plumbing & Heating, Inc. for the replacement and installation of a new drinking fountain and water bottle filling station in the amount of \$5,996.00. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Memo from Administrator; Re: Sale of City Owned Vacant Lots – 11699 Mulberry and 14282 Fordline moved by Araj, supported by Ayres-Reiss, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council approve the attached RFP for the sale of 14282 Fordline, Southgate, MI parcel ID #53-011-01-0037-000, and 11699 Mulberry, Southgate, MI parcel ID # 53-006-03-0110-000. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications "B": (Receive & File)

1. Memo from City Clerk; Re: Dominion Voting Systems, Inc., Name Change moved by Rauch, supported by George, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council receive and file the Letter from Liberty Vote USA, Inc., stating that Dominion Voting Systems Inc., has changed its name to Liberty Vote USA Inc. Motion carried unanimously.

Claims and Accounts:

Moved by Rauch, supported by Graziani, RESOLVED, that Claims and Accounts be paid as outlined on Warrant #1532 for \$3,387,998.80. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment:

Moved by Ayres-Reiss, supported by George, RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of the Southgate City Council be adjourned at 7:47 P.M. Carried unanimously.

Zoey Kuspa
Council President

Janice M. Ferencz
City Clerk

JOSEPH G. KUSPA
Mayor

JANICE M. FERENCZ
City Clerk

CHRISTOPHER P. ROLLET
Treasurer



City of Southgate

- CITY COUNCIL -

ZOEY KUSPA
Council President

CHRISTIAN GRAZIANI

KAREN E. GEORGE

PHILLIP J. RAUCH

PRISCILLA AYRES-REISS

ED GAWLIK JR.

VICTORIA ARAJ

November 14, 2025

Honorable City Council Members
14400 Dix-Toledo Rd
Southgate, Michigan 48195

Re: Appointment of Legal Services

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 4, Section 64, of the City Charter, please be advised that I am hereby appointing the Law Offices of Ed Zelenak, 2933 Fort Street, Lincoln Park, Michigan 48146 as City attorney and Prosecuting Attorney for the City of Southgate.

Your concurrence on this appointment is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Joseph G. Kuspa
Mayor

JOSEPH G. KUSPA
Mayor

JANICE M. FERENCZ
City Clerk

CHRISTOPHER P. ROLLET
Treasurer



City of Southgate

- CITY COUNCIL -

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VICTORIA ARAJ

November 14, 2025

Honorable City Council Members
14400 Dix-Toledo Rd
Southgate, Michigan 48195

Re: Appointment of Legal Services

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 4, Section 64, of the City Charter, please be advised that I am hereby appointing the Law Offices of Shifman Fournier, 31600 Telegraph Rd., Suite 100, Bingham Farms, Michigan 48025 as Labor attorney and Assistant City attorney for the City of Southgate.

Your concurrence on this appointment is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Joseph G. Kuspa
Mayor

JOSEPH G. KUSPA
Mayor

JANICE M. FERENCZ
City Clerk

CHRISTOPHER P. ROLLET
Treasurer



City of Southgate

- CITY COUNCIL -

ZOEY KUSPA
Council President

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VICTORIA ARAJ

November 14, 2025

Honorable City Council Members
14400 Dix-Toledo Rd
Southgate, Michigan 48195

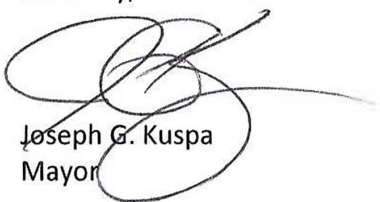
Re: Appointment of City Auditors

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please be advised that in accordance with the City Charter, I am hereby appointing Plante & Moran, 27400 Northwestern Hwy., PO Box 307, Southfield, Michigan 48037-0307 as the City Auditors.

Your concurrence on this appointment is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

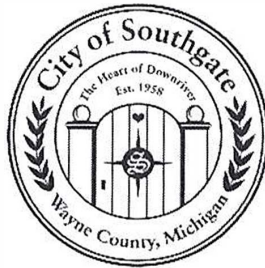


Joseph G. Kuspa
Mayor

JOSEPH G. KUSPA
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- CITY COUNCIL -

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November 14, 2025

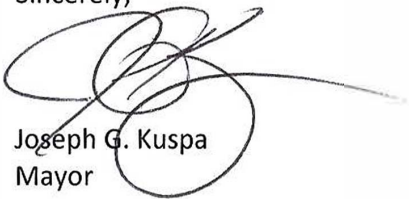
Honorable City Council Members
14400 Dix-Toledo Rd
Southgate, Michigan 48195

Re: Appointment of Engineering Firm

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with the provisions of Article 4, Section 64, of the City Charter, please be advised that I am hereby appointing Hennessey Engineers Inc., 13500 Reeck Rd., Southgate, Michigan 48195. John Hennessey will be the individual from Hennessey Engineers representing the City of Southgate.

Sincerely,


Joseph G. Kuspa
Mayor

CITY OF SOUTHGATE
Compensation Commission
14400 Dix Toledo Highway, Southgate, Michigan 48195

Memorandum

To: Honorable City Council Members

From: Aaron Bertera, ^{AB}Chairman of the Local Officers Compensation Commission

Date: November 14, 2025

At a meeting of the Local Officers Compensation Commission held on November 12, 2025, the Commission compared salaries of other part time elected officials, the duties of Southgate's Elected Officials and the current financial health of the City.

A copy of the minutes from the meeting is included for your review. The Commission unanimously voted on the following resolution establishing updated wages for the City's elected officials.

WHEREAS,
in accordance with state law and local ordinance, the Southgate Local Officers Compensation Commission did meet in public session on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at the Southgate City Hall

AND WHEREAS,
said commission has conducted with due diligence extensive research, evaluation, analysis, and other studies concerning the compensation of locally elected officials, along with the duties and obligations performed for each office,

AND WHEREAS,
said commission has scrutinized the functions and performance of the locally elected officers in the City of Southgate, and subsequent to said investigation, has determined that facts and circumstances warrant a change in the compensation for each elected office as enumerated hereinafter,

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED,
that the local officers compensation commission determines and decided as follows:

Mayor	\$22,000
Clerk	\$13,125
Treasurer	\$10,500
Council President	\$10,800
Council	\$10,000

**CITY OF SOUTHGATE
COMPENSATION COMMISSION
NOVEMBER 12, 2025**

A meeting of the Compensation Commission was held in the Plan Room at Southgate City Hall on Wednesday, November 12, 2023 commencing at 5:00 P.M.

Present – Aaron Bertera, Brian Clark, Eric Croft, Marcella Kasprzyk, and Bob Zaleski

Absent – Alex McNeilly

Excused – Patty Snyder

Also, present - Dan Marsh, Ed Zelenak

Roll call was taken with all commissioners present except Alex McNielly and Patty Snyder

Kasprzyk nominated Bertera to serve as Chairperson, Zaleski supported the nomination, and Bertera accepted. No commission opposed the nomination.

Moved by Kasprzyk, supported by Clark, RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Compensation Commission meeting of March 9, 2023 be approved as presented. Carried unanimously.

Chair Bertera started the discussion on the elected officials' salaries. After much discussion, the following wages were proposed:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Current Salary</i>	<i>Proposed Salary Increase</i>
Mayor	\$13,750	\$22,000
Clerk	\$8,203	\$13,125
Treasurer	\$6,250	\$10,500
Council President	\$6,750	\$10,800
Council	\$6,250	\$10,000

Moved by Croft, supported by Clark, the Compensation Commission offers:

WHEREAS,
in accordance with state law and local ordinance, the Southgate Local Officers Compensation Commission did meet in public session on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at the Southgate City Hall

AND WHEREAS,
said commission has conducted with due diligence extensive research, evaluation, analysis, and other studies concerning the compensation of locally elected officials, along with the duties and obligations performed for each office,

AND WHEREAS,

said commission has scrutinized the functions and performance of the locally elected officers in the City of Southgate, and subsequent to said investigation, has determined that facts and circumstances warrant a change in the compensation for each elected office as enumerated hereinafter,

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED,

that the local officers compensation commission determines and decided as follows:

Mayor	\$22,000
Clerk	\$13,125
Treasurer	\$10,500
Council President	\$10,800
Council	\$10,000

Aaron Bertera
Chairperson