

# City of Southgate

## Regular City Council Meeting

### May 6, 2026

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Southgate was held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 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.**

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Present: Priscilla Ayres-Reiss, Edward Gawlik, Jr., Karen George, Christian Graziani, Zoey Kuspa, Adriene Price, 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, Police Chief Mark Mydlarz, Police Deputy Chief Brent Newsted, Fire Chief Justin Graves, DPS Director Phil Ferro, Recreation Director Julie Goddard, Building Director Tim Leach

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Moved by Ayres-Reiss, supported by George, RESOLVED THAT the Southgate City Council amend the agenda to add Unscheduled Persons in the Audience under Scheduled Persons in the Audience. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Minutes:**

Moved by Rauch, supported George, RESOLVED, that the minutes of the City Council Work Study Session dated April 15, 2026 be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by George, supported by Gawlik, RESOLVED, that the minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting dated April 15, 2026 be approved as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Unscheduled Persons In Audience**

1. Annette Calloway, 16755 Windermere Circle, expressed support for placing proposed term limit elimination ballot language on the November 3, 2026 ballot.
2. Sam Galanis, 12869 Ward, expressed support for placing proposed term limit elimination ballot language on the November 3, 2026 ballot.
3. Dennis Morier, 12861 Ward, expressed support for placing proposed term limit elimination ballot language on the November 3, 2026 ballot.
4. Nanette Dodds, on behalf of Victoria Aranj, 14036 Flanders, expressed opposition for placing proposed term limit elimination ballot language on the November 3, 2026 ballot.
5. Jennifer Nowaske, 12813 Phelps, requested, on behalf of residents along the Barberry Sewer Relief Project, that Ordinance 1292.01 Section B be suspended temporarily during the duration of the project ending on June 30, 2027.
6. Greg Hass, 13193 Superior, expressed support for placing proposed term limit elimination ballot language on the November 3, 2026 ballot.
7. Barbara Harness, 13411 Longtin, expressed support for placing proposed term limit elimination ballot language on the November 3, 2026 ballot.
8. Benjamin Patton, 12744 Helen, expressed support for placing proposed term limit elimination ballot language on the November 3, 2026 ballot.
9. Pat Poirier, 12363 Helen, expressed support for placing proposed term limit elimination ballot language on the November 3, 2026 ballot.
10. Carol Gordos, 12539 Fordline, expressed support for placing proposed term limit elimination ballot language on the November 3, 2026 ballot.
11. Jimmy Yoos, 16479 Silverado, expressed support for placing proposed term limit elimination ballot language on the November 3, 2026 ballot.

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### **Scheduled Hearings:**

1. Memo from ACA/Finance Director; Re: Public Hearing for Proposed Water/Sewer Rate Increase moved by Gawlik, supported by George, RESOLVED that the Southgate City Council hereby enters into a public hearing at 7:24 p.m. in order to entertain comments from interested individuals regarding the Proposed Water and Sewer Rates to become effective July 1, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance Director Drysdale gave a summary regarding the budget and costs of the water and sewer fund. Councilman Gawlik informed the residents that the water is 40% of their bill and 60% is everything else (operations, maintenance, sewers, and repairs) to run the system that incurs the costs.

There were no further comments or questions from the audience.

Moved by Ayres-Reiss, supported by Rauch, RESOLVED that the Southgate City Council adjourn the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Memo from ACA/Finance Director; Re: Proposed FY 26/27 Budget and Millage Rates moved by Rauch, supported by George, RESOLVED that the Southgate City Council hereby enters into a public hearing at 7:27 p.m. in order to obtain comments from the public on the Proposed Fiscal Year 26/27 Budget and Millage Rates. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Gawlik informed the residents that 45% of the taxes they pay go to the city, the other 55% goes to other entities (County, Schools, DIA, Detroit Zoo, Metroparks, WCCC, etc.). He added that when people talk about eliminating property taxes, they don't realize how much the city does not get of those taxes and how much others get that really depend on them.

There were no further comments or questions from the audience.

Moved by Ayres-Reiss, supported by Price, RESOLVED that the Southgate City Council adjourn the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Memo from ACA/Finance Director; Re: User Charge System for Southgate Wyandotte Drainage District moved by Rauch, supported by Ayres-Reiss, RESOLVED that the Southgate City Council hereby enters into a public hearing at 7:33 p.m. in order to entertain views and comments from interested individuals regarding the Special Assessment Costs Associated with the Southgate-Wyandotte Operation and Maintenance and Capital Improvement Charges. Motion carried unanimously.

There were no comments or questions from the audience.

Moved by Ayres-Reiss, supported by George, RESOLVED that the Southgate City Council adjourn the public hearing at 7:34 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

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## **Communications “A”:**

1. Memo from Administrator; Re: Amendment to Articles 37 and 56 of City Charter moved by Price, supported by George, THAT the Southgate City Council allow the proposed wording for a City Charter Amendment to Sections 37 and 56 regarding the elimination of term limits for elected officials to appear on the November 3, 2026 Election Ballot. The motion carried by roll call vote, 5–2.  
Yes: Ayres-Reiss, George, Graziani, Kuspa, Price  
No: Gawlik, Rauch
2. Memo from Administrator; Re: Priority Waste Consent to Change of Control moved by Rauch, supported by Ayres-Reiss, THAT the Southgate City Council approve the Consent to Change of Control of the Priority Waste contract, and authorize the City Administrator to sign the document consenting to the change in majority ownership to Priority. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Letter from Mayor; Re: Hydraulic Hose Crimping System (Waiver of Bid) moved by Gawlik, supported by Ayres-Reiss, THAT the Southgate City Council waive the city bid process and approve the purchase of a hydraulic hose crimping system from Kimball Midwest in the amount of \$15,579.60, under OMNIA Partners cooperative contract #R240806. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Letter from Mayor; Re: Approve Proposal for Library Room Conversion moved by George, supported by Price, THAT the Southgate City Council approve the proposal from Restoration 1 for the conversion of open spaces into rooms at the Southgate Veterans Memorial Library in the amount of \$15,390.34. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Letter from Mayor; Re: Renewal of Software Licenses Support for Library moved by Rauch, supported by George, THAT the Southgate City Council approve the renewal of the Milestone Care+ software license and support agreement with D/A Central (Oak Park, MI) in the amount of \$2,785.00 for a 5-year term. Motion carried unanimously.
6. Letter from Mayor; Re: Purchase of Water Utility Repair Truck (Waiver of Bid) moved by Gawlik, supported by George, THAT the Southgate City Council waive the city bid process and approve the purchase of one (1) Water Utility Repair Truck to Wolverine Freightliner – Westside (Ypsilanti MI), in the amount of \$264,279.00, under the Sourcewell cooperative bid contract #032824-DAI (Daimler). Motion carried unanimously.

## **Claims and Accounts:**

Moved by Rauch, supported by George, RESOLVED, that Claims and Accounts be paid as outlined on Warrant #1544 for \$3,138,109.40. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Adjournment:**

Moved by Ayres-Reiss, supported by Gawlik, RESOLVED THAT this Regular Meeting of the Southgate City Council be adjourned at 7:52 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

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Zoey Kuspa  
Council President

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Janice M. Ferencz  
City Clerk