

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

**January 13, 2009**

## **PROCLAMATION**

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas issued a National Mentoring Month, January 2009 Proclamation.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

- ◆ Amended Article 4, Zoning of Chapter 42, Land Development Regulations, and rezone the 22 Portage Road properties to B-3, general business, with the following exceptions: the west 50 feet of the 22 properties; the north 50 feet of 8232/8302 Portage Road; the south 50 feet of 8502 Portage Road; 2250 Corstange Road; and the north 50 feet of 8620 Portage Road.

## **PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS**

- ◆ Fire Captain Rick Nason, President of the Portage Professional Firefighters Association, spoke in memory of Firefighter Brad Wilson, who recently passed away, and thanked Mayor and City Council, city administration and area fire departments from Texas, Oshtemo and Comstock Townships for their tribute and support. Mayor Strazdas called for a moment of silence and thanked Rick for coming out.
- ◆ Deferred action on the special assessment petition requesting establishment of a special assessment district on South Westnedge Avenue from Osterhout Avenue to the southern terminus of the roadway for the purpose of installing municipal water until owners of 60 percent of the frontage of property to be assessed register support of the petition.
- ◆ Referred the special assessment petition in favor of creating a special assessment district on Austin Lake for the purpose of installing and maintaining aeration equipment in the Austin Lake South West Bay to the City Administration for review and report.

## **REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

- ◆ Adopted the City of Portage City Council Code of Ethics and Values Policy.
- ◆ Approved the installation of a Steeplechase Subdivision sign and associated improvements in the public right-of-way and authorized the City Manager to execute the Streetscape Enhancement Agreement on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Adopted the Resolution for Charitable Gaming License recognizing the Portage Rotary as a nonprofit organization in the City of Portage.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

- ◆ Received the communication from Denise Clegg, Chairperson of the Portage Environmental Board, submitting the 2008 Purple Loosestrife Program Report as information only.
- ◆ Referred the communication from James Graham, owner of Graham's Towing, dated January 1, 2009, to the City Administration for review and report, with the report to be included on the January 27, 2009, City Council Agenda.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- ◆ Reappointed William Stannard with term ending January 31, 2012, to the Board of Review; reappointed Robert Atkins, with term ending February 28, 2012, appointed Lowell Seyburn with term ending February 28, 2012, reappointed Lincoln Lewis with alternate term ending February 28, 2012, and appointed Marianna Singer with unfulfilled alternate term ending February 28, 2011, to the Zoning Board of Appeals; appointed Marc Meulman with unfulfilled term ending October 1, 2011, to the Human Services Board; appointed Nicoara Oprescu with unfulfilled term ending October 1, 2009, and Diane Durian with unfulfilled alternate term ending October 1, 2010, to the Senior Citizens Advisory Board; appointed Janet Luchies with unfulfilled term ending October 1, 2011, to the Park Board; appointed Bill Schwartz with unfulfilled term ending October 1, 2011, to the Environmental Board; and appointed Michelle Dunlap and Robert ElHenicky with terms ending December 31, 2011, to the Historic District Commission.

## **BID TABULATIONS**

- ◆ Awarded a three-year contract to B&B Yardscape to provide quarterly brush pickup services in the annual not-to-exceed amount of \$83,600 for Fiscal Years 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Awarded an engineering services contract for the Ohio Avenue Lift Station Renovations to the low bidder, Kingscott Associates, Incorporated, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$23,390 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Awarded a construction contract for the Lexington Green Drainage Channel Improvements to the low bidder, JMB Demolition, LLC, in the amount of \$14,944 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.

## STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Mayor and City Council welcomed Councilmember Vliek back.
- ◆ Councilmember Reid thanked Police Detective Matt Wolfe, city staff, and City Council for their support during a family emergency before the December 16, 2008 City Council Meeting. She announced the Park Board Four Season Photo Contest for pictures taken between January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009, within the Portage Parks system. She indicated she was honored to accept the Promoting Active Communities Award, Gold Level (cities are those that provide outstanding achievements in making it easy for people to be active which is easily proven in Portage) on December 3, 2008, on behalf of the City of Portage from the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports.
- ◆ Councilmember Vliek commended Sean McBride, the City Council Ethics Policy Committee and the City Attorney for the City Council Code of Ethics and Values Policy. Mayor Strazdas concurred and thanked Councilmember Vliek for bringing it up.
- ◆ Councilmember O'Brien thanked the applicants for City Council Boards and Commissions who attended the Special Meeting that began at 5:30 p.m. and she and Mayor Pro Tem Sackley recognized Representative-elect Larry DeShazor in the audience.
- ◆ City Manager Evans applauded the efforts of Chief Information Officer/Technology Director Devin Mackinder and Administrative Assistant Mary Beth Block for their work on the city log and for receiving the MarCom Gold Award for "Rebranding of Marketing Materials" initiative completed in 2008. Mr. Evans also reviewed the snowplow operation as outlined in the November 2008 *Portager*.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Sackley reminded everyone to clear the snow from their sidewalks and thanked City Attorney Brown for his assistance with the City Council Code of Ethics and Values Policy.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas announced that Mayor and Council for the day will take place January 27, 2009, and listed some changes in the community and some ongoing engagements.

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**COMPLETE MINUTES OF EACH CITY COUNCIL MEETING ARE AVAILABLE ON THE CITY WEBSITE AT PORTAGEMI.GOV, IN CITY HALL AND IN THE DISTRICT LIBRARY. MINUTES OF CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.**