

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

February 24, 2009

PROCLAMATION

- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Sackley issued a proclamation supporting the 16th Annual Kalamazoo County Walk for Warmth.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Accepted for first reading the proposed amendments to the City of Portage Code of Ordinances to Chapter 1, General Provisions, Chapter 2, Administration, and Chapter 34, Fire Prevention and Protection, reflecting changes in the 2006 edition of the International Fire Code and to address the regulation of outdoor solid fuel-fired furnaces, and consider final adoption on March 10, 2009.
- ◆ Granted a two-year extension for the Oakland Hills at Centre Planned Development, 2301 West Centre Avenue and 8080 Oakland Drive.
- ◆ Approved the Final Plan for Cole-Gavlas Office, 2301 West Centre Avenue
- ◆ Received the Communication from the City Manager regarding the January 2009 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Department Monthly Reports.
- ◆ Set a Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 11, 2009, City Council Chambers, beginning at 6:00 p.m. so City Council can continue discussing the request from the South County Sewer and Water Authority for a sanitary sewer transportation flow-through agreement connection to the Portage Creek Trunk Sewer

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ County Commissioner Michael Quinn, 7025 Rockford Street, stated that he was pleased to recommend recently to the County Board of Commissioners that they engage citizens to the same extent as the Portage City Council. He also mentioned that individuals who served in the Peace Corps are welcome to attend an upcoming March 3rd meeting to recognize National Peace Corps Action Day and honor veterans of the Peace Corps.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Councilmember Vlieg expressed concern regarding the timelines with which minutes of the Planning Commission were received. He also emphasized the value and worth of the annual Kalamazoo County Walk for Warmth and discussed details of the upcoming event.
- ◆ Councilmember O'Brien indicated that it appeared City Council was receiving minutes of other boards and commissions late as well. She also announced that she was recently voted Chair of the Kalamazoo County Health Advisory Council (KCHAC) and shared information regarding projects that the KCHAC is working on. Finally, Councilmember O'Brien shared information related to an upcoming property tax symposium which is designed to help homeowners better understand their property taxes.
- ◆ Councilmember Reid stated that the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority voted to bring a millage request to the voters of Kalamazoo County in May. She then discussed details of the millage request and what it will be funding. Finally, she emphasized the importance of a viable transportation system for those persons who really need to have it and those who choose to use public transit.
- ◆ Councilmember Urban pointed out that more current meeting minutes of the Planning Commission should be available and that the timeliness with which City Council receives minutes from the boards and commissions is of great concern to him.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Sackley stated that he, along with City Manager Evans, city staff, State Representative Larry DeShazor and others were present at a meeting held by Governor Granholm at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission. He then discussed the purpose of the meeting and indicated that the widening of I-94, due to the recent passage of the Economic Recovery Act, is moving along faster than anticipated. He expressed optimism that funding for the project would be approved by the Michigan State Legislature in the next thirty days. He also mentioned that the City of Portage needs support to keep the Summer Entertainment Series going and encouraged residents and businesses to offer financial assistance. He emphasized that the Summer Entertainment Series is self-supporting.

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

