

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 23, 2009

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Peter J. Strazdas at 7:32 p.m.

The Deputy City Clerk called the roll with the following members present: Councilmembers Elizabeth A. Campbell, Margaret E. O'Brien, Claudette S. Reid, Terry R. Urban and Ted W. Vlieg, Mayor Pro Tem Edward J. Sackley and Mayor Peter J. Strazdas. Also in attendance were City Manager Maurice S. Evans, City Attorney Randall Brown and Deputy City Clerk Adam D. Herringa.

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Strazdas issued a proclamation recognizing the achievements and state championship of the Portage Central High School Women's Soccer Team.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Vlieg, seconded by Campbell, to approve the June 9, 2009 Special and Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 5 to 0 with Mayor Pro Tem Sackley and Councilmember Reid abstaining.

* **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Strazdas asked Councilmember Reid to read the Consent Agenda. No items were removed. Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve the Consent Agenda Motions. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER OF JUNE 23, 2009:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve the Check Register of June 23, 2009. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

* **FY2009-10 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND GENERAL FUND CONTRACTS:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve the Fiscal Year 2009-10 Community Development Block Grant Fund contracts and General Fund human/public services contracts and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **COMPUTER LEASE EXTENSION:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid to approve a one-year lease extension of 75 Hewlett Packard computers from Capital Advantage Leasing of Grand Rapids, Michigan, at a lease price of \$15,178.60 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **2009 PORTAGE COMMUNITY SURVEY:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve the 2009 Portage Community Survey Instrument, award a contract to the Kercher Center for Social Research at Western Michigan University in the not-to-exceed amount of \$9,746 for the conduct of the 2009 Portage Community Survey and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this matter. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF 2008 CLASS C LICENSED BUSINESS (ERBELLI'S RESTAURANT):** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to grant the request to transfer ownership of 2008 Class C licensed business with Dance-Entertainment Permit, located in escrow at 2712 Portage Street, Kalamazoo, from George N. Cekola to Erb Ventures, Inc., transfer location (Governmental Unit) (MCL 436.1531(1)) to 8342 Portage Road, Portage (Erbelli's Restaurant), and cancel the Dance-Entertainment Permit. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **2010 CENSUS PARTNER RESOLUTION:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to adopt the 2010 Census Partner Resolution in support of the 2010 Census and the Kalamazoo County Complete Count Committee. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 337 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 43.

* **MICHIGAN ORGANIZING PROJECT PA 198 INDUSTRIAL TAX ABATEMENT PROPOSAL:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to receive the suggested Michigan Organizing Project Industrial Tax Abatement Incentive Policy revisions, but retain the existing City of Portage policy. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **MAY 2009 SUMMARY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY REPORT – INFORMATION ONLY:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to receive the communication from the City Manager regarding the May 2009 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **MONTHLY REPORTS:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to receive the Department Monthly Reports from the various city departments. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

* **AGREEMENT FOR PUMPING STATION AT LONG LAKE:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve renewal of a ten-year Personal License Agreement for Pumping Station with the Long Lake (governmental) Board on Ramona Park Property for an additional ten years and authorize the City Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** City Council received the minutes of the:

Portage Zoning Board of Appeals of May 11, 2009.

Portage Board of Education Regular of May 18, Committee of the Whole Work Session of June 1, and Policy Development of June 8, 2009.

Portage Senior Citizens Advisory Board of May 20, 2009.

Portage Human Services Board of May 20, 2009.

Portage Planning Commission of May 21, 2009.

Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole and Regular of June 2, 2009.

BID TABULATIONS:

* **LIFE AND LONG TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to award a three-year contract to The Hartford for employee basic life, basic accidental death and dismemberment, contributory life, contributory accidental death and dismemberment, dependent life and long-term disability insurance and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **OAKLAND DRIVE/VINCENT AVENUE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to award a contract for the Oakland Drive/Vincent Avenue intersection improvement to Weick Brothers, Incorporated, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$34,726 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

OTHER CITY MATTERS:

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Campbell reminded everyone that Freedom Fest will be happening on July 4th and encouraged everyone to come out and participate. She also issued an appeal for volunteers to help staff the event beginning at 6:00 p.m. at McCamley Field. Mayor Strazdas commented that thousands attended Freedom Fest in 2008 and opined that last year's event was the largest gathering in the history of the City of Portage and expressed optimism that this family-friendly event would have an even larger turnout this year.

Councilmember Reid recognized the young women and scholars that were present at the meeting and expressed her appreciation for Title IX which helped open the door for female athletes. Mayor Strazdas expressed appreciation for the wonderful accomplishments of the youth of the community and the importance of offering recognition. He commented that the City of Portage would be recognizing the state champion Portage Northern High School Forensics Team and the champion women's soccer team and men's golf team of Hackett Catholic Central High School at upcoming City Council Meetings.

City Manager Evans commented on the 2010 Census and the importance of cooperating with other jurisdictions within Kalamazoo County to ensure the best count possible. He explained the ramifications and importance of an accurate count in terms of political boundaries, economic development and federal funding.

Mayor Pro Tem Sackley informed the public that the Kalamazoo County Convention and Visitors Bureau would be officially changing its name to "Discover Kalamazoo." He then stated that he has been speaking with members of the Austin Lake Riparians and other interested citizens regarding the Austin Lake Governmental Board. The Austin Lake Governmental Board will be meeting at Portage City Hall at 7:30 a.m. on Wednesday, June 24th, to discuss a process by which to add the fifth member to the Board (the representative from the Austin Lake Riparians) and set a date for their next meeting.

Mayor Strazdas reported on the activities of the Kalamazoo County Substance Abuse Task Force. He shared highlights including the upgrade and new activities going on with the 2-1-1 Call Center. He was impressed with how well it works in everything from volunteer opportunities, community resources and crisis management. He anticipates sharing more details about the services of 2-1-1 to the community. Mayor Strazdas also discussed the "Smart Summer Program" and relayed three significant focus areas covered since the launch of the program. In the first week of the program, the focus was "do you know where your kids are right now; are you sure?" The focus of the second week was "are the parents home; are you sure?" The focus for this week is "do you know your kids' friends; are you sure?" There is a focus question for parents and adults in our community each week through the end of the summer. Finally, Mayor Strazdas relayed information regarding the "text-a-tip" program as provided to him by Captain Joe Taylor of the Kalamazoo Valley Enforcement Team (KVET). Mayor Strazdas explained the "text-a-tip" program and related successes. He stated that area schools are engaging in outreach efforts to encourage students to make use of this exciting program.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Adam D. Herringa, Deputy City Clerk