

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

**November 17, 2009**

- ◆ Received the Board of Canvassers Report.
- ◆ Received Comments from Councilmembers Reid, Urban and Vliek and Mayor Strazdas.
- ◆ Retiring City Council adjourned sine die.
- ◆ The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Randall, Reid, Sackley and Urban and Mayor Strazdas.
- ◆ Councilmembers Elizabeth A. Campbell, Margaret E. O'Brien, Patricia M. Randall, Claudette S. Reid, Edward J. Sackley and Terry R. Urban and Mayor Peter J. Strazdas signed the Ethics and Values Policy.
- ◆ City Council elected Councilman Ed Sackley as Mayor Pro Tempore.
- ◆ City Council adopted the Rules of Order and Procedure.

## **PROCLAMATION**

- ◆ Adopted the Resolution of Respect for Ted W. Vliek, Sr.

## **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas recognized various elected officials in the audience, including Kalamazoo County Sherriff Richard Fuller and Under Sherriff Paul Matyas, State Representative Larry DeShazor, State Representative Robert Jones, State Representative Tonya Schuitmaker, former State Representative Chuck Perricone, former Mayor Betty Ongley, former Mayor James Graham, former Mayor Pro Tem Ted W. Vliek, Sr., Kalamazoo City Commissioner David Anderson.

## **COMMENTS FROM NEW COUNCIL**

- ◆ Received Comments from New Council.

## **STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS AND GUESTS**

- ◆ Former Mayor Betty Lee Ongley extended her congratulations to the newly elected City Council and Mayor Strazdas, recalled her first election when she was the only woman on City Council, and expressed her pride in one of her former Junior High School students, Councilmember Campbell, who recognized that this election made history with four women serving as City Councilmembers. She complimented the excellence of City Manager Maurice Evans, thanked City Attorney Randy Brown for his service and indicated that City Clerk James Hudson will always be there to help when needed.
- ◆ State Representative Tonya Schuitmaker, joined by State Representative Larry DeShazor and State Representative Robert Jones, thanked Councilmember Vliek for his service, congratulated the newly elected Mayor and Councilmembers and State Representative Jones emphasized the tough challenges ahead for the region, but expressed assurances that the region will continue to lead the state.
- ◆ Kalamazoo City Commissioner David Anderson expressed warm congratulations from the Kalamazoo City Commission and emphasized a commitment to continue to cooperate and to work together to face the challenges to come.
- ◆ Kalamazoo County Sherriff Richard Fuller thanked City Council for their hard work and their drive for excellence since these efforts produced his Under Sherriff, Paul Matyas, who is a retired Police Officer from the City of Portage and who Sherriff Richard Fuller indicated has proven himself to be a great Under Sherriff.

## **CHECK REGISTER**

- ◆ Approved the Check Register of November 17, 2009, as presented.

## **REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

- ◆ Accepted for first reading the proposed amendment to the City of Portage Code of Ordinances by adding Article 7, Indiana & Michigan Power Company Electric Franchise to Chapter 14, Businesses, Sections 14-192 through 14-202, adopted the Resolution to introduce and placed the ordinance on file for public inspection and consider final adoption on January 12, 2010.
- ◆ Approved the continuation of the service contract with AT&T for analog circuit data line services through November 2011 in the annual amount of \$24,036 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved the renewal of the Agreement between the City of Portage and the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce and authorized a contribution of \$15,000 toward the city's continued participation in the Southwest Michigan Alliance.
- ◆ Accepted the City of Portage Brownfield Redevelopment Plan, with a revised Brownfield Plan Amendment No. 6 for 8019 Portage Road, and set a public hearing for December 15, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard.

- ◆ Established the 2010 Schedule of Regular City Council Meetings.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the October 2009 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Department Monthly Reports from the various city departments.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ Granted the Easement and Right-of-Way Agreement for Ingress and Egress at 7432 and 7452 Garden Lane.

#### AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas selected Councilmember Campbell (Chair), Mayor Pro Tem Sackley, Councilmember Urban as members of the City Council Customer Service Ad-Hoc Committee.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas postponed the appointment of the Council Membership on Committees until after the City Council Retreat.
- ◆ Received the Report from City Council Customer Service Ad-Hoc Committee Chairperson, Councilmember Campbell.
- ◆ Received the communication from Mayor Strazdas to the State Tax Commission requesting a 14-point review.
- ◆ Received the Report from City Attorney Brown regarding Freedom of Information Act requests.
- ◆ Received the Report from Mayor Pro Tem Sackley regarding a county-wide review of taxable value refunds.
- ◆ Received the Report from the Administration regarding assessment activities.

#### BID TABULATION

- ◆ Awarded an engineering services contract for installation of new traffic signals at East Centre Avenue/Currier Drive/Mustang Boulevard and South Westnedge Avenue/Portage Central High School Entrance intersections to the low bidder, Abonmarche Consultants, Incorporated, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$50,000 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.

#### STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL

- ◆ Councilmember Reid indicated that her colleagues from the statewide organization, Michigan Occupational Therapists Association, met in Kalamazoo where she provided a couple of presentations, one of which was "Combining Occupational Therapy with Politics." She discussed the merging of the perspectives of each discipline and thanked her colleagues for coming to the meeting.
- ◆ Councilmember Urban reiterated that the next year, two, three or four, could be the most difficult years he will have ever served on City Council. He also indicated that this was his fourth term and was the first time he was able to share this occasion with his three year old daughter.
- ◆ Councilmember O'Brien referred to the communication to the City Clerk from the West Lake Association of the upcoming meeting regarding weed remediation. She recognized and thanked Daniel Rhodus, 3320 Vanderbilt Avenue, for his assistance as he was a great resource for the Ad Hoc Property Committee on the Garden Lane issue. She recognized the fine work of Jennifer Whistler, who recently resigned as Portage Public School Board President, and wished her well, then noted that the School Board will be making some tough decisions in the near future and recognized their courage and offered City Council assistance where possible.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Sackley indicated that he, Councilmember Reid and Mayor Strazdas attended the City of Kalamazoo swearing-in ceremony and expressed his appreciation to City Council for re-electing him Mayor Pro Tem. He reflected on some of the activities and duties required of the position and expressed his gratitude to United States Representative Fred Upton for embracing and encouraging his opportunity to serve on City Council. He also recognized Western Michigan University President John Dunn for embracing and encouraging Mayor Strazdas to serve the city.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas indicated he would be meeting at 3 p.m., Wednesday, November 18, 2009, with the City of Kalamazoo Mayor Bobbie Hopewell and Kalamazoo County Chair David Buskirk to discuss the Census 2010 process and stressed the importance of maintaining a full and complete count of the population in the County. Mayor Strazdas also announced that he was elected President of the Council of Governments (COG). He reflected upon what a challenge it is to keep local governments together at a high level of cooperation and indicated that a lot of positive ideas have been presented, and a transformation of the units of government in the region is in the making. Mayor Strazdas also reminded everyone of the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Fire and Ice Gala Black Tie Event to be held Saturday, November 21, 2009, starting at 6:30 p.m. in the Ballroom of the Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo.

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