

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 15, 2009

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Peter J. Strazdas at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Strazdas introduced Associate Pastor John Moore of the Portage First United Methodist Church, who gave the invocation and Cub Scout Troop 235 led City Council and the audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk called the roll with the following members present: Councilmembers Elizabeth A. Campbell, Margaret E. O'Brien, Patricia M. Randall, Claudette S. Reid and Terry R. Urban, 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 City Clerk James R. Hudson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Sackley, seconded by O'Brien, to approve the December 1, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Strazdas asked Councilmember Randall to read the Consent Agenda. Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to approve the Consent Agenda Motions as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER OF DECEMBER 15, 2009:** Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to approve the Check Register of December 15, 2009. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARING:

CITY OF PORTAGE BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AND PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 6: Mayor Strazdas opened the public hearing and introduced Community Development Director Jeffrey Erickson, who reviewed the process and explained the request. Also, he disclosed that the applicant is requesting local support for a Michigan Business Tax credit of \$803,000 and the use of tax increments from the captured value of the Treystar development in the maximum amount of \$297,000 over a four-year period to cover the cost of eligible activities and administrative costs associated with the redevelopment of the property. He emphasized that the redevelopment of the approximate eight acre site is consistent with City of Portage land use, commercial revitalization and environmental objectives and will provide additional tax base growth, new jobs and related economic benefits to the community. He pointed out that this project is considered to be a catalyst to promote other private development and redevelopment activities along the Portage Road corridor. He then deferred to Fritz Brown, who was present and representing Treystar, for any questions regarding the project.

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, Mr. Erickson explained that this is Amendment No. 6 to the Brownfield Redevelopment Plan and is consistent with the policy adopted by City Council in 2008. Discussion followed.

Fritz Brown, 3505 Sandhill Lane, thanked Mr. Erickson and Deputy Director of Planning and Development Services Chris Forth for their help with the project, expressed appreciation to City Council for their interest and explained that here is an incentive to get the property developed as quickly as possible in order to capture the taxes in a timely manner. Discussion followed.

Shashin Kothawala, 6914 Northstar Avenue, Kalamazoo, asked whether the Michigan Business Tax would apply to the entire eight acres and Mr. Erickson explained that it would and that the Tax Increment Financing applies to the eight acres also. Discussion followed.

Mr. Erickson explained that Treystar had preliminary findings regarding soil contamination from Atwell-Hicks and that the remediation costs and the capture of the taxes applies to the entire eight acres because the other parcels in the project are contiguous to the gas station parcel. He explained the approval process, the soil monitoring process, that Treystar will be submitting all funded activities to the

city and that the onus is on Treystar to develop the property as they stand to benefit, the sooner the better. Discussion followed.

Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to close the public hearing. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Motion by Sackley, seconded by O'Brien, to adopt the Resolution approving an amended Brownfield Redevelopment Plan by adding Brownfield Redevelopment Plan Amendment No. 6 involving 8019 Portage Road. Discussion followed. City Attorney Brown indicated that the requests for reimbursements go to the Brownfield Authority, not the City of Portage. Discussion followed. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 421 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 43.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Alison Lincoln, indicated that Michigan Blood, a nonprofit organization based in Grand Rapids, will soon have a new location at 524 East Milham Avenue, Portage, by January 2010, and will begin supplying blood donated by the public to Borgess Medical Center and to Bronson Methodist Hospital.

In response to Councilmember Reid, Ms. Lincoln indicated that the only function of Michigan Blood is to obtain blood with the top priority being community hospitals, and is not affiliated with the Red Cross.

In response to Councilmember Randall, Ms. Lincoln said a person can only tag blood for oneself in the hospital, and blood can not be specifically tagged for a specific person through Michigan Blood.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

* **ADOPTION OF REFUNDING BOND RESOLUTIONS:** Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to adopt the Refunding Bond Resolution authorizing the sale of Michigan Transportation Fund Refunding Bonds, Series 2010, in an amount not-to-exceed \$7,500,000 and to adopt the Resolution Approving the Undertaking to Provide Continuing Disclosure by the City of Portage for the Michigan Transportation Fund Refunding Bonds, Series 2010. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on pages 425 and 435 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 43.

* **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM – INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION:** Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to approve the contract with Kalamazoo County for Household Hazardous Waste collection during the 2010 calendar year in the not-to-exceed amount of \$32,000 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.

* **MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE DUES:** Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to authorize payment to the Michigan Municipal League in the amount of \$9,238 for year 2010 membership dues. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **OFFICE PRODUCTS CONTRACTS:** Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to approve a contract with Office Max Contract, Inc., through MiDEAL for the purchase of office supplies and products through January 1, 2011, and any MiDEAL contract extensions offered to Office Max Contract, Inc., thereafter; Office Depot Business Solutions Division through U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Alliance for the purchase of office supplies and products through January 1, 2011, and any U.S. Communities contract extensions offered to Office Depot Business Solutions thereafter; and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contracts on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **2010 BOARD OF REVIEW RESOLUTION:** Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to adopt the Resolution setting the dates and times for the March 2010 Board of Review sessions. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 437 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 43.

* **2009 PORTAGE COMMUNITY SURVEY:** Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to accept the results of the 2009 Portage Community Survey conducted annually by the Kercher Center for Social Research at Western Michigan University. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **2009 TAX RATE SURVEY – INFORMATION ONLY:** Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to receive the communication from the City Manager regarding the 2009 Tax Rate Survey as information only. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **NOVEMBER 2009 SUMMARY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY REPORT:** Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to receive the communication from the City Manager regarding the November 2009 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS – INFORMATION ONLY:** Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to receive the Department Monthly Reports from the various city departments as information only. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 HUMAN SERVICES:** Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to allocate up to 0.55 percent of the General Fund for support of human service agencies for Fiscal Year 2010-2011. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT AND GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:** Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to adopt the Resolution adopting the 2010-2011 Council Mission Statement and Goals and Objectives for the City of Portage as established at the City Council Goal Setting Session on December 11 and 12, 2009. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

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

Portage Park Board of November 4, 2009.

Portage Human Services Board of November 5, 2009.

Portage Planning Commission of November 19, 2009.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT:

INTENT TO JOIN PUBLIC MEDIA NETWORK (PMN): Councilmember Reid recused herself from discussion or voting on the item as she has a conflict of interest as her daughter works for Public media Network. Mayor Strazdas introduced the item and deferred to Mayor Pro Tem Sackley, who provided a history and some of the background of cable access in the City of Portage for the last twenty-five years. He explained that City Council had become interested in changing cable access since their Mayors Exchange visit to the City of Novi where three communities were pooling their resources for this effort. He pointed out that in Kalamazoo County, the City of Portage has a similar opportunity by joining the City of Parchment, Texas Township, Oshtemo Township, Kalamazoo Township and the City of Kalamazoo in the Public Media Network for the provision of Cable Access Public, Education and Government programming services.

Councilmember O'Brien expressed her appreciation to Portage Public Schools and the Public Media Network for working together to make this happen by June 2010. Discussion followed.

Public Media Network Executive Director Harry Haasch, Public Media Network Board Chairman Jerry Brown and Portage Public Schools Community Relations Director Tom Vance spoke in favor of the proposed Resolution of Intent. Discussion followed.

Mayor Strazdas thanked all of the participants, especially Chief Information Officer Devin Mackinder, for their support in what he termed a “watershed moment for regional cooperation.”

Mayor Pro Tem Sackley thanked Portage Public Schools Superintendent Marsha Wells for getting personally involved and for her support.

Motion by O’Brien, seconded by Sackley, to adopt the Resolution of Intent for the City of Portage to join the Public Media Network for the provision of Cable Access Public, Education and Government programming services within the community. Discussion followed. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0 with Councilmember Reid abstaining. Resolution recorded on page 439 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 43.

NEW BUSINESS:

2009 COUNCIL GOAL SETTING SESSION RESULTS: Mayor Strazdas introduced the item, including the 2010 City Council Standing Committee and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments, City Council Priorities 2010 and asked for comment. Councilmember Engaging Youth Committee will no longer be in place as it has been folded into another committee. Mayor Strazdas listed the fourteen City Council 2010 Priorities: CABLE Access, Customer Service, Portage Government Contracting, Traffic Monitoring/Electronic Speed Signs, Cell Phone Texting/Texting Ban/Ordinance, Continued Cost Savings, Disposition of Legal Matters, Portage Police Department K-9 Officer, Regional Cooperative Initiatives, City Centre – Uptown Regional Concept, Gallup Training (Innovative Leadership), Fair and Accurate Property Tax assessment, 2025 Renewal, and Neighborhood Revitalization Engagement. Mayor Strazdas indicated that the various City Council Committees would be addressing these topics throughout the next calendar year and asked for a motion of approval. Motion by O’Brien, seconded by Reid, to approve the 2010 City Council Standing Committee and Ad Hoc Committee Appointments and City Council Priorities 2010. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

OTHER CITY MATTERS:

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL: City Council wished all a Merry Christmas and/or a safe and happy holiday.

Councilmember Randall enjoyed the Stuart Manor Tea and the singing of the Portage Northern High School Quartet.

Councilmember Reid emphasized the importance of recognizing the warnings of a stroke: sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg, especially on one side of the body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination; or sudden, severe headache with no known cause, and advised getting the patient to the hospital fast.

Councilmembers O’Brien, Campbell and Urban expressed their delight and satisfaction as volunteers serving lunch to seniors at the Senior Center.

Mayor Pro Tem Sackley complimented the Administration for the newly installed Portage City Seal in City Council Chambers and thanked everyone who recently supported Portage Public Schools and their families.

Mayor Strazdas disclosed a common theme of respect and teamwork among City Council during the recent retreat and commended City Council for their work on the unprecedented number of ad hoc committee meetings in 2009.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

James R. Hudson, City Clerk

* Indicates items included on the Consent Agenda.