

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

August 25, 2015

PROCLAMATION

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas issued a Certificate of Recognition Honoring Max Newsome and Alex Hufford.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Accounts Payable Register of August 25, 2015, as presented.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Authorized the purchase of two four-wheel drive three-quarter ton pickup trucks, two hybrid sedans, five four-wheel drive police patrol vehicles, one utility van, one front end loader, one compact track loader, one electric police patrol motorcycle and one compact excavator through the State of Michigan purchasing program (MiDEAL), and the National Joint Purchase Alliance (NJPA) purchasing program at a total cost of \$532,588.76 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to these purchases on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved the sole source purchase of 45,000 pounds of crack sealing material in the amount of \$19,993.50 from Maxwell Products, Incorporated, of Salt Lake City, Utah, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved Contract 15-5154 between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of Portage for a shared use sewer agreement along Trade Centre Way; adopted a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign Contract 15-5154; and authorized the City Manager to sign all other documents related to this matter on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Adopted the Resolution to obligate funds and commit responsibility for maintenance of the planned South Central Bikeway non-motorized trail in perpetuity and authorized the City Manager to sign all other documents related to this matter on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Received the report from the Local Officers Compensation Commission.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the July 2015 Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Department Monthly Reports from the various City Departments.

COMMUNICATION

- ◆ Appointed Mayor Strazdas, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson and Councilmember Ford to the City Manager Salary Review / Evaluation Committee, and authorized the Committee to convene the City Manager Salary Review / Evaluation Committee and requested a recommendation as to compensation for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ◆ Received an update from Mayor Pro Tem Pearson regarding the Central County Dispatch Authority.
- ◆ Received an update from Mayor Pro Tem Pearson and Councilmember Urban regarding the Central County Transportation Authority.
- ◆ Received a report from Councilmember Ford regarding the Environmental Health and Advisory Council.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ Consistent with Section 6.2 of the City Charter, appointed Randall L. Brown as the City Attorney, effective September 1, 2015, and authorized the City Manager to enter into a contract with Randall L. Brown and Associates, PLC, for a term not to exceed five years at an annual rate of \$225,728.

BID TABULATION

- ◆ Awarded an engineering services contract to Wightman & Associates, Incorporated, for Portage Road from Romence Road Parkway to East Milham Avenue in the amount not to exceed \$67,300 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Awarded an engineering services contract to Abonmarche Consultants, Incorporated, of Benton Harbor, Michigan, for the East Osterhout Avenue (South Westnedge Avenue to Portage Road) street reconstruction project in an amount not to exceed \$62,905 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Awarded an engineering services contract for the Zylman Lift Station Renovations to Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd., in the amount not to exceed \$48,885 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE

- ◆ Tim Earl, 6862 Shallowford Way, spoke as a candidate for City Council which will be determined at the November 3, 2015 City Election and recounted some of the efforts he would take if elected Councilmember.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ Jim Stephanak, 10725 Cora Drive, and owner of Paint Recycling Services, thanked Mayor Strazdas, City Council, City Manager Shaffer and Public Services Director Rod Russell for the opportunity to have the paint recycling event on Saturday. He explained that residents turned in 2,250 gallons of paint, or 26 tons of paint that was kept out of the landfill.
- ◆ Betty Lee Ongley, 8620 Tozer Court, indicated that August 26th celebrates the Nineteenth Amendment (Amendment XIX) to the United States Constitution, ratified August 18, 1920, which prohibits any United States citizen from being denied the right to vote on the basis of sex, giving women the right to vote for the first time in the United States. Discussion followed.
- ◆ County Commissioner Larry Provancher, 7414 Starbrook Street, spoke about "Welcome Michigan" involving eight cities, counties and townships, which is based upon treating native born and foreign born people with dignity and respect and explained that the program is for businesses, industries, non-profit organizations and, also.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Councilmember Ford asked City Manager Shaffer if staff likes the electronic agenda software, and he responded that there are a few experts on the SuiteOne software that was chosen and staff is in the learning stages or "valley of despair" with the promise of coming out of the valley when proficiency is attained. He indicated once the kinks are worked out, the resultant productivity and transparency should prove terrific and explained. Councilmember Ford encouraged everyone to return their postcards or go to [www.portage.gov/Departments>Public Services>Curbside Recycling Program](http://www.portage.gov/Departments/Public%20Services/Curbside%20Recycling%20Program) to chose a bin provided for single stream recycling.
- ◆ Councilmember Randall thanked Jim Stephanak and Rod Russell for a successful paint recycling event on Saturday and reviewed the activity. She also spoke favorably about the Senior health Expo held at St. Catherine's Catholic Church and spoke highly of the efforts of Senior Citizen Services Manager Kim Phillips. She reminded everyone to be careful with children walking, running, riding bicycles or getting on buses with school starting in two weeks.
- ◆ Councilmember Urban said he was looking forward to the next five years working with Mr. Brown in his capacity as City Attorney and reflected his appreciation for the past 30 years working with him in their respective capacities with the City.
- ◆ Councilmember Reid thanked and recognized Kendall Klingelsmith and his staff, along with Chris Barnes and his staff, for soliciting the \$243,000 of State and Federal Funds from Transportation Alternatives Program Funds that will be used for the South Central Portage Bikeway. She also highlighted the walk and ride trails on each side of Portage Road from Romence Road Parkway to East Milham Avenue that is in alignment with the Complete Streets Policy passed on August 11, 2015. She cited the six cite reviews for commercial and industrial development listed in the July 2015 Environmental Activity Report.
- ◆ City Manager Shaffer expressed appreciation to City Council for recognizing the innovative, creative and energetic city staff for their endeavors and the service they put forth.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Pearson congratulated City Attorney Randy Brown for being appointed for five more years. He also commented on the reactivation of the City Manager Salary Review / Evaluation Committee and complimented Mr. Shaffer for all he has accomplished in the short time he has "been on the job." Finally, he reminded everyone that the 2025 Visioning Renewal Event is set for Saturday October 3, 2015, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. and encouraged all citizens to attend.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas reached out, congratulated City Attorney Randy Brown for the renewal of his five-year contract and indicated he was looking forward to his legal advice. He concurred with Mayor Pro Tem Pearson of the importance of the 2025 Visioning Renewal Event and thanked Former Mayor Betty Lee Ongley, who invited him to assist with the first visioning process of Portage. He reviewed the Portage road projects that continue to be improved despite the difficulties faced by other governmental entities in this respect and he assured everyone that the City investments are very conservative and basically untouched by any market setbacks.

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