

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

September 22, 2015

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Accounts Payable Register of September 22, 2015, as presented.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ Katherine Kaufmann, 7640 St. Andrews, expressed her reservations about the process used to select a City Attorney law firm and City Manager Shaffer responded to her concerns at the request of Mayor Pro Tem Pearson.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Approved the four-year lease of 299 Lenovo replacement computers and related equipment from Capital Advantage Leasing of Grand Rapids, Michigan, at a lease price of \$146,760 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Amended the General Appropriations Act (budget) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016.
- ◆ Approved the amendments to the 2015-2025 Capital Improvement Program.
- ◆ Renewed the Agreement To Locate Sign in Right-of-Way between the City of Portage and Portage Public Schools/Portage Athletic Foundation and authorized the City Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Adopted the resolution approving the issuance of Public Finance Authority Revenue Bonds for Portage Care, LLC, for the Story Point Senior Living Project (3821 West Milham Avenue).
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the August 2015 Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Department Monthly Reports from the various City Departments.

COMMUNICATION

- ◆ Received a presentation by Linda Teeter, Chairperson for the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority, with an update on transportation in the county.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ◆ Received an update from Mayor Pro Tem Pearson regarding the Kalamazoo County Dispatch Authority.
- ◆ Received an update from Councilmember Urban, who indicated that the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority hired a Consultant, who provided a ten-year vision for the Authority and fielded a number of questions from the members of the Authority with a final version of the ten-year vision sometime in the future.

BID TABULATIONS

- ◆ Awarded an engineering services contract to Abonmarche Consultants, Incorporated, for the South Westnedge Avenue and Romence Road Local Safety Project in the amount not to exceed \$47,840 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Awarded a contract to perform design engineering services for the improvements at the intersections of South Westnedge Avenue / Kilgore Road and Portage Road / Lakeview Drive to Abonmarche Consultants, Incorporated, in the amount not to exceed \$46,835 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved the low bid from Cardinal Buses, Inc., for motor coach services for the 2016 Portage Senior Center travel program in the estimated amount of \$35,924.25 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ In response to Monifa Jumanne, 6286 Silver Fir Street, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson explained that his awareness of the increased use of public transportation by the younger generation comes from articles he has read in the *Wall Street Journal*; Councilmember Randall provided personal examples of her son in Grand Rapids and her son in Denver as further support; and Councilmember Ford cited his own experience living in Chicago for six years.

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, explained that respect for City Employees is the theme of his campaign, and cited the layoff of a 26-year City employee while she was on medical leave as an example of his perception of reduced morale among employees at City Hall.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Councilmember Ford indicated that he attended the two single-stream recycling events and spoke to the merits of the program. He also announced that he has been appointed as the President of the Kzoo Spartans as of October 2015.
- ◆ Councilmember Randall encouraged citizens to obtain the new recycling bin in order to be able to participate in the recycling program. She also announced the partnership between the City of Portage and the People's Food Co-op, a world class market, to form a Farmer's Market featuring more than 20 small businesses that will take place twice this fall on Sunday, October 4 and Sunday, October 18 from 12 noon until 4 p.m. at the Portage Senior Center, 320 Library Lane. She also mentioned the Candidate Forum sponsored by MLive held September 30, 2015, at 6 p.m., Portage District Library, 300 Library Lane. Finally, she wished all of our Jewish friends and neighbors a happy Yom Kippur, which began at sundown and ends at sundown on September 23, 2015.

- ◆ Councilmember Urban concurred with Council Candidate Tim Earl and said the way this employee was treated does not represent the values of this City, of past Administrators, nor the values that he has held during his 34 years with the City. He emphasized that with the City of Portage form of government, the City Council as a whole and as individuals should have no influence with personnel matters, but the courts may. He discussed the cuts in personnel by the City, but found no value in eliminating the Benefit Services Department. With regard to the employee in question and her decision not to interview, he pointed out that she was on medical leave and not cleared for business activities by her physician.
- ◆ Councilmember Reid announced that the Listening Post would be having a meeting at 8 a.m. on Friday, September 25, 2015, at the Hampton Inn to discuss the Kalamazoo County Local Housing Assistance Fund Millage for families with children of low income who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. She also encouraged all to attend the Portage 2025 Strategic Planning Initiative Renewal that will take place on Saturday, October 3, 2015, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Portage Central High School Auditorium, 8135 South Westnedge Avenue; and, at her request, City Manager Larry Shaffer indicated that if someone wishes to sign up to participate in the event, he or she should call Mary Beth Block at 329-4405.
- ◆ City Manager Shaffer indicated that the Ramona Park Pickleball Courts will be dedicated at Ramona Park, Monday, September 28, 2015, at 1 p.m. He congratulated Kendall Klingelsmith and Rod Russell for their hard work on that project and explained. He also announced that the public session regarding the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) will take place Monday, September 28, 2015, at 7 p.m. as an opportunity for public comment and input for staff review and consideration.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Pearson expressed his appreciation for Mr. Shaffer's use of a Best Practice to begin the CIP process with the citizens instead of with the staff as was the past practice and encouraged all citizens to attend. He recounted his presentation as a Planning Commissioner regarding single-stream recycling to the Environmental Board and expressed his appreciation for the persistence of the Board over the last six years, the willingness of Mr. Shaffer to make the change and the appreciation of his neighbors who have approached him to thank him for the improvement.

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