

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

October 20, 2015

PROCLAMATIONS

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas issued a National Red Ribbon Week Proclamation and a National Community Planning Month Proclamation.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Accounts Payable Register of October 20, 2015, as presented.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ Referred the special assessment petition in favor of creating a special assessment district on Mozart Street (North of Beethoven Avenue to dead end) in the Maestro Acres Plat to the City Administration for review and report.
- ◆ As a Portage business for almost 50 years, Joe Gusmundo, 11550 East DE Avenue, Richland, of American Village Builders, 4200 West Centre Avenue, thanked City Council for the fine work they are doing and for appointing Larry Shaffer as City Manager. He mentioned that all great cities have certain things in common, including: jobs and a culture of jobs, great infrastructure and a responsible government to keep the millage rate low and explained. Discussion followed.
- ◆ Joe Schmitt, 623 La Salle Street, Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commissioner, spoke in favor of the Kalamazoo County Local Housing Assistance Fund Millage ballot question on the November 3, 2015 City General Election. He pointed out that Portage Public Schools is the only school system in the County that has had an increase in the number of homeless children. He added that the cost to the average person is two pennies to put homeless children in a place where they feel secure and able to study, that the problem is countywide and that the Kalamazoo County Public Housing Commission is planning to establish an Advisory Committee that will work with the United Way and other significant nonprofit people to help to determine who should be providing the services necessary.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Approved Contract 155179 between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of Portage for the city share of improvements along Highway US131 (south city limits to Interstate 94), adopted a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign Contract 155179, and authorized the City Manager to sign all other documents related to this project on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Confirmed the appointment of Edward VanderVries as the City Assessor, and authorize the City Manager to execute an employment agreement, to be effective October 21, 2015.
- ◆ Authorized the City Manager to modify the current labor agreement between the City of Portage and the International Association of Firefighters as detailed.
- ◆ Established the 2016 schedule of Regular City Council Meetings.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding allocation of the excess funds identified in the General Fund as information only.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the concerns of Carol Voss, 1104 Rainbow Court as information only.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the September 2015 Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Department Monthly Reports from the various City Departments.

COMMUNICATIONS

- ◆ Held a closed session immediately following the regularly scheduled City Council meeting of Tuesday, October 20, 2015, to discuss a personnel matter.
- ◆ Received a communication from Ms. Eleanor Beck, 10632 Oakland Drive, regarding the minimum water and sewer utility charge.
- ◆ Received a presentation and annual update from the Senior Citizen Advisory Board.

BID TABULATIONS

- ◆ Approved a five-year contract with Premier Truck Sales & Rental Incorporated, of Valley View, Ohio, to provide compactor trucks for the Fall Leaf Pickup Program and the Spring Bagged Leaf Pickup Program in a total amount not to exceed \$469,000, with the option for three one-year renewals, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved the purchase of a Generac 80-KW building generator from Wolverine Power Systems of Zeeland, Michigan in the amount of \$39,600; installation of the Generac generator by Moore Electrical Services, Inc. of Kalamazoo, Michigan in the amount of \$45,112, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this matter on behalf of the city.

CITY MANAGER EVALUATION

- ◆ related to this contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved the purchase of a Generac 80-KW building generator from Wolverine Power Systems of Zeeland, Michigan in the amount of \$39,600; installation of the Generac generator by Moore Electrical Services, Inc. of Kalamazoo, Michigan in

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ Monifa Jumanne, 6286 Silver Fir, thanked
- ◆ Tim Earl, 6862 Shallowford Way, 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 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 PORTAGEM.I.GOV, IN CITY HALL AND IN THE DISTRICT LIBRARY. MINUTES OF CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.