

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

December 1, 2015

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Accounts Payable Register of December 1, 2015, as presented.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ Paul Schmidt, 9862 Fort Myers Parkway, reflected on a recent deer survey and mentioned that on November 5, 2015, on a vote of 10 to 1, the City of Ann Arbor agreed to have the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Services cull the local deer herd by 100, and cited other Michigan cities that have done the same thing, including Big Rapids, Mt. Pleasant, Manistee and Grand Haven. City Manager Shaffer received the Ann Arbor News Articles on the matter offered by Mr. Schmidt.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Postponed the adoption of the proposed 2016 Charges for Documents (FOIA Fees); the recommended 2016 Recreation Program Fee Revisions; the Resolutions for Community Development Fees, Electrical Permits, Building Permits, Plumbing Permits and Mechanical Permits; and the 2016 Special Assessment Rate Resolution.
- ◆ Accepted the Tentative Amendment for the Oakland Hills at Centre Planned Development and set a public hearing for January 12, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard, and subsequent to the public hearing, approve the Tentative Plan Amendment for the Oakland Hills at Centre Planned Development subject to the two conditions cited in the October 30, 2015 Department of Community Development staff report.
- ◆ Adopted Resolution No. 2 for the South Shore Drive Sanitary Sewer Project #416-S, setting a public hearing of necessity on December 15, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard.
- ◆ Adopted a Performance Resolution for Governmental Agencies for required permits to mow three Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) properties in the City of Portage.
- ◆ Set the dates for Pre-Council meetings for the 2016 calendar year with the first meeting to take place on February 8, 2016, to provide time to have a full discussion at the City Council Retreat in January, 2016.
- ◆ Appointed Mayor Pro Tem Ansari as Council Representative to the Austin Lake Governmental Lake Board to fill the vacancy left by former Mayor Pro Tem Ed Sackley.
- ◆ Set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, January 12, 2016, at 5:30 p.m., to interview Board and Commission applicants.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the refunding of Local Development Finance Authority Bonds, Series 2004 as information only.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ Adopted the Resolution to vacate the south approximate 57 feet of Harris Drive.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Councilmember Urban referenced the discussions by Councilmembers Ford, Reid and himself of the essays from Portage Public School Children entitled, "Why I Love Portage" to determine the winning pair of students who will be given the opportunity to turn on the Christmas lights in Portage and that he was looking forward to the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 5, 2015, at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Councilmember Reid mentioned the upcoming Council of Governments (COG) Meeting, December 2, 2015, 3:30 p.m. at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, 3801 East Kilgore Road, where they will discuss the structuring of the upcoming Countywide Public Transit for the Demand Service and the County Sheriff millage campaigns. She also noted that the COG would be reviewing a recent survey to help determine how to best serve each of the municipal members within COG.
- ◆ Councilmember Randall highlighted the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony as a wonderful family event and acknowledged the passing of Communication Services Employee Janet Hughes and extended her condolences to her family.
- ◆ Councilmember Ford congratulated the MSU Spartans for winning the Big 10 East Football Championship, concurred that the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony is a great event, and shared that he recently was able to enjoy the new snow with his family on the sledding hill at Oakland Park.
- ◆ Councilmember Pearson thanked Mayor Pro Tem Ansari for stepping in at the very next meeting after his appointment to run the meeting this evening.
- ◆ City Manager Shaffer reflected on the comment by Councilmember Randall regarding the tragic loss of Janet Hughes, and noted that she always dreamt of traveling to Israel; she was a woman of deep faith; she made it to Israel where she passed away. He noted that many of her Church group were at the memorial service and shared some of her experiences in Israel. He said that in some ways, it was a great tragedy, but in other ways a great joy to hear that one of our own achieved something that was so high on her list of wishes.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Ansari indicated that he has had citizens express concern about the unknown impact of the potential merger of Pfizer, Inc., and Allergan that would create the largest pharmaceutical company in the world with a deal worth about \$250 billion. He said that the importance of Pfizer to the local economy cannot be overstated. He noted that Pfizer employs over 1,800 employees at the Portage manufacturing facility, has a taxable value of just over \$300 million and contributes more than \$2.9 million in taxes to Portage. He indicated that Pfizer has applied for a variance to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the construction of a 100,000 square foot facility on its Portage campus. He indicated that future construction has also been discussed and the goal of the City of Portage is to remain an open and credible partner to ensure that the pharmaceutical giant continues to support and enhance its largest manufacturing facility within the City of Portage.

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.