

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

December 15, 2015

LETTER OF RESPECT

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas issued a Letter of Respect to Karen Smoots, 9920 Arabian Drive, and her company, Dry My Gloves, Inc., for being selected as a Best of MichBusiness 2015 winner.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Accounts Payable Register of December 15, 2015, as presented.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Approved Contract 15-5486 between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of Portage for traffic signal improvements along Lovers Lane and East Kilgore Road; adopted a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign Contract 15-5486; approved a contract amendment with Abonmarche Consultants for construction administration services at a cost not to exceed \$42,758; and authorized the City Manager to sign all other documents related to the project on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved the Development Agreement concerning the reconstruction and dedication of Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Portage, Michigan; approved the Martin Luther King Jr. Drive land division with public improvements for 6601 Constitution Boulevard; and adopted Resolution No. 1, approving the special assessment for properties contained within the preliminary special assessment roll, accepting the City Manager Report and requesting preparation of Resolution No. 2 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Project #998-R.
- ◆ Approved the Final Plan for Greenspire Apartments (Phase V), 8615 Tozer Court, subject to finalization of the storm water design and approval by the MDEQ to discharge into the wetland area.
- ◆ Approved one-year contract renewals with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network for employee health insurance; maintained current employer/employee cost sharing practices by taking action to exempt the city from requirements of P.A. 152 for the 2016 medical benefits plan year, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract renewals on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved the purchase of WiFi hardware from Secant Technologies through the Regional Educational Media Center cooperative purchasing program in the amount of \$13,512.13; professional installation services from Secant Technologies in the amount of \$10,862; extension of the city-owned fiber infrastructure installed by the city fiber maintenance provider, Midwest Communications Services, in the amount of \$20,802, and installation of electrical equipment through Mejeur Electric LLC in the amount of \$500 for a total project cost of \$45,676.13 for the provision of public/private WiFi at the Celery Flats Historical Area and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved the annual licensing and software maintenance services agreement with BS&A, Incorporated, at a total cost of \$42,745 and authorized the City Manager to execute all related documents on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Adopted Resolution No. 2 for the South Shore Drive Sanitary Sewer Project #416-S, setting a public hearing of necessity on January 12, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the November 2015 Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Department Monthly Reports from the various City Departments.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ Adopted the 2016 Proposed Changes to Fee Schedules; 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.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ◆ Councilmember Pearson recognized Councilmember Reid as Chair of the Finance Committee and, as Chair of the Search Committee, he reported that Jeff Troyer from Calhoun County was chosen as the Executive Director of the Countywide Consolidated Dispatch Authority. He commended City Manager Larry Shaffer for his hard work developing very good relations with leaders all over the County and his yeoman effort with him as Co-Chair of the Contract Negotiations Committee. Councilmember Reid mentioned that Mr. Troyer will begin his duties in February 2106, and that the Authority is in the process of hiring Attorneys and getting some of the other structure in place to begin developing a plan.

- ◆ Councilmember Randall reported on the Discover Kalamazoo Board where she and Mr. Shaffer learned a lot about the Pure Michigan Campaign, viewed new commercials for 2016 with voiceovers by Actor Tim Allen originally from Kalamazoo and a Western Michigan University Graduate.
- ◆ Councilmember Reid reported on the Public Media Network (PMN) Board and cited the new cameras in Council Chambers mentioned by IT Director Devin Mackinder earlier as the result of the work of the Futures Committee which has purchased the existing equipment at each of the municipality members and purchased all of the new equipment at each location and will also be maintained and replaced as necessary by PMN for consistency, ease of use and increased quality.

BID TABULATIONS

- ◆ Awarded a contract to perform design and construction engineering services for the 2016 Local Streets Reconstruction Project to Abonmarche Consultants, Incorporated, in the amount not to exceed \$197,140 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved a contract with Volunteer Energy Services, Inc. for the procurement of natural gas, with the option for five annual renewals, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the City of Portage.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ Josh Weiner, Meyer C. Weiner Company, representing ownership of Village Green Properties, Crossroads Centre, Portage Centre-the stakeholders along Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, thanked all of City Council and commended Council for a well-run meeting, and commended all of Council for the mutual respect shown to one another and the succinct manner with which Council presented their thoughts. He explained that relationships do matter and agreed whole-heartedly that City Manager Larry Shaffer reached out his hand (to him), and he thanked Councilmember Randall for the introduction (to Mr. Shaffer). He noted that his Father always said reasonable people can reason together, and that is what has happened here. He thanked Chris Barnes, Chris Forth, Vicki Georgeau, Rob and City Attorney Randy Brown for working together in a short time period to produce an agreement satisfactory to all parties and explained.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Councilmember Urban expressed good wishes to all during the holidays and safe shopping, travels and celebrations.
- ◆ Councilmember Reid touted the Portage Central High School Christmas Concert currently taking place this evening. She also mentioned a recent meeting with Dave Maturen and Brandt Iden where Al Pschola, Chair of the Committee on Appropriations, discussed the state budget process and how that impacts local government, the rural issue of adopting Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices (GAAMPs) for farms and farm operations in Michigan. (Note: these farm management practices are scientifically based and updated annually to utilize current technology promoting sound environmental stewardship on Michigan farms) and “chicken” issues not unlike those in Portage. She expressed her support for the Michigan State University Football Team in hopes they make it to the championship game.
- ◆ Councilmember Randall wished everyone a Merry Christmas as this is a very special time for families, and wished everyone a healthy and safe New Year.
- ◆ Councilmember Ford thanked Councilmember Urban for his fine effort with a very long Consent Agenda even though Council removed many of the items for a detailed consideration. He also mentioned the advent of the paperless electronic agenda that will replace the paper version soon and touted the resultant efficiencies that should be realized. He wished everyone Happy Holidays, a Happy New Year, and he concurred with Councilmember Reid saying, “Go Green!” Mayor Strazdas concurred with Councilmember Ford regarding the electronic agenda.
- ◆ Councilmember Pearson thanked City Council for their teamwork and cited how productive the many Committee of the Whole Meetings were in 2015, then he wished everyone Happy Holidays and safe travels.
- ◆ City Manager Shaffer acknowledged Josh Weiner and his team for the tremendous job they did putting together the agreement for Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, and indicated that he was looking forward to working on more opportunities with Mr. Weiner. He wished Mayor Strazdas and City Council all the best during the Holiday Season and thanked each of them for his or her support over the past year. He publicly acknowledged the great staff, Department Heads and team of the City of Portage, and wished all Portage citizens the very best over the holiday season.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Ansari announced that the City Council Goal Setting Retreat is set for on Friday, January 22, 2016, from 9 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on the campus of Western Michigan University on Oakland Drive with Jill Allen as the facilitator. He said the focus of the Retreat this year is reviewing the strategic priorities established in the last Council Retreat, measure progress against these priorities and make adjustments as necessary. He also mentioned the excellent job by the Parks Department on the Tree Lighting Ceremony, the large attendance at the event and expressed how proud he was for the winners of the essay contest of “Why I Love Portage,” who turned on the light switches. Finally, he wished everyone Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas.

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas reflected on his recent trip to Washington, D.C., and his opportunity to advocate with our Congressman regarding some major votes, the Federal Highway Bill and more financial resources for I-94, and the embargo news relevant to Fort Custer. He reflected on the thousand people who showed up for the Tree Lighting Ceremony and thanked all who were involved. He reflected also on the collegiality of City Council and the lack of collegiality in Washington, D.C. He cited the plan for the Council Retreat and his assurances that the City Council will come together to make positive change for Portage and for Portage citizens.

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.