

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 2, 2010

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Strazdas at 7:30 p.m.

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, Pastor Daniel Teerman of The Bridge in Portage gave the invocation and the City Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk called the roll with the following members present: Councilmembers Elizabeth A. Campbell, Margaret E. O'Brien, Patricia M. Randall, Claudette S. Reid and Terry R. Urban, Mayor Pro Tem Edward J. Sackley and Mayor Peter J. Strazdas. Also in attendance were City Manager Maurice S. Evans, City Attorney Randall Brown and City Clerk James R. Hudson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by O'Brien, seconded by Reid, to approve the October 19, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Strazdas asked Councilmember Campbell to read the Consent Agenda. Motion by Urban, seconded by Campbell, to approve the Consent Agenda motions as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF NOVEMBER 2, 2010:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Campbell, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of November 2, 2010. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

* **2011 CITY COUNCIL MEETING SCHEDULE:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Campbell, to establish the 2011 Schedule of Regular City Council Meetings. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

COMMUNICATION:

REPRESENTATIVE TO METRO TRANSIT ADA LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Mayor Strazdas asked if anyone had any questions of clarification and Councilmember O'Brien asked if discussion by the Council Advisory Committee that oversees the Council Committees would be appropriate. When Mayor Strazdas deferred to Councilmember Reid, she indicated that it would be an option to consider. Councilmember Reid further explained that she is the official representative from the City of Portage, that Bill Lenehan was unable to attend the meeting, is the Vice Chair of the Committee and is still interested in serving as the representative on the Metro Transit ADA Local Advisory Committee. She also indicated that she discusses the activities of the Metro Transit ADA Local Advisory Committee with him a couple of times a year and Mr. Lenehan expressed his intent to attend each Human Services Board Meeting and provide a report.

In response to Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Reid indicated that the City of Portage can send anyone as a representative and Mr. Lenehan served because the Human Services Board reviews transportation issues and the Metro Transit ADA Local Advisory Committee has no authority – they can not vote for funding or set policy – and Mr. Lenehan provides a direct connection for the city with the Metro Transit ADA Local Advisory Committee through the Human Services Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Sackley indicated that the situation is awkward for City Council, the Human Services Board and for Mr. Lenehan. He pointed out that his term was limited because of Council Policy; that he is the only representative the city has had on this committee; that what was done in 2003 doesn't appear to be reflected in Council Policy because it has nothing to do with appointment to citizen advisory boards, only that it was the path used in 2003 as the source of that appointment; and, the letter from former Human Services Board Chair Amy Tuley reads that at the time of Mr. Lenehan's request,

she was Chair of the Board, but because she is no longer the Chair, she is speaking as an individual who is not a member of the Human Services Board, so it is possible that the Board has not taken this matter up for discussion as it seemed logical to them that Mr. Lenehan would continue to serve. He then offered two options by saying that City Council could reappoint Mr. Lenehan to the Human Services Board where there is an opening, or do what was done in 2003 and appoint someone who is interested in serving Metro Transit ADA Local Advisory Committee from the Human Services Board, if the criteria at that time was that they be on the Human Services Board. He spoke in support of Mr. Lenehan owing to the fact that he served on the Human Services Board for ten years and is interested in continuing to serve on the Metro Transit ADA Local Advisory Committee.

In answer to Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Reid indicated that appointment of a City Council Representative on the Metro Transit ADA Local Advisory Committee would be considered Friday, November 12 beginning at 12:00 noon and Saturday November 13, beginning at 8:00 a.m., Special Meeting of the City Council for the purposes of discussion of goals and objectives, at the Gilmore House on the campus of Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. Councilmember Reid asked that City Council not take action and ask the Human Services Board to review this whole issue and provide a recommendation.

Discussion followed regarding an end date for Mr. Lenehan's serving on the Metro Transit ADA Local Advisory Committee. Councilmember Urban expressed his respect for Mr. Lenehan and appreciation for his service, but indicated that it is appropriate to have a Human Services Board Member as Representative on the Metro Transit ADA Local Advisory Committee. He offered that City Council could waive their policy and have him serve as Representative on the Metro Transit ADA Local Advisory Committee, but he preferred to have the Human Services Board provide a recommendation. Discussion followed.

Motion by Sackley, seconded by O'Brien, to accept the correspondence from Human Services Board Member Amy Tuley and reappoint William Lenehan to a one year term ending October 1, 2011. Councilmember Reid offered the following amendment to the motion: to direct the Human Services Board to look at the issue with the intent to provide a transition to give the representative on the Metro Transit ADA Local Advisory Committee a full year to plan for and identify who will be transitioning and with the intent that it would be someone who is serving on the Human Services Board. Mayor Pro Tem Sackley and Councilmember O'Brien concurred with the amendment to the motion. Discussion followed. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

*** MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** City Council received the minutes for the following boards and commissions:

Portage Environmental Board of September 8, 2010.

Portage Senior Citizen Advisory Board of September 15, 2010.

Portage Zoning Board of Appeals of September 20, 2010.

Portage Board of Education Special and Regular Business Meeting of September 27, Policy Governance Session of October 4 and Special Meeting and Committee of the Whole Work Session of October 11, 2010.

Portage Planning Commission of October 7, 2010.

BID TABULATION:

*** PURCHASE OF DIGITAL RECORDING AND TRANSCRIPTION SOFTWARE AND HARDWARE:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Campbell, to award a contract to VarTec, LLC, in the amount not to exceed \$36,420 for the installation of software and hardware upgrades to the transcription capabilities of the Portage Police Department Records Division and Patrol Division, and authorize the City Manager to execute all related documents. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

OTHER CITY MATTERS:

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL: Council expressed frustration over the many political ads that ran throughout this election season, thanked the volunteers and gave a sigh of relief that the election was over.

Mayor Strazdas congratulated Councilmember Reid for her recent appointment as Vice President of the Kalamazoo Council of Governments (COG) and thanked the candidates for availing themselves to public service.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.

James R. Hudson, City Clerk

***Indicates items included on the Consent Agenda.**