

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

July 13, 2010

CHECK REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Check Register of July 13, 2010, as presented.

PUBLIC HEARING

- ◆ Amended the Code of Ordinances of the City of Portage, Michigan, by amending Article 4 of Chapter 42, Land Development Regulations, changing the zoning of the tract of land located in Section 29, Township 3 South, Range 11 West, described as: 9810, 9804, 9818, 9832 and 9842 Oakland Drive, 2180, 2201, 2212, 2236, 2235, 2259, 2258, 2282, 2281, 2309, 2310, 2334, 2333, 2355, 2356, 2380, 2379, 2407 and 2408 Oakland Farms Trail, from R-1C, one family residential, and R-1T, attached residential, to R-1B, one family residential, with the exception of 9832 and 9842 Oakland Drive.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Adopted Resolution No. 1 and set a public hearing for July 27, 2010, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard to consider the adoption of Resolution No. 2 renaming the street from Avalon Woods Circle to Avalon Woods Court.
- ◆ Approved the Final Plan for Greenspire Retail (Phase I), 3201 West Centre Avenue and the Final Plan for Greenspire Apartments (Phase IV), 8380 Greenspire Drive.
- ◆ Approved the Final Plan for Lake Michigan Credit Union, 4100 West Centre Avenue.
- ◆ Approved the installation of the Hillsmoor Lane cul-de-sac island landscape treatments located in the public right-of-way and authorized the City Manager to execute the Streetscape Enhancement Agreement.
- ◆ Appointed Councilmember Terry Urban on an interim basis until Jeremy Vryhoff returns from assignment overseas to the two-year position effective immediately with the term ending on May 31, 2012, to the Public Media Network Board of Directors.

BID TABULATIONS

- ◆ Awarded a one-year contract renewal to provide pavement marking services to Michigan Pavement Markings, LLC, of Wyoming, Michigan, in an amount not to exceed \$86,000 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this contract renewal on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved a one-year contract renewal with Republic Services of Michigan Hauling, LLC, dba Republic Waste Services of Western Michigan, to provide four compactor trucks with operators at an hourly rate of \$117.75 for the 2010 Fall Leaf Pickup Program in the not-to-exceed amount of \$48,000 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Awarded a contract for the Shuman Well #1 Pump and Motor Rehabilitation to Peerless-Midwest, Incorporated, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$23,650 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ Raghuram Elluru, 6719 Oleander Lane, complained that \$27,000 in attorney fees and staff time was utilized on behalf of the citizens of Portage to defend against his property tax appeal that resulted in an increase of \$700 in city taxes per year for his property at 6719 Oleander Lane (plus more for the other taxing jurisdictions). Councilmember Randall concurred, indicated that she was advised not to go into closed session regarding this matter and asked the Administration for the computer back-up tapes for all property information from 2005 through 2010 in order for her to ensure that property owners in Portage are being handled fairly.
- ◆ Robert Jones, 3228 West Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, complimented Raghuram Elluru and Councilmember Randall for challenging city property assessment practices and made the suggestion that the City Council determine a mechanism to look into the matter.
- ◆ Isaac King, 3352 Bellflower Drive, spoke in opposition to his tax assessment, indicated that he travels a lot and missed getting his assessment change notice, so Mayor Pro Tem Sackley offered to get him an appointment with the City Assessor.
- ◆ In response to Councilmember Randall's comment that she was advised to not go into the closed session regarding her neighbor, Raghuram Elluru, 6719 Oleander Lane, Catherine Gleason, 2928 Lamplite Circle, asked whether a Councilmember has ever been excluded from a meeting before, so Mayor Pro Tem Sackley and Councilmember Urban answered in the affirmative and provided some examples for her and City Attorney Brown explained the applicable law.
- ◆ Larry Provancher, 7414 Starbrook Street, admitted that, as a County Commissioner, he had a conflict with regard to a sale of property, was allowed to be privy to all of the information regarding the matter, but did not vote on it.
- ◆ Michael Quinn, 7025 Rockford Street, expressed the opinion that a conflict means a person may have an advantage and said he could not imagine what the conflict would be; therefore, it is up to the Councilmember to decide.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Councilmember Campbell thanked everyone who participated in the 4th of July Freedom Fest.
- ◆ Councilmember Reid asked everyone to take the survey on the 2035 Transportation Plan at <http://www.katsmpo.org/>.
- ◆ Councilmember O'Brien recognized Kalamazoo County Commissioner John Zull and State House Representative Larry DeShazor and she and Councilmember Urban thanked Councilmember Campbell for her efforts with Freedom Fest.
- ◆ City Manager Evans reminded everyone of the Summer Entertainment Series and congratulated and commended Parks & Recreation Director Bill Deming for 30 years of service.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Sackley indicated that City Council and the Administration conducted an eight month review of the assessing process of the City of Portage and the City Council voted to close that review in April with a unanimous vote. He also pointed out that the City Council is the appeal body to determine if a conflict exists should there be a question of about whether a Councilmember should not attend a session or vote on an item. Furthermore, he noted that Councilmember Randall voluntarily recused herself from the Elluru Closed Session and did not bring the matter before City Council.

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.