

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 22, 2011

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

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, Pastor Ken Hale of the Victory Baptist Church of 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 Cory A. Bailes, Elizabeth A. Campbell, 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, Assistant City Attorney Charlie Bear and City Clerk James R. Hudson.

PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Strazdas issued the 18th Annual Kalamazoo County Walk For Warmth Proclamation and discussion followed. State Representative Margaret O'Brien issued a Proclamation honoring the Portage Community High School Co-ed Volleyball for their third straight M.A.A.A. State Championship and Mayor Strazdas issued a similar one and discussion followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Campbell, seconded by Reid, to approve the February 8, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes as amended reflecting that Councilmember Bailes read the Consent Agenda. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0 with Mayor Pro Tem Sackley abstaining.

* **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Strazdas asked Councilmember Campbell to read the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Reid asked that the Community Survey Committee Meeting, Wednesday, March 23, 4:00 p.m., City Council Conference Room, be added under M.3, Reminder of Meetings. Motion by Reid, seconded by Campbell, to approve the Consent Agenda motions as amended. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF FEBRUARY 22, 2011:** Motion by Reid, seconded by Campbell, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of February 22, 2011. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Ryan Simpson from the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce announced that Chris Barnes received the Public Servant of the Year Award through the Chamber. Discussion followed.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

* **SALE OF EXCESS CITY PROPERTY – 2125 BENDER ROAD:** Motion by Reid, seconded by Campbell, to accept the \$1,600 offer from Mr. Jim Traill and Ms. Patricia O'Rourke to purchase lot 115 and the east 40 feet of lot 114 of the plat of Fairfield No. 1 located at 2125 Bender Road; and place the purchase offer on file for 28 days and take final action on March 22, 2011. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 123 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 44.

* **JANUARY 2011 SUMMARY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY REPORT – INFORMATION ONLY:** Motion by Reid, seconded by Campbell, to receive the communication from the City Manager regarding the January 2011 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS:** Motion by Reid, seconded by Campbell, to receive the Department Monthly Reports. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

* **AMENDMENT TO THE PORTAGE CODE OF ORDINANCES:** Motion by Reid, seconded by Campbell, to approve an Ordinance to amend the City of Portage Code of Ordinances by amending Section 50-222, Article 7 of Chapter 50, Providing False Information to Public Officer. 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 Park Board of January 5, 2011.

Portage Zoning Board of Appeals of January 10, 2011.

Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners Committee of the Whole and Regular of January 18 and Committee of the Whole and Regular February 1, 2011.

Portage Planning Commission of February 3, 2011.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORT:

BUSINESS AND THE CITY OF PORTAGE COMMITTEE: City Council received the presentation by Councilmember Reid regarding the recent activity of the Business and the City of Portage Committee. Discussion followed.

OTHER CITY MATTERS:

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: State Representative Margaret O'Brien outlined three proposals being discussed in the State House of Representatives: the complete repeal of Public Act 312, competitive Health Plan options and an Urban Cooperation Act that makes financial sense and controls cost. Discussion followed.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: City Council, Mayor Strazdas and City Manager Evans congratulated the Portage Community High School Co-ed Volleyball Championship Team for winning three consecutive state championships and Chris Barnes for receiving the Public Servant of the Year Award through the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilmember Reid discussed Governor Snyder's proposed budget and negative effects on tax assistance and Head Start.

Councilmember Randall reminded everyone of the two information sessions on the Assessment Process by Joyce Foondle, Southwest Michigan Governmental Consultants, on the Assessment Process, the Board of Review and the Michigan Tax Tribunal Appeals process, and asked if City Manager Evans could provide information on the Mathieu Gast Home Improvement Act.

Mr. Evans discussed the ice storm and branch removal plans and commended staff for a fine storm clean-up effort.

Mayor Strazdas asked everyone to be careful around downed power lines and expressed sincere gratitude to the Red Cross, the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Portage and area citizens for their acts of kindness during the crisis.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

James R. Hudson, City Clerk

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