

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

March 22, 2011

CHECK REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Check Register of March 22, 2011, as presented.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Adopted the Resolutions Approving Redemption of all Callable Outstanding City of Portage Special Assessment Bonds, Series 1992, 1993, 1995, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000, Prior to Maturity.
- ◆ Authorized the City Manager to advertise the sale of an approximate 2.5 acre portion of 7130 South Westnedge Avenue at \$430,000 and solicit bids from interested parties.
- ◆ Confirmed the appointment of Vicki Georgeau as the Director of Community Development, effective July 1, 2011.
- ◆ Resolved to submit an application to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for a Special License for the sale of beer and wine for consumption on the premises at Portage Central Park, 7800 Shaver Road, for *The Taste of Portage* on June 25, 2011, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Renewed the contract with McCarthy Smith Law Group for Labor Counsel Services through Fiscal Year 2013-14 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract renewal.
- ◆ Established April 19 from 2 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. for review of the proposed Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget.
- ◆ Received a communication from the City Manager regarding the February 2010 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Department Monthly Reports.

COMMUNICATION

- ◆ Granted the request from Texas Township Supervisor David Healy to support the 2011 MDNR Trust Fund grant application for the trails system connection between Texas Township and the City of Portage.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ Reconfirmed the Resolution to sell excess city-owned property, 2125 Bender Road.
- ◆ Approved an Amendment to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Portage, Michigan, on second reading by amending Chapter 2, Article 7, Section 2-293, for the Senior Citizens Advisory Board to lower the age for advisory board members and Section 2-297, to clarify distribution of records, and approved the revised Senior Citizen Advisory Board rules of operation.
- ◆ Approved an Amendment to the Code of Ordinances of the City of Portage, Michigan, on second reading by amending Chapter 24, Article 5, Section 24-113, Safety, Sanitation and Health, with provisions for nuisance abatement and cost recovery, and adopted the resolution establishing the nuisance abatement fee.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ◆ Received the presentation by Councilmember Urban regarding an update on the recent activity of the City Council Sign Ordinance Committee.

BID TABULATION

- ◆ Approved the contract with Microsystems, Inc., for document microfilming, imaging and destruction for the low bid of \$19,747.95 for a one-year period with the option of two annual extensions and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action.

STATEMENTS OF STUDENT MAYOR AND STUDENT CITY COUNCIL FOR THE DAY

- ◆ At the request of Mayor Strazdas, the Student Councilmembers, the Student Mayor and Faculty Advisor Mark Sutherland expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Student Council and Mayor for the Day Program. Each of them indicated that the experience was enjoyable, rewarding and enlightening.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Mayor and City Council expressed their appreciation to the students who participated in the Student Council and Mayor for the Day Program and the Faculty Advisors for their efforts with the Program. They also extended congratulations to Transportation & Utilities Director Chris Barnes for winning Public Servant of the Year from the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce and congratulated Vicki Georgeau as Community Development Director.
- ◆ Councilmember Randall posed a question about the use of City Hall by the public saying that the current policy seems too restrictive. She complimented the Board of Review Members and the City Assessor staff for their efforts during the 2011 Board of Review sessions.
- ◆ At the request of Mayor Strazdas, City Manager Maurice Evans noted that the use of City Hall after hours requires paying overtime and that staff time for the Congressman Upton visit was minimal as it took place during working hours.

- ◆ Councilmember Reid indicated that the \$100 million gift to Western Michigan University for a Medical School would have a huge impact on the Region. Mayor Strazdas concurred. As mentioned in the invocation by Pastor Mike Drew, she expressed her concern for the people of Japan, who are facing new challenges each day as a result of the recent earthquake and subsequent tsunami and the people of Libya, who are in the midst of a military struggle for power.
- ◆ City Manager Evans indicated that the recent Census 2010 revealed that the City of Portage population grew from 44,897 to 46,292 with a 4.9% increase in Kalamazoo County.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Sackley invited the public to the detailed line by line Budget Review Sessions, Tuesday, April 19, 2011, from 2 to 5 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m.

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.