

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

August 9, 2011

## CHECK REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Check Register of August 9, 2011, as presented.

## PUBLIC HEARING

- ◆ Approved an Ordinance to amend the City of Portage Code of Ordinances, Ordinance Amendment 10-D, Business Banner Regulations, by amending section 42-548, PD, planned development district; section 42-551, B-1, local business district; and Section 42-552, B-2, community business; B-3, general business; and CPD, commercial planned development districts, of Chapter 42, Land Development Regulations.

## REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Approved the agreement with Consumers Energy for undergrounding of overhead utility lines and installation of new streetlights on Trade Centre Way from West Fork Crossing to South Westnedge Avenue and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the agreement on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Endorsed an application to the Kalamazoo County Drain Commissioner to designate the Lexington Green ditch as a County Drainage District and authorized the City Manager to execute the document on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Granted final approval of the plat of The Homestead of Portage No. 3 with completion of final grading by November 2011 and sidewalks and street trees by July 2013 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved a purchase order amendment for the 2011 West Lake Management Program to Aquatic Services, Incorporated, for lake weed treatment measures at a cost not to exceed \$27,840 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the amendment on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Granted the request to transfer location of 2011 Class C Licensed Business from 633 Romence Road to 7375 South Westnedge Avenue, Portage, MI 49002, Kalamazoo County (i.e. Los Amigo's Grill, Inc.).
- ◆ Granted the request for a new Small Wine Maker License by The Sangria Shop, L.L.C. to be located at 5919 South Sprinkle Road, Portage.

## AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

- ◆ Received the communication from the City Council Ad-Hoc Advisory Board Review Committee, adopted the 2011-2012 Advisory Boards and Commissions Goals and Objectives and amended the Advisory Board Goals and Objectives of the Environmental Board, Historic District Commission, Park Board and Youth Advisory Committee to add a goal to advise City Council on issues or projects pertaining to those specific areas.

## STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ Michigan State Representative Margaret O'Brien stated that the Legislature has provided protections within the Urban Cooperation Legislation and PA 312 to prevent forcing a municipality to share services if it necessitates an increase in funding and explained; she indicated the 80-20 hard cap law on health benefits for all government employees passed the House, but not the Senate and emphasized compensation is a local issue; she commented that the City of Portage remained in the 61<sup>st</sup> Congressional District which lost the City of Parchment, Alamo Township and Kalamazoo Township, but gained Schoolcraft Township; she hypothesized that the Legislature will have to make a decision this Fall and the Presidential Primary regarding the date of the election in February 2012; when she asked for the amount of Portage personal property taxes collected and the per cent of the budget, City Manager Evans responded 18%; she went on record in a work session that she concurred with Mayor Strazdas and Mayor Pro Tem Sackley that it is fair to eliminate P.A. 198 if personal property taxes are eliminated and she asked City Council to weigh in on the issue when it arises; she indicated that the House voted to eliminate healthcare benefits for retiring Legislators, that the House will experience a 13% Office Budget reduction in addition to the 5% reduction imposed earlier this year with a 10% cut in salaries, plus a 20% cut in the Speaker of the House Budget; and, she indicated that there is an attempt to move House employees to a healthcare plan where the employee will pay up to 20% of their healthcare depending upon which plan the employee chooses.

## STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ City Manager Evans pointed out that the contracted crews have been out since August 1, 2011, to pick up tree branches left behind by the July storm, but because of the larger than expected volume of branches, the pick-up would take longer, so he asked for patience from citizens.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas indicated that, despite the national financial crisis and the uneasiness in the stock market, Portage has no financial crisis and expressed his appreciation for the efforts of past City Councils and past Administrations, who have provided financial stability.

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**COMPLETE MINUTES OF EACH CITY COUNCIL MEETING ARE AVAILABLE ON THE CITY WEBSITE AT PORTAGEMIGOV, IN CITY HALL AND IN THE DISTRICT LIBRARY. MINUTES OF CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.**

