

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

November 1, 2011

CHECK REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Check Register of November 1, 2011, as presented.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Adopted the resolution to sell a 2.5-acre portion of excess city property at 7130 South Westnedge Avenue to Jason M. Klein & Associates at a purchase price of \$370,000, placed the resolution on file with the Office of the City Clerk for 28 days and will take final action on December 6, 2011.
- ◆ Established the 2012 Schedule of Regular City Council Meetings.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the I-94 Construction Progress and Completion Schedule as information only.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the request of Aisha Turk, 9124 East Shore Drive, to waive the late fee assessed to her 2011 Summer Property Taxes as information only.

COMMUNICATIONS

- ◆ Accepted the communication from Kalamazoo City Manager Ken Collard, Portage City Manager Maurice Evans and Kalamazoo County Administrator Peter Battani regarding the follow-up on Intergovernmental Collaboration/ Consolidation – *Purchasing* as a foundation document that will be used as a reference point with regard to collaborative purchasing efforts.
- ◆ Received the Annual Presentation by Senior Citizen Advisory Board Chairperson Ruth Ann Meyer.
- ◆ Received the communication from David Steffens, President of the Long Lake Association, requesting that City Council refer a project for an aquatic plant management program to the Long Lake Governmental Lake Board, and adopted the Resolution Regarding Long Lake Improvement Pursuant to the Inland Lake Improvement Act and directed the Governmental Lake Board for Long Lake to proceed with the necessary steps to improve Long Lake.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ Reconfirmed the resolution to grant an easement to Consumers Energy.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ◆ Adopted the City Council Policy for Use of City Hall dated November 1, 2011, and the City of Portage Application / Agreement for Use of City Hall.

BID TABULATION

- ◆ Approved a one-year contract with AT&T in the amount of \$11,600 for 9-1-1 maintenance, with the option to annually renew provided the terms, conditions and price do not change, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ James Pearson, 3004 East Shore Drive, referred to himself as the Vice Chairman of the Planning Commission and a candidate for City Council, and asked for an opinion from City Attorney Randy Brown if the newly adopted City Hall Policy would preclude future nonpartisan forums, and Mr. Brown referred him to C.1 in the Policy where it limits the use of City Hall by elected officials within 90 days of a primary or general election and that would include a forum type event. He spoke in favor of City of Portage candidates participating in a forum together and mentioned the alternative of viewing the virtual forums that are available on Public Media Network at kzootv.com.
- ◆ Tim Earl, 6862 Shallowford Way, apologized for not being present to participate in the discussion regarding secular invocations at the last meeting, but he was out of town. He indicated that he will work with the City Clerk to be a part of the invocation rotation for City Council Meetings in 2012.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Councilmember Reid reminded everyone that Tuesday, November 8, 2011, is the General City Election for Mayor and three City Council seats. She and Councilmember Urban exchanged Halloween stories.
- ◆ City Manager Evans indicated that there is a brief article on the city website regarding the South Westnedge Avenue Project and briefed City Council and citizens about the eight inch water main break on South Westnedge Avenue that will have to be repaired under the railroad tracks and poses a challenge.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Sackley commented on the absence of Councilmember Randall, who has missed four consecutive meetings and five of the past seven meetings. He stressed that if a Councilmember is to serve the public, it is important to show up and not attending five of the last seven City Council Meetings before an election, including four in a row, is of a concern to him. He pointed out that he is not a candidate at this time, but felt that this should be an issue for the voters.

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas addressed some of the stress caused by world events that are impacting the country and even the City of Kalamazoo, locally, and assured citizens that the City of Portage has taken the steps necessary to minimize any negative impact on operations and the quality of life here.
- ◆ Mr. Pearson approached the City Clerk and asked him to ask Mayor Strazdas to allow him to address the comments made by Mayor Pro Tem Sackley regarding all of the recent absences by Councilmember Randall. City Attorney Brown indicated that this is a question for the Mayor to decide if Mr. Pearson could speak out of order. Mr. Pearson indicated he had a text message from Councilmember Randall that she could not be present because of health reasons; that she sent it to the City Clerk, but it was bounced back; and she said to mention it after the meeting, but Mr. Pearson chose to mention it in response to Mayor Pro Tem Sackley's remarks. Mayor Strazdas expressed his appreciation for Mr. Pearson's comments and a preference that the comment could have been made before the meeting or during public comment time, but expressed his appreciation for her thoughtfulness. He wished Councilmember Randall well, expressed his hope that she gets through her frailness and thanked Mr. Pearson for sharing.

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.