

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

November 15, 2011

- ◆ Received the Board of Canvassers Report.
- ◆ Received Comments from Councilmembers Reid, Urban, Randall, Campbell and Bailes, Mayor Pro Tem Sackley and Mayor Strazdas.
- ◆ Retiring City Council adjourned sine die.
- ◆ The City Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Councilmembers Campbell, Randall and Pearson and Mayor Strazdas.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas directed the City Clerk to contact the three New Councilmembers, Elizabeth A. Campbell, Patricia M. Randall, James D. Pearson to sign the Ethics and Values Policy.
- ◆ City Council elected Councilwoman Claudette Reid as Mayor Pro Tempore.
- ◆ City Council adopted the Rules of Order and Procedure.

PROCLAMATIONS

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas issued a 2011 Red Kettle Campaign Kick-Off Proclamation.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas issued a Family Caregivers Month, 2011.
- ◆ Adopted the Resolution of Respect for Cory A. Bailes.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas recognized various elected officials in the audience, including former Mayor Betty Lee Ongley, former Mayor James Graham, former Councilman and former State Representative Larry DeShazor, Kalamazoo City Mayor Bobby Hopewell, Kalamazoo County Undersheriff Paul Matyas, Kalamazoo County Treasurer Mary Balkema, former Councilperson and current State Representative Margaret O'Brien, former State Representative Chuck Perricone, former Kalamazoo County Representatives Mike Quinn and Larry Provancher.

COMMENTS FROM NEW COUNCIL

- ◆ Received Comments from New Council.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS AND GUESTS

- ◆ State Representative Margaret O'Brien addressed City Council, former Councilmember Cory Bailes and presented a Tribute from the State of Michigan to Councilmember Cory A. Bailes on behalf of Governor Rick Snyder, State Representative Tonya Schuitmaker and herself.
- ◆ Bobby Hopewell extended congratulations to Mayor Strazdas, Councilmember Pearson, Councilmember Campbell and Councilmember Randall for their successful campaigns for office and provided special words of encouragement to Councilmember Randall in her current health struggle and special recognition to newly elected Mayor Pro Temp Reid. He offered encouragement to City Council as a collaborative gesture for both cities working together to maintain strength in the region.
- ◆ Kalamazoo County Treasurer Mary Balkema, representing Kalamazoo County Administrator/ Controller Peter Battani and the entire Kalamazoo Board of Commissioners extended sincere congratulations to the newly elected City Councilmembers and Mayor Strazdas. She also thanked and praised former Councilmember Cory Bailes for his service and hard work for the community and made a special mention of support for Councilmember Randall with her current health issue.
- ◆ Kalamazoo County Undersheriff Paul Matyas indicated that Sheriff Richard Fuller was on his way here, but he got called away and will not be able to make it to the meeting. He extended a special thanks to Jim Pearson, who serves on the Kalamazoo Dive Team and Water Rescue Team. He acknowledged Mr. Pearson may have been called out too many times this year and took the opportunity to offer his assistance as a past employee of Portage and the assistance of the Sheriff's Department, as he and his colleagues are a phone call away.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas read from a communication from County Administrator/Controller Peter Battani, who apologized for not being at the meeting as he is attending his own Kalamazoo County Commission Meeting. Discussion followed. Mayor Strazdas recognized his wife, Sharon Strazdas, and Mayor Pro Tem Sackley introduced his wife, Jan.

COMMENTS FROM NEW COUNCIL

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas stressed this is a very challenging time in history and City Council needs to work together, and for this new City Council to think new and work to meet these challenges to bring solutions to the urban core and to the region.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Reid welcomed Councilmember Pearson as the newest member on City Council, indicated that she is looking forward to his perspective as she recognized that, as a scientist, he approaches matters in a very analytical way. She also congratulated Councilmembers Randall and Campbell and recognized them as very hard workers in a variety of areas and encouraged each of them to continue together with the tasks facing this City Council.
- ◆ Councilmember Randall thanked the citizens who voted for her and expressed her appreciation for their support. She indicated that, as a matter of personal privacy, it was difficult sharing the fact that she had breast cancer and acknowledged that no one would want to be in her situation and discussed her plans to get through the process and become a breast cancer advocate. She pledged her support for the City of Portage and the citizens who elected her. She characterized herself as a team player and expressed her willingness to go forward and let the past fall back. She expressed her excitement for newly elected Councilmember Pearson, and her appreciation for the support and leadership Mayor Pro Tem Reid will provide. She thanked Councilmember Sackley for his past service as Mayor Pro Tem and said, "That's it. Let's get back to business."

- ◆ Councilmember Campbell also welcomed Councilmember Pearson, whom she has known for a couple of years working with him on Rotary and the Austin Governmental Lake Board. She indicated she knows he brings insight and a new perspective and is looking forward to working with him. She also thanked everyone who helped her with her campaign even though it did not go as she would have preferred since she had taken a new position and had been spending time out of town, in training and acclimating to a new work environment that would have otherwise been spent on the campaign. Further, she specifically thanked her husband, her children and three former Councilmembers for their valued assistance. She indicated that she is honored to be re-elected and congratulated Councilmember Randall and, like her, recognized there is a lot of hard work ahead and said, "Let's get going."
- ◆ Councilmember Pearson reviewed some of his past Board and Commission volunteer experiences, thanked the voters for electing him to City Council, promised to work hard, thanked the community leaders for endorsing him for the position, especially former Mayor Betty Ongley, who was one of the first to endorse him. He said he will dedicate himself to service. He thanked his wife, Connie, his family, friends and supporters. He also thanked those who encouraged him to run for office, as this is different than being a volunteer, which he has done for a long time, and he encouraged others to run for office and he indicated that he looks forward to serving on Portage City Council.
- ◆ Councilmember Urban congratulated Councilmembers Campbell, Randall and Pearson, and Mayor Strazdas.

CHECK REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Check Register of November 15, 2011, as presented.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Accepted Rezoning Application #11-01 for first reading and set a public hearing for December 20, 2011; and subsequent to the public hearing, will consider approving Rezoning Application #11-01 and rezone the 1.3 acre portion of 1901 Romence Road Parkway from R-1B, one family residential to I-2, heavy industry.
- ◆ Approved the height modification for Celebration! Cinema, 6600 Ring Road, to expand and increase the height of the northeast portion of the building from 30-feet up to a height of 43-feet to accommodate an IMAX theater.
- ◆ Approved the Hyland Associates, LLC, request to waive the 90-day time period Council has to act on a preliminary plat and approved an additional 90-day time period.
- ◆ Authorized emergency response service agreements to provide specialized equipment and operators for disaster recovery and cleanups with James E. Fulton & Sons, Incorporated, of Kalamazoo, Michigan; Balkema Excavation, Incorporated, of Kalamazoo, Michigan; Byholt, Incorporated, of Vicksburg, Michigan; Rathco Safety Supply, Incorporated, of Portage, Michigan; and authorized the City Manager to execute emergency purchase orders related to these service agreements in cases of disaster recovery and cleanup, should the need arise.
- ◆ Approved the contract with Kalamazoo County for Household Hazardous Waste collection during the 2012 calendar year in the not to exceed amount of \$32,000 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Directed the City Administration to proceed with solicitation of proposals for the provision of curbside recycling service.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the 2011 Tax Rate Survey as information only.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the Holiday Tree Lighting/Traditional Holiday Celebration as information only.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the October 2011 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Department Monthly Reports.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Councilmember Campbell thanked Boy Scout Troop 244 for visiting City Hall and taking the tour, as her own son is a member of Cub Scout Troop 255 and will be spending the night on the Silversides Submarine, Muskegon Lake Channel, Muskegon, this weekend with the Troop.
- ◆ Councilmember Sackley expressed his appreciation for the leaf pick-up program and reminded everyone that the City of Portage has a voter approved millage for leaf pick-up, branch pick-up and recycling, and praised the success of the program.
- ◆ Councilmember Urban indicated that the millage was tied to a leaf burning ban ordinance which was the impetus for the millage, as the City needed to provide an alternative if leaf burning was going to be banned.
- ◆ Councilmember Randall wished everyone a blessed and happy Thanksgiving, and wished safe travel during the holidays.
- ◆ Councilmember Pearson thanked everyone for attending the meeting.
- ◆ City Manager Evans took the opportunity to publically congratulate the new City Council on their election. He also announced that the three-year I-94 interchange project would be completed by Friday of this week with the traffic lights working and reminded citizens that some motorists are not accustomed to stopping on Westnedge Avenue at the bridge, and he asked everyone to be careful as there is no training available regarding this matter, just a video provided by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT).
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Reid thanked her colleagues on City Council for their vote of confidence and said she was looking forward to serving them and the citizens.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas re-emphasized that he is very serious about bringing City Council together to do the business of the City of Portage, and stressed the importance of having the I-94 Interchange completed before the shopping holidays on South Westnedge and congratulated and thanked Southwest Region Engineer Roberta Welke and her staff for their fine effort.

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

