

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

December 20, 2011

## CHECK REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Check Register of December 20, 2011, as presented.

## PUBLIC HEARINGS

- ◆ Approved Rezoning Application #11-01 and rezoned the 1.3 acre portion of 1901 Romence Road Parkway from R-1B, one family residential, to I-2, heavy industry.

## REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Adopted a resolution setting a public hearing on the vacation of a portion of West Fork Crossing and a portion of Trade Centre Way, placed the resolution on file with the City Clerk for 28 days and will take final action on January 24, 2012; adopted a resolution to grant an easement to the Michigan Department of Transportation on city-owned property for the installation of storm drainage improvements, placed the resolution on file with the City Clerk for 28 days and will take final action on January 24, 2012; and approved a contract amendment to Prein & Newhof, Incorporated, in the amount of \$26,000 to perform final survey services related to the conveyance of Michigan Department of Transportation right-of-way to the City; and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the above on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved the Resolution adopting the 2012-2013 Council Mission Statement and Goals and Objectives for the City of Portage as established at the City Council Goal Setting Session on December 9, 2011.
- ◆ Adopted the Proposed 2012 Charges for Documents fee schedule; the recommended fee schedules for recreation programs and park facilities for 2012; the Resolution for Community Development Fees and the 2012 Special Assessment Rate Resolution.
- ◆ Approved the height modification for Dick's Sporting Goods, 6355 South Westnedge Avenue, to allow construction of an architectural entry feature along the west side of the building to a height of 43.5 feet.
- ◆ Adopted the Resolution setting the dates and times for the 2012 March Board of Review sessions.
- ◆ Accepted the results of the 2011 Portage Community Survey conducted by the Kercher Center for Social Research at Western Michigan University.
- ◆ Adopted the Resolution Designating Polling Places and Rate of Compensation for the February 28, 2012 Presidential Primary.
- ◆ Received the November 2011 Summary Environmental Activity Report as Information Only.
- ◆ Received the monthly reports from the various departments.
- ◆ Approved the appointments to the 2012 City Council Committees.

## COMMUNICATIONS

- ◆ Accepted the recommendation of the City Manager and supported the issuance of a Request for Proposals for development of a business plan for a consolidated dispatch authority funded through a cost sharing arrangement between prospective authority participants on a basis of jurisdictional population.

## STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Councilmember Campbell wished everyone a happy holiday season and encouraged shoppers to be patient on Westnedge.
- ◆ Councilmember Sackley encouraged people to shop locally.
- ◆ Councilmember Urban noted that the traditional bottleneck on Westnedge Avenue at I-94 is gone and how much easier it is to get through that intersection now that the construction project is complete.
- ◆ Councilmember Randall wished everyone happy holidays and a healthy 2012.
- ◆ Councilmember Pearson informed that he had an opportunity to volunteer for the Salvation Army at a Red Kettle located at Sam's Club. He expressed enjoyment for the ability to work with Portage students who also gave of their time and gratitude for the shoppers who were very spontaneous and generous.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Reid mentioned that City Council approved a number of fees as part of the Consent Agenda and that while a few fees increased, most stayed the same and some were decreased. She also indicated that a City Council task force will be looking at fees in the near future. She expressed surprise at the split response to the community survey question regarding whether to cut services or raise taxes. She expressed that there is a third option which is to grow the economy and increase the tax base so that services do not need to be cut or taxes increased. She expressed that City Council, as evidenced by action taken earlier in the meeting, is committed to growing the economy.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas also encouraged people to shop locally and informed that he has had the opportunity to speak with business owners and that several businesses have indicated this has been a very good holiday season. He concluded by expressing the importance of family during the holiday season, especially in this community.

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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.**