

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 23, 2012

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Strazdas at 7:30 p.m.

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, Pastor Todd Korpi of the Kalamazoo First Assembly of God Church of Portage gave an invocation and Boy Scout Troop 287 led City Council and the audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk called the roll with the following members present: Councilmembers Jim Pearson, Patricia M. Randall, Edward J. Sackley and Terry R. Urban, Mayor Pro Tem Claudette S. Reid and Mayor Peter J. Strazdas. Councilmember Elizabeth A. Campbell was absent with excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Maurice S. Evans, City Attorney Randy Brown and City Clerk James R. Hudson.

PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Strazdas issued a Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month Proclamation, a Make a Difference Day Proclamation and a Red Ribbon Week Proclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve the October 9, 2012 Committee of the Whole Meeting, Special Meeting and Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0 with Councilmember Sackley abstaining from vote on the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes.

* **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Strazdas asked Councilmember Pearson to read the Consent Agenda. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve the Consent Agenda motions as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

* **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF OCTOBER 23, 2012:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of October 23, 2012. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

MUELLER COPPER TUBE PRODUCTS COMPANY – PA 198 TAX ABATEMENT: Mayor Strazdas introduced Community Development Director Vicki Georgeau, who explained that this public hearing was for the request to expand Industrial Development District Number 1 for Mueller Copper Tube Products Company. She provided a brief review of the process involved in this request and indicated that it was initially a request for a 12-year tax abatement, but is now a 5-year tax abatement request for both real and personal property before City Council with the understanding that Mueller Copper Tube Products Company could come back for a review and a request for extra years per City Council Policy. She also pointed out that the process was reduced to two steps in order to meet the October 31 deadline set by the State Tax Commission. She explained that the expansion of the District was necessary to accommodate the proposed rail spur on the property.

In response to Mayor Strazdas, Jack Treas, Vice President and General Manager, Mueller Plastic Systems, spoke in support of the application and highly praised the quality of the workforce in Portage as a major reason for relocating to their facility at 6700 Sprinkle Road. Mayor Strazdas opened the public hearing to discussion and comment from the public. There being no discussion, motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to close the public hearing. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Motion by Sackley, seconded by Urban, to adopt Resolution No. 2-12 expanding Industrial Development District No.1. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 447 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 44.

MUELLER COPPER TUBE PRODUCTS COMPANY – PA 198 TAX ABATEMENT:

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, Community Development Director Vicki Georgeau explained the tax abatement process and provided review of the application materials presented in the City Council Agenda Packet. She explained that normal City Council Policy is a tax abatement for six (6) years for real property and three (3) years for personal property; however, since the property at 6700 Sprinkle Road has been vacant since January, 2011, she indicated that Mueller Copper Tube Products Company is eligible for a 5-year tax abatement request for both real and personal property with the option of coming back after three years for an evaluation of a request for an extra three years. Discussion followed. Mayor Strazdas opened the public hearing to discussion and comment from the public. There being no discussion, motion by Sackley, seconded by Reid, to close the public hearing. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Motion by Sackley, seconded by Urban, to adopt Resolution No. 4-12, approving the Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for the Mueller Copper Tube Products Company at 6700 Sprinkle Road for five years on the real property and personal property in the total amount of \$26.5 million; and approve the tax abatement agreement and the affidavit between the City of Portage and Mueller Copper Tube Products Company. Discussion followed. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 449 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 44.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: At the request of Fred Walter, 1010 Forest Drive, motion by Reid, seconded by Randall, to direct the City Manager to write a letter from the City Council to the Little League, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, in support of the Little League Softball World Series Championship being hosted by South Portage Little League.

Former Betty Lee Ongley read a letter as Chair of the Portage District Library Board recognizing the efforts of City Council, the City Manager and the Administration concerning economic growth in the region, a review of the library services offered by the District Library and their concerns regarding the creation and utilization of Industrial Development Districts and related tax abatements.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

* **MAJOR STREET RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve the substitution of the Angling Road (West Centre Avenue to Squire Heath Lane) and Romence Road Parkway (Lovers Lane to Portage Road) projects for the Portage Road (East Milham Avenue to Byrd Drive) and Oakland Drive (I-94 to Kilgore Road) projects in the 2011-2014 Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) Transportation Improvement Program. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

* **CITY OF PORTAGE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IDEAS:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to affirm additional events and activities to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the City of Portage as presented herein. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

* **TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF THE 2012 CLASS C LICENSED BUSINESS FROM DSV ENTERTAINMENT, LLC, TO STELLANT, LLC:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to grant the request to transfer ownership of the 2012 Class C Licensed Business with Dance and Entertainment Permits located at 3750 East Kilgore Road, Portage, MI 49002, Kalamazoo County (The Venue), from DSV Entertainment, LLC, to Stellant, LLC. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

* **UPGRADE OF THE 2000 TAVERN LICENSED BUSINESS (PIZZA HUT) TO CLASS C:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to grant the request for an upgrade of the 2000 Tavern licensed business, located at 6300 South Westnedge (Pizza Hut), Portage, MI 49002, Kalamazoo County to Class C Liquor License. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

* **MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL ATTORNEYS:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to receive the communication from the City Manager regarding the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys as information only. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

* **SEPTEMBER 2012 SUMMARY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY REPORT – INFORMATION ONLY:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to receive the communication from the City Manager regarding the September 2012 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

* **DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to receive the Department Monthly Reports from the various city departments. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

COMMUNICATIONS:

LINDA TEETER, CHAIRPERSON OF THE KALAMAZOO COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY: City Council received a verbal communication from Linda Teeter, Chairperson of the Kalamazoo County Transit Authority, who provided a brief update on regional public transit efforts.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE - VOLUNTEERING IN THE CITY OF PORTAGE: Mayor Strazdas explained the request to make it easier to volunteer for various activities and departments through the City of Portage website. After discussion, motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to direct the City Manager to modify the city website to provide a convenient link to volunteer opportunities within the City of Portage. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0

* **MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** City Council received the minutes for the following boards and commissions:

Portage Historic District Commission of September 5, 2012.
Portage Park Board of September 5, 2012.
Portage Youth Advisory Committee of September 10, 2012.
Portage Zoning Board of Appeals of September 10, 2012.
Portage Environmental Board of September 12, 2012.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT:

2012-2013 GOALS FOR ADVISORY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Councilmember Pearson reviewed some of the document changes. Motion by Randall, seconded by Reid, to adopt the 2012-2013 Advisory Boards and Commissions Goals and Objectives. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS:

* **APPOINTMENTS TO INVESTMENT COMMITTEE:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to appoint James Novaria and Steven Kreider with terms ending October 1, 2015, to the Investment Committee. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

BID TABULATIONS:

* **VEHICLE PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve the purchase of two four-wheel drive one-half ton pickup trucks, one two-wheel drive one ton pickup truck, two 7400 tandem axle dump/plow trucks, and one four-wheel drive three-quarter ton Fire Command vehicle through the State of Michigan Purchasing Program (MiDEAL) at a total cost not to exceed \$460,757 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to these purchases on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

* **AT&T SERVICES MASTER CONTRACT AGREEMENT:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve the AT&T Master Contract Agreement for the continuation of telecommunication services through October 2015 in the annual amount of \$59,000 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this agreement on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

OTHER CITY MATTERS:

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL: Councilmember Pearson extended congratulations to City Attorney Randy Brown for his reelection to President of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys (MAMA) and City Council and Mayor Strazdas concurred and gave him a round of applause.

Councilmember Sackley reminded everyone to vote in the Presidential Election, Tuesday, November 6, 2012.

Mayor Pro Tem Reid announced that the Michigan Occupational Therapists are meeting in Kalamazoo this weekend with the assistance of Western Michigan University and the Occupational Therapist Program.

Mayor Strazdas recounted the highlights of the meeting citing the reelection of City Attorney Brown as President of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, Red Ribbon Week, Boy Scouts helping with the Pledge of Allegiance, the proposed new website addition for city volunteers and the \$26.5 million investment by Mueller Copper Tube Products Company. He then thanked the City Council for all they do for the community.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

James R. Hudson, City Clerk

*Indicates items included on the Consent Agenda.