

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

February 14, 2012

STUDENT MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBER FOR THE DAY

- ◆ City Clerk James Hudson swore in the Student Mayor and Councilmembers for the Day.

CHECK REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Check Register of February 14, 2012, as presented.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Accepted the amendment to Section 38-35 of Chapter 38, Historic Preservation, of the Code of Ordinances for first reading and set a second reading with final adoption for February 28, 2012.
- ◆ Accepted the Tentative Plan Amendment for The Homestead Planned Development and set a public hearing for March 13, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard; following the public hearing, consider approving the Tentative Plan Amendment for The Homestead Planned Development, 3821 West Milham Avenue, subject to the conditions outlined in the January 13, 2012 Department of Community Development report; and following action on the Tentative Plan Amendment, consider approving the Final Plan for the three McGillicuddy Lane land divisions.
- ◆ Approved the Final Plan for Oakland Hills Condominiums (Phase III), subject to the applicant reconfirming the wetland boundary with concurrence from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, before issuance of building permits for those units located adjacent to the wetland area.
- ◆ Adopted the Resolution Authorizing Refunding of the City of Portage Downtown Development Authority Bonds, Series 2001 and approved the Undertaking to Provide Continuing Disclosure.
- ◆ Authorized execution of a license agreement with the Austin Lake Governmental Lake Board for temporary placement of aeration equipment and authorized the City Manager to sign all documents related to this matter on behalf of the city subsequent to confirmation of the special assessment roll by the Austin Lake Governmental Lake Board.
- ◆ Approved the Human Services Board proposal for human service public education.
- ◆ Approved a request from Hyland Associates, LLC, allowing for an additional 90-day time period for City Council action on a preliminary plat.
- ◆ Authorized repairs to the 2007 Elgin Whirlwind street sweeper by Bell Equipment Company at a total cost not to exceed \$25,122.39 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to these repairs on behalf of the city.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ◆ Received the presentation by Mayor Pro Tem Claudette Reid regarding the recent activity of the Housing and Neighborhoods Committee and the Community Survey Committee and deferred to Councilmember Urban, who provided a review of the activities of the Fees (Transparency and Fairness) Committee. Councilmember Sackley commented on some of the possible future directions available to the Community Survey that were discussed.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ State House of Representative Margaret O'Brien discussed the Proposed Budget set for two years by Governor Snyder stating that it was the first time more was paid on debt retirement than required. She commented on the commitment to increase the Rainy Day Fund, on the \$45 million for public safety, on the Governor's concern for the poorest cities and on best practices to ensure economic vitality. She said that there was no infrastructure in the budget and that the County would be receiving statutory revenue sharing. She recognized that the housing market is flat and, in the last five years, the State has lost 700,000 jobs.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas and Councilmember Sackley recognized Celia Overlander, wife of former Mayor Don Overlander.

STATEMENTS OF STUDENT MAYOR AND STUDENT CITY COUNCIL FOR THE DAY

- ◆ At the request of Mayor Strazdas, the Student Mayor, the Student Councilmembers and Faculty Advisor Rick Searing expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the Student Council and Mayor for the Day Program. At the request of Mayor Strazdas, each Student Councilmember and the Student Mayor indicated what they learned during their Special Meeting with Mayor and City Council.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Mayor and City Council expressed their appreciation to the students who participated in the Student Council and Mayor for the Day Program and the Faculty Advisors for their efforts with the Program.
- ◆ Councilmember Pearson congratulated the Streets & Equipment Department for winning the Friends of Bicycling Award for the needed improvements to the bike paths.
- ◆ Councilmember Sackley indicated that a person never knows what is going to be the catalyst to get someone interested in government and cited Don Overlander for getting him involved and expressed his appreciation to the students who participated in the Student Council and Mayor for the Day Program and the Faculty Advisors for their efforts with the Program.

- ◆ Councilmember Urban apologized for missing the discussion of the need for separate football fields for the high schools, concurred with the comments of Councilmember Sackley regarding our students in the community and expressed his personal appreciation to them.
- ◆ City Manager Evans indicated that the following is posted on the City of Portage website at www.portagemi.gov: that the City of Portage Office of the City Assessor will host two Property Assessment Forums on Monday, March 5 and Wednesday, March 7 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Portage City Hall (7900 South Westnedge Avenue) in City Council Chambers; and, each forum will include an explanation of the assessment process, the assessment change notice, poverty exemption requirements and the Board of Review and Michigan Tax Tribunal appeal processes. He also indicated that the property owner who disagrees with their property value can meet with the Board of Review, Tuesday, March 13 through Thursday March 15, 2012.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Reid highlighted the Human Services Board Human Service Public Educational Proposal Plan on the Consent Agenda, and announced a Chile Cook-off for the benefit of MYCOPS at The Hangar Bar and Grill on West Main in Kalamazoo, Saturday, from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas announced that the Kalamazoo Public Safety Department won the Battle of the Badges Hockey Game this year and \$5,000 was raised, took this moment to express his appreciation to the students who participated in the Student Council and Mayor for the Day Program and highlighted three construction projects: The Homestead, Oakland Hills Condominiums Phase III and the Preliminary Plat of Oakland Farms. Mayor Strazdas asked each Councilmember to present a Certificate of Participation to each of the Student Councilmembers for the Day and he presented one to the Student Mayor for the Day.

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