

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

February 28, 2012

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Check Register of February 28, 2012, as presented.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Approved Contract 12-5028 between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of Portage concerning funding for street improvements on West Centre Avenue, Oakland Drive to Shaver Road; approved an engineering services contract with Wightman Jones, Incorporated, for construction inspection and administration of street improvements on West Centre Avenue, Oakland Drive to Shaver Road, in the not to exceed amount of \$92,500; adopted a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign Contract 12-5028; and authorized the City Manager to sign all other documents related to the Michigan Department of Transportation and consultant contracts for this project on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved a resolution setting a public hearing on the vacation of a portion of 7130 South Westnedge Avenue, placed the resolution on file with the City Clerk for 28 days and take final action on March 27, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved a one-year agreement for comprehensive liability, property and auto fleet insurance through the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority at a total not to exceed cost of \$433,977 for the period of March 1, 2012, to March 1, 2013, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the action on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Adopted the Resolution to Approve Dispatch Collaboration and Acceptance of Michigan Department of Treasury Funding.
- ◆ Authorized the City Administration to solicit proposals from interested parties regarding liquor license availability with a response due date of May 11, 2012; to correspond with applicants concerning the time schedule, application and ordinance requirements for liquor licenses; and to review all liquor license applications in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 6 of the Codified Ordinances and provide information for consideration by Council in June 2012.
- ◆ Authorized the City Administration to execute the *Digital Parcel Data Sharing Agreement* for Public Safety Dispatching with the City of Kalamazoo.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the Downtown Development Authority Annual Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the January 2012 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Department Monthly Reports from the various city departments.

COMMUNICATIONS

- ◆ Received the communication from the United States Postal Service regarding the consolidation of mail processing operations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ Accepted the amendment to Section 38-35 of Chapter 38, Historic Preservation, of the Code of Ordinances for second reading and final adoption.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

- ◆ Councilmember Randall provided a review of the goal-setting session for the Small Business Committee, including discussion of a plan for focus groups and the idea of creating a design of an on-line survey for small businesses. She expressed an interest in the Urban Land Institute Seminar information to enable the City of Portage to transition from a city that is business ready to a city that is business friendly. She also mentioned the plan to sponsor a tax forum for small businesses hosted by Kalamazoo County Commission Chair Dave Maturen, Thursday, March 8, 2012, 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. that would cover how assessments are arrived at and the steps to take to appeal assessments by the City of Portage. Councilmember Pearson discussed the idea of focus groups for small businesses. Councilmember Campbell indicated that the tax forum is a great opportunity for local businesses and expressed her appreciation to Councilmember Randall for her leadership. After discussion, City Council supported a March 8 forum in City Council Chambers - a KGAR like forum from different disciplines to meet and talk to business in Portage and anyone else who would like to attend the forum.

BID TABULATIONS

- ◆ Approved the purchase of one HP StorageWorks P4300 G2 MDL SAS Starter SAN Solution hard drive array with three-year extended service at a cost of \$22,146 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this purchase on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved a sole-source provider bid from Aggressive Industries in the amount of \$11,250 for supply and delivery of SuperDeck materials for improvements to the Bishop's Bog Preserve trail and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas thanked Boy Scout Troop 244 for their assistance with the Pledge of Allegiance and for attending the meeting.
- ◆ Councilmember Randall reviewed the dates and times of the March Board of Review as found in the *Portager*, offered that the March Board of Review can be extended if needed and that days can be added.
- ◆ Councilmember Pearson said that the Consumer Confidence Index is up from 61.5 points to 70.8 points, higher than it has been in a year on the national level, and in Portage, there is the Rock Church Grand Opening, the Post Community Credit

Union and the Horizon Bank openings. He also mentioned the three construction projects from the February 14, 2012 Agenda and a lot of things going through the Planning Commission.

- ◆ Councilmember Campbell invited the public to visit the new Horizon Bank when it opens on Monday.
- ◆ Councilmember Sackley indicated that he and Mayor Strazdas met at a Southwest Michigan First sponsored meeting to discuss the continuation and progress of the transition agenda, the development of the plan and encouraged participation. He also discussed the progress of the Austin Lake Governmental Lake Board Aeration Bioaugmentation project and indicated that the Assessment Roll was certified last Wednesday and publication in the *Kalamazoo Gazette* will take place this Wednesday and Thursday. He said the application has been filed with Department of Environmental Quality for installation and start of the project and on February 14, 2012, City Council approved license that will allow the location of one of the compressor stations to be installed on city property. He indicated that periodic reports will follow and special assessment bills will be mailed August 1, 2012.
- ◆ City Manager Evans extended congratulations to Chief Information Officer/Information Technology Services Director Devin Mackinder for receiving a transparency award for the city website by scoring an A+ rating and placing us in the top 4% of the country by the Sunshine Review Organization. He also congratulated Mr. Mackinder for the Apex Award for Publication Excellence and the AVA Gold Award for Design.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Reid indicated that at a Transportation Forum organized by House of Representatives Margaret O'Brien, there was discussion of the pro's and con's of the funding options for deteriorating roads owing to a reduction of revenue since less gas tax is being collected because of the gas efficiency of cars being sold today. She also mentioned that the Head Start Program has been required to be bid and the Kalamazoo County Commission will decide whether the Community Action Agency will place a bid on the Program. She also complimented the new Waylee facility where she attended a recent Public Media Network Committee meeting.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas thanked each Councilmember for their time, level of engagement and their work on each of their respective committees. He indicated that the city is 12 to 18 months behind full recovery, and stressed it is important to think regionally and act locally for Portage citizens.

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.