

# City Council Meeting Summary

March 26, 2013

## PROCLAMATION

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas issued a Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation.

## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Accounts Payable Register of March 26, 2013, as presented.

## REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Approved the Final Plan for Sterling Oaks West (Phase II) Planned Development, 1001 Gulfport Trail, subject to the maximum number of residential units be limited to 30 until a second means of ingress and egress is provided in accordance with the International Fire Code.
- ◆ Established a public hearing for April 23, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard, to consider resolutions to adopt the recommendation that the sewer commodity rate be reduced from \$4.81 to \$4.70 per 1,000 gallons of metered water; adopt the recommendation that the water commodity rate remain at \$3.19 per 1,000 gallons of metered water; adopt the recommendation that adjustments be made to both the sewer and water base quarterly charges; eliminate the current Senior Citizen Discount Program effective October 1, 2013; adopt the recommendation that the new rates become effective on October 1, 2013, (or on January 1, 2014, if City Council chooses to implement a low income affordability program); and adopt the recommended water and sewer franchise area fees and other service fees and charges as outlined in the 2013 Utility Rate Financial Study.
- ◆ Adopted a resolution to relinquish 89.15 feet of an existing water main easement located on the west side of the existing Mueller Refrigeration building, replaced with a new water main easement for the portion of the vacated water main, placed the resolution on file with the City Clerk for 28 days with final action on April 23, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard; and authorized the City Manager to sign the License Agreement to Locate Signs in City Utility Easement.
- ◆ Approved a one-year agreement for comprehensive liability, property and auto fleet insurance through the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) at a total not to exceed cost of \$443,253 for the period of March 1, 2013 to March 1, 2014, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the action on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Resolved to submit applications to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) for a Special License for the sale of beer and wine for consumption on the premises at Portage Central Park, 7800 Shaver Road, for The Taste of Portage on June 22, 2013, and the *Your Generation in Concert* on July 13, 2013, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Adopted the Resolution to Accept Payments on Certain City Fees and Charges by Financial Transaction Devices to allow the use of credit card services for recreation and cultural programs.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the February 2013 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Department Monthly Reports.

## COMMUNICATIONS

- ◆ Received a presentation by Kalamazoo County Transit Authority (KCTA) Chairperson Linda Teeter and KCTA Executive Director Sean McBride.

## BID TABULATIONS

- ◆ Awarded a construction contract for the South 12th Street Sanitary Sewer Lift Station Improvements to B & Z Company, Incorporated, in the not to exceed amount of \$253,777.32 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.

## STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL

- ◆ Councilmember Sackley provided an update of Mayor Pro Tem Reid's, Don Ramlow's and his service on the Public Media Network (PMN) Board. Discussion followed.
- ◆ Councilmember Randall reminded everyone that Portage Public Schools start Spring Break at noon, Wednesday, March 27, and asked that everyone be watchful of children walking, playing or biking. She also wished everyone traveling over Easter Break to have a safe journey and she extended a "Happy Easter" to all.
- ◆ Councilmember Pearson announced that an Engineering Company has returned after serving ten months in Afghanistan, and the public is invited to a celebration, Thursday, 3:30 p.m. at the Western Michigan University Read Field House to welcome home our local soldiers.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Reid recognized Director of Technology Services and Community Marketing Devin Mackinder and thanked him and his staff for receiving the Sunshine Award for transparency and openness in website design for the second year in a row. She indicated that Mr. Mackinder and his staff are constantly looking for new ways to put the information "out there" so the public can have access to it. She marveled at the increase in information that is now accessible to the public since she became a Councilmember. She then extended a "Happy Easter" to all.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas indicated that some of the soldiers mentioned by Councilmember Pearson who are coming back from Afghanistan are from Portage and have gone to Portage Northern High School or Portage Central High School. He indicated that they will be invited to a City Council meeting in the near future to be recognized, thanked and welcomed home as heroes. Mayor Strazdas announced that Bicycle Week is upcoming and mentioned his plan that Portage City Council and Kalamazoo City Commission have a bike rally together as Portage is a "Natural Place to Move." He wished everyone a safe, enjoyable and happy vacation.

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**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.**