

# City Council Meeting Summary

July 9, 2013

## PROCLAMATION

- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Reid issued a Firefighters Fill the Boot Days for Muscular Dystrophy Proclamation..

## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Accounts Payable Register of July 9, 2013, as presented.

## PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ Board of Review Member William Brandt, 1825 Tamfield Avenue, indicated that he was not informed that the rest of the members were coming to speak at the June 25, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting, indicated that he could not concur with everything that was said at the meeting by all of the other Board of Review Members, but did agree that the notice of assessment changes were sent out to the residents late, that sending them out earlier would give citizens a better chance to prepare for an appeal before the Board, and he agreed with the perceptions of the Board that they were being publicly criticized at the City Council meetings.

## REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Approved the Fiscal Year 2013-14 Community Development Block Grant Fund contracts; General Fund human/public services contracts; and, authorized the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Supported the request from Wiitanen Enterprises, Inc., to transfer location of the Resort Class C Liquor License with Sunday Sales Permit (PM), Entertainment Permit, Outdoor Service (1 Area), Specific Purpose Permit (Food) and (2) Bars, issued under MCL 436.1531(2) to the newly constructed building at 9136 Shaver Road, Portage, MI 49002, Kalamazoo County (Mulligan's Grill and Sports Bar), from the razed building at the same address.
- ◆ Convened a closed session to discuss a personnel matter immediately following the regularly scheduled meeting of July 9, 2013.

## UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ Adopted the proposed amendment to the City of Portage Code of Ordinances by adding Article 9, Midwest Energy Cooperative Franchise to Chapter 14, Business, Sections 14-192 through 14-202.
- ◆ Sent the ordinance back to the Administration and the City Attorney to draft an ordinance that allows for a permit similar to the bonfire permit that allows for fireworks on other days than those mandated by the State Law for future consideration by City Council.

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

- ◆ Received a presentation from the Pre-Qualified Sites Committee regarding recent activity from Councilmember Randall.

## BID TABULATIONS

- ◆ Approved a contract with Michigan Paving & Materials Company for the 2013 Local Street Reconstruction Program in the not-to-exceed amount of \$559,555.77; a contract amendment with Jones & Henry Engineers, Ltd., for construction administration and material testing for the 2013 Local Street Reconstruction Program in the not-to-exceed amount of \$53,610.00; and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved a contract with Michigan Paving & Materials Company to provide asphalt surface repairs to isolated sections of major and local streets in the not-to-exceed amount of \$210,150.55; the added expenditure of \$142,266.30 for additional mill and fill repairs at unit pricing within this contract; and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this contract on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved the proposal submitted by Paradigm Design, Incorporated, to complete building infrastructure reviews for twelve city facilities in the amount of \$24,000 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city.

## COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

- ◆ Awarded a 2.5% increase in City Manager Maurice Evans' base salary and a \$5,000 one-time bonus.
- ◆ Approved the recommendations to the City Manager Employment Agreement from the City Manager Salary Review/Evaluation Committee.

## STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL

- ◆ Councilmember Sackley indicated that he provided an e-mail from Laura Tupper, 9516 East Shore Drive, spoke in opposition to fireworks to City Clerk James Hudson and City Manager Maurice Evans for distribution to the rest of City Council for later discussion. He expressed concerns with the Fill the Boot Campaign for Muscular Dystrophy as it creates an unsafe situation for motorists and pedestrians at key intersections in the City. He indicated he supports the charity, praised the firefighters for their years of efforts and the millions of dollars raised by them. He emphasized that he supports the cause, but not the method of collection owing to safety concerns and shows a poor example to children. He cited that Public Safety Officers have restricted this method for other organizations, explained and gave examples.
- ◆ Councilmember Urban concurred with Councilmember Sackley and explained. He said he and his family enjoyed the Portage Fireworks Display on July 4<sup>th</sup> and praised The Rotary for providing them and Councilmembers Campbell and Pearson for their direct efforts in the Program. He did voice a concern for traffic control and egress following the fireworks with the new fence that was installed significantly limited the number of exits for patrons and explained.

- ◆ Councilmember Randall invited everyone to the Eliason Nature Reserve Trail Dedication, Tuesday, July 16, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., 9501 Shaver Road with parking at the end of Industrial Drive off of West Melody.
- ◆ Councilmember Pearson mentioned great turn-out for the Fireworks Display on July 4<sup>th</sup> put on by the Portage Rotary, pointed out that the donations at the gate are used solely for Fireworks purposes and asked for donations to keep coming.
- ◆ City Manager Evans assured City Council that he and Public Safety Director White would be discussing alternatives to the current method of collecting donations for the Fill the Boot Campaign for Muscular Dystrophy. Also, he indicated that he had already sent out an e-mail regarding the concerns expressed by Councilmember Urban regarding the exit issues at McCamley Field after the Fireworks Demonstration. He thanked each City Councilmember for the wage increase, the positive review and the adjustments in his employment agreement.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Reid indicated that at the June 25, 2013 City Council Meeting, many fervent statements were made by the Board of Review Members as well as Councilmembers Randall and Pearson and, as a result, is looking forward to the August 13, 2013 Regular City Council Meeting and the discussion regarding the Board of Review. She then expressed her concern that the bidding process could have been compromised for outsourcing any segment of the assessing process because of a comment by Councilmember Randall at the June 25, 2013 Council Meeting where she addressed the sale of the property on Osterhout using the sale approach determination process as an opportunity to make a plea for City Council to consider outsourcing the Assessing Department. She then praised a specific company stating, "WCA is an excellent company. Kalamazoo is using them. Their preliminary bid could save the City over a quarter of a million dollars annually." With that Mayor Pro Tem Reid indicated that she had not received any information about a preliminary bid put out by the City for assessing services and wondered how Councilmember Randall had this information. She investigated and found no request had taken place for a bid or a request for proposal and commented that at the last meeting Councilmember Randall made a very strong point that it is the responsibility of each Councilmember to provide City Council with information to which they had access in order to fully inform everyone. She indicated that she had not received any information about this preliminary bid from WCA. She then said she assumed that Councilmember Randall requested the preliminary bid from WCA on her own. She said she would have called her to check on this, but the last time she called her about a city issue, Councilmember Randall told her not to call her again, so she did not call her. She encouraged all Councilmembers to trust the process and work with all of your colleagues as that is how we can all benefit from a broad range of skills, knowledge and passion found within the members of the Portage City Council. She said that there are reasons that parameters of the bid process are established by *City Charter*, the City Code of Ordinances and the State of Michigan law to prevent unfair practices and poor results, and to provide boundaries for our own personal passions. She asked for a consensus from all of City Council on this.

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