

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 24, 2015

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Strazdas at 7:35 p.m.

Mayor Strazdas provided a short synopsis of the Mayor and City Council for the Day Program and asked City Clerk James Hudson to administer the oath to the students who were elected Student Councilmembers for the Day. Mr. Hudson called forth the students from Portage Northern High School: Wes Hyames, Maycie McGowan and Kyle Vickery, and the students from Portage Central High School: Alicia Abdo, Ben Orwin and Danny Saba, and administered the Oath of Office to them. He then called forth the student who was voted Student Mayor for the Day, Marcus Moore, and administered the Oath of Office to him. The Student Mayor and Student Councilmembers took their seats at the dais.

Mayor Strazdas invited Portage Public Schools Superintendent Mark Bielang and Portage Northern High School Student Council Advisor Rick Searing up to the Podium to make comment. Both Mr. Bielang and Mr. Searing expressed how important it is for students to be engaged in local government, and Mr. Bielang recognized the spirit of cooperation that exists between the City of Portage and Portage Public Schools, expressed pride in the students as capable ambassadors for Portage Public Schools and indicated that it is a real life opportunity for them to experience what they learn in the classroom. Mr. Searing thanked Mayor Strazdas and City Council for the opportunity this provides the students; he noted how it energizes them and instills excitement in them regarding what is going on in Portage; and he indicated that they let everyone know that there are many elected officials and employees who really care about Portage. He also reflected on those students who previously experienced the program and are now in public service. Discussion followed.

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, the City Clerk called the roll of City Council with the following members present: Councilmembers Nasim Ansari, Richard Ford, Patricia M. Randall, Claudette Reid and Terry Urban, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson and Mayor Peter Strazdas. Also in attendance were City Manager Laurence Shaffer, City Attorney Randall Brown and City Clerk James Hudson.

At the request of Student Mayor Marcus Moore, Pastor Joan Herbon of the Lord of Life Lutheran Church gave the invocation and the City Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

At the request of Student Mayor Marcus Moore, the City Clerk called the Student Mayor and Student Councilmembers roll with the following members present: Student Councilmembers Wes Hyames, Maycie McGowan, Kyle Vickery, Alicia Abdo, Ben Orwin and Danny Saba, and Student Mayor Marcus Moore.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Ansari, seconded by Pearson, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2015, as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2015, as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **CONSENT AGENDA:** Student Mayor Moore asked all of the Student Councilmembers to share in the reading of the Consent Agenda. Afterwards, Councilmember Reid asked that Items F.2, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the City of Portage for Improvements Along South Westnedge Avenue from Mall Drive to Dawnlee Avenue, F.4, Brownfield Redevelopment Incentive Policy Update, and F.8, April 14, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting, be removed from the Consent Agenda. She also read Items B, Approval of Consent Agenda Motions, and C, Approval of the Accounts Payable Register of March 24, 2015, as part of the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to approve the Consent Agenda motions as amended. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Strazdas issued a Fair Housing Month Resolution and a Lending Hands of Michigan Month Proclamation.

* **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF MARCH 24, 2015:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of March 24, 2015, as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

* **UTILITY RATE FINANCIAL STUDY:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to establish a public hearing for April 28, 2015, 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 remain at \$4.60 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; adopt the recommendation that the new rates become effective on October 1, 2015; and adopt the recommended water and sewer franchise area fees and other service fees and charges as outlined in the 2015 Utility Rate Financial Study. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (MDOT) IMPROVEMENTS TO SOUTH WESTNEDGE AVENUE FROM MALL DRIVE TO DAWNLEE AVENUE:

Councilmember Reid explained that these renovations on South Westnedge Avenue have a lot of implications for other projects, so she stressed the importance of having a discussion regarding the proposed funding. If approved by City Council, she indicated that a funding request will be presented to the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study Committee (KATS), which manages Federal Funds that come into Kalamazoo County for consideration, and that she and Councilmember Urban will be addressing this request as members of that Committee tomorrow.

Mayor Strazdas asked for an analysis of the matter from City Manager Laurence Shaffer, including the challenges and recommendations involved. Mr. Shaffer indicated that the proposed project was originally estimated by City engineers at \$1.8 million; since that time the City of Portage engaged engineers to perform an estimate and the amount came to \$2.4 million; and, on March 6, 2015, bids were opened and the low bid was just over \$2,803,081 which represents a 14.7% increase over the original estimate, and a \$1.3 million overage when considering a reasonable amount of contingency. He indicated that after careful consideration and collaboration among the City Administration, City Departments, the Executive Director of KATS, Councilmember Reid and Councilmember Urban, the plan for obtaining the balance of the funding is: \$521,000 originally appropriated through KATS for the West Osterhout Avenue Project; a reallocation of \$550,000 from the CIP Budget left over from three projects, two Portage Road Reconstruction projects and a project for redoing Gladys Street and Newport Road; and \$227,000 from the Water Reserve Fund owing to approximately \$800,000 of this Project falling under the Water Reserve. Mr. Shaffer said that the West Osterhout Avenue Project was estimated at \$1.2 million and \$1.4 million was appropriated. He said taking the West Osterhout Avenue Project out of the State Transportation Improvement Program made it less expensive and, upon analyzing of all of the 82 project bids received by MDOT across the state, approximately 50 % of them were lower than a 10% increase; this led him to believe that in a project that is not as complicated as the South Westnedge Avenue Project, has far less traffic control issues, and none of the issues associated with maintaining the business profile on South Westnedge Avenue, he can be confident that we are going to have a good opportunity to receive a much more positive reaction when we go out to bid on the West Osterhout Avenue Project. He explained that the City has 49 days to accept this bid

and, if the bid is rejected, the City risks losing the \$800,000 that had been appropriated. He indicated that this gets the South Westnedge Avenue Project done without postponing the West Osterhout Avenue Project. Discussion followed.

In light of these facts, Mayor Strazdas stressed the importance of the projects and asked when would the West Osterhout Avenue Project commence, and Mr. Shaffer indicated that there is no intention of delaying the West Osterhout Avenue Project, bids will be let and those bids will be submitted to Council; furthermore, if the bids prove to be over the estimate, the Administration will submit a plan as part of the consideration for approval. Discussion followed. In response to Mayor Strazdas, Mr. Shaffer indicated that there is \$2.4 million in the Water Reserve Fund and, minus encumbrances and appropriations, there would be \$2.18 million remaining which would not affect the operating budget.

Councilmember Urban asked whether the motion should include a conditional approval for KATS. City Attorney Randy Brown indicated that the City Council can place a condition on the approval, and indicated that it would not be required in this case because "if there is not enough money, then it's not going to happen." Mr. Shaffer responded that in the event KATS does not approve the transfer of the \$521,000 from the West Osterhout Avenue Project to the South Westnedge Avenue Project, the Administration would ask for a discussion of an additional appropriation or a bonding alternative at the next Regular City Council Meeting. Councilmember Urban indicated that he did not anticipate that KATS would not approve the transfer, but the matter has not had time to be presented and considered by the Technical Committee before it is presented to the Policy committee. He also noted that the matter has been conveyed to them and he is not aware of any objections thus far; however, since it is going directly to the Policy committee, it is a unique situation as this is the only time this has happened in the past thirteen years of his service on the Policy Committee.

Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve Contract 15-5048 between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of Portage for improvements along South Westnedge Avenue from Mall Drive to Dawnlee Avenue; adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign Contract 15-5048, and authorize the City Manager to sign all other documents related to this project on behalf of the city. Councilmember Ford asked for a clarification, and Mr. Shaffer indicated that he did conflate \$4.22 million in the Water Reserve Fund when he indicated that it only had \$2.4 million, but the remainder of \$2.189 million after encumbrances and appropriations is accurate. He thanked Councilmember Ford for pointing this out. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 423 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 45.

*** LEXINGTON GREEN DRAIN #319 EASEMENT VACATION AND WORK AGREEMENTS:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to adopt a resolution setting a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard, to deed the easement rights located in Lexington Green, Lexington Green No.1 and Lexington Green No. 3 plats, to the Lexington Green Drain #319 Drainage District, place the resolution on file with the City Clerk for 28 days and take final action on April 28, 2015; a resolution to grant an easement to the Lexington Green Drain #319 Drainage District on city-owned property for the construction, operation and maintenance of storm drainage facilities located at 6775 Quality Way, 6401 Corporate Avenue and 4550 Quality Court, approve a license agreement to perform drainage work in Lexington Green Park, and place the resolution on file with the City Clerk for 28 days and take final action on April 28, 2015; a resolution to transfer jurisdiction and ongoing maintenance of the storm drainage systems in Commercial Avenue, Environmental Drive, Quality Way, Quality Court, as well as drain crossings at Meredith Street and Bishop Avenue, place the resolution on file with the City Clerk for 28 days and take final action on April 28, 2015, and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the above resolutions on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolutions recorded on pages 425, 433 and 443 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 45.

BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE POLICY UPDATE: Mayor Strazdas deferred to Councilmember Reid, who indicated that this is the first time Council has had a chance to review the proposed changes to the Brownfield Redevelopment Incentive Policy, that the last Brownfield approved by Council was in 2013 and, because there is so little Brownfield activity, she asked for more time for Council to review and discuss this matter. She expressed her concern that the Policy ties the Brownfield Redevelopment to 100 or more new jobs with a median annual salary above 80% of the Kalamazoo County Area Median Income for a single-person household; or 50 new jobs, all of which have an annual salary above 80% of the Kalamazoo County Area Median Income for a single-person household. She indicated that this language is very similar to the recent changes in the language in the PA 198 Tax Abatement Policy, recognized the need for this language in the PA 198 Tax Abatement Policy, but distinguished the Brownfield Redevelopment mechanism from the PA 198 Tax Abatement mechanism. She did not question the appropriateness of the language, but asked for more information and a discussion of the matter. She also expressed concern with the addition of the “functionally obsolete” language and asked for a clarification if this means a “functionally obsolete” use or if “functionally obsolete” stands alone and provided the example of whether a building that makes hinges that is being converted to making artificial hips is obsolete owing to the retrofit changes since it could easily be adapted and used as another hinge manufacturer. She requested that the matter be tabled until the next Committee of the Whole Meeting (Item F.8) and be added at that meeting for discussion. Mr. Shaffer advocated making the Policy looser in order to get more people into the program, and explained that “functional obsolescence” is an appraisal term and runs with the property, not with the use of the property, so the test is whether or not the property can still accommodate the original use, and the cost of conversion has to be higher than the cost to build new. Discussion followed. In response to Councilmember Reid, Mr. Brown indicated that he understood her proposal is to postpone discussion until the April 14, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting for discussion and to table the matter until a Regular City Council Meeting for a decision because a decision cannot be made at a Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting. Discussion followed.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Urban, to postpone the Brownfield Redevelopment Incentive Policy approval, and a separate motion to modify the agenda for the April 14, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting to reflect this under Item F.8. At the suggestion of City Attorney Brown, motion by Reid, seconded by Urban, to table the Brownfield Redevelopment Incentive Policy approval decision and to add approval of the Brownfield Redevelopment Incentive Policy on the April 14, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting for discussion.

In response to Mayor Pro Tem Pearson, Councilmember Reid indicated that she wanted to get some information about general Brownfield Policy and whether it is appropriate for Brownfield Policy to tie the Brownfield Redevelopment, where the focus is on environmental concerns, to 100 or more new jobs with a median annual salary above 80% of the Kalamazoo County Area Median Income for a single-person household; or 50 new jobs, all of which have an annual salary above 80% of the Kalamazoo County Area Median Income for a single-person household owing to the fact that Brownfield contemplates environmentally distressed, obsolescence and blight issues in properties, but not particularly tying it to the types and the number of jobs. She expressed her concern that from a Policy standpoint, this will only apply then to large projects, and Portage has some Brownfield issues that are small and used the gas station as an example where 50 jobs would not be generated when that type of property is improved. Discussion followed.

Mayor Strazdas anticipated there would be some issues or questions and asked City Council to get them to Mr. Shaffer by 12 noon, Friday, March 27, 2015, for discussion at the April 14, 2015 Committee of the Whole Meeting and for action later at the Regular Meeting. Discussion followed and Mayor Strazdas asked Mr. Shaffer to find out what are some of the other policies related to job quantities and annual salaries regarding Brownfields in Southwest Michigan or Southern Michigan; and, he asked do they all have equal types of jobs and percentages, or are they working toward this. Mr. Urban asked for an evaluation of how this would have affected past Brownfields as he does not remember one that could have met these requirements and explained giving examples.

At the request of Councilmember Ford, Community Development Director Vicki Georgeau provided a background on the City of Portage Brownfield Redevelopment Policy and said that the Policy is out of date because there have been State Tax Reforms; also, the tax credits are no longer available except through a competitive grant process and the Administration is not sure whether City of Portage projects can be competitive as the grants are focused on central cities. She discussed the proposed extension of the time period for the capture of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funds from five years to up to fifteen years with the fifteen year time period reserved for an applicant who has a project that offers a significant economic benefit, that is transformative and that creates a significant number of jobs. She explained that the State allows TIF capture up to thirty years, that the proposed City of Portage Policy is only half of that, and that the fifteen years is reserved for larger projects.

When Mayor Strazdas asked if this information satisfied the needs expressed by Councilmember Reid, she indicated that it is an appropriate policy to have a thorough discussion on a Policy prior to approval, and asked whether taking a couple of weeks to decide would create a problem for any pending Brownfield applications, and Ms. Georgeau answered it would be okay to take the extra time to review the matter and no applications are pending at this time.

Councilmember Randall asked for a clarification regarding the process of getting more information from staff regarding an agenda item since the packet arrives on Friday and, in the past, Monday was used as a pre-Council meeting with information provided on the dais before the Regular Council Meeting. She advocated a return to the 7:00 a.m. pre-Council meeting on Monday morning as the method of obtaining information regarding items on the agenda. She noted that Council determined at the Council Retreat that the COW would be a useful tool to delve into issues as a whole Council which could not be addressed at a Regular Meeting without going very late at night. She spoke in favor of the COW and emphasized the importance of discussing support of regionalization while focusing on Portage as a topic on April 14 and spoke in opposition to pulling items off of an agenda and placing them on a COW Meeting when the topics of discussion for the Cow Meetings have already been determined as a group at the Council Retreat.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson concurred, noted that the COW Meeting that addressed TIF had little or no discussion, and asked that Council read the information provided by staff, so Council will not have to spend a lot of time on this matter, and be ready to vote on it at the next Regular City Council Meeting on April 14, 2015. He mentioned that there seems to be one particular question to consider regarding this item, and he expressed his wish that the focus of the next COW Meeting be on support of regionalization while focusing on Portage. Discussion followed.

Mayor Strazdas asked that City Council prepare any other questions that were not presented tonight and get them to Mr. Shaffer by 12 noon, Friday, March 27, 2015, for a response that can be discussed at the April 14, 2015 Regular Meeting. He felt that maybe there would be very little discussion once Council receives the responses from the Administration, and this would allow time to focus on the proposed COW Meeting topic. Discussion followed.

At the suggestion of Mayor Strazdas, motion by Reid, supported by Urban, to amend the motion to read to adjourn the discussion of and decision on this matter to the April 14, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting.

Councilmember Reid stressed that anytime a question, a concern or an issue is presented, and a Councilmember feels a need for more discussion, discussing it is not blindsiding the people who have put together the policy. She indicated that Council needs to understand the rationale behind what is going on and what the implications are going to be in order to make good policy. She said that is the primary role of Council and is not an intention in any way to blindside anybody. She expressed the need for more background information on this item and more discussion, in light of this background information, and the importance of the need to address the matter at another meeting with more information in order to make an informed decision. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **KALAMAZOO COUNTY BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT PLAN (4460 COMMERCIAL DRIVE):** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to adopt the resolution of support

for the Kalamazoo County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Brownfield Redevelopment Plan for 4460 Commercial Drive for tax capture in the maximum amount of \$100,634 over a period of up to 20 years (including five years for the Local Site Remediation Revolving Fund) or when eligible activities have been fully reimbursed, whichever occurs first. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 459 of City of Portage Book No. 45.

* **ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #14/15-A, AUTO REPAIR AND VEHICLE FUELING STATION REGULATIONS:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to accept Ordinance Amendment #14/15-A for first reading and set a public hearing for April 28, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard and, subsequent to the public hearing, approve Ordinance Amendment #14/15-A, Auto Repair and Vehicle Fueling Station Regulations. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **EQUIPMENT PURCHASE RECOMMENDATION:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to approve the purchase of a 2015 Elgin Street Sweeper, through the State of Michigan purchasing program (MiDEAL) at a purchase price of \$146,207 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 7 to 0.

APRIL 14, 2015 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING: There being no discussion, motion by Reid, seconded by Randall, to set a Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting for Tuesday, April 14, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room No. 1 to discuss supporting regionalization while focusing on Portage. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **ELECTION POLLING PLACES AND RATE OF COMPENSATION RESOLUTION:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to adopt the Resolution Designating Polling Places and Rate of Compensation for the May 5, 2015 Special Election. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 457 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 45.

* **SALE OF CITY PROPERTY (10323 ARCHWOOD DRIVE UPDATE):** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to receive the communication from the City Manager regarding the sale of city property (10323 Archwood Drive update) as information only. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **FEBRUARY 2015 SUMMARY ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVITY REPORT:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to receive the communication from the City Manager regarding the February 2015 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORTS:** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to receive the Department Monthly Reports. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

COMMUNICATIONS:

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD SECRETARY TIM WINSLOW: Mayor Strazdas welcomed the following members of the Environmental Board: Catherine Niessink, Ruth Caputo, Tim Winslow, David Mayfield, Spencer Welling and the spokesperson, Bill Beck. Mr. Beck spoke about the future of recycling in Portage and the recommendation by the Environmental Board to move to modern single-stream recycling. He provided some of the many reasons to recycle and asked the question should waste go to the landfill or to the market. He mentioned that single-stream recycling makes it easier because of the larger container, no separation is required, enhanced instructions right on the

container, increased participation City-wide availability. He noted that there is reduced environmental impact with bi-weekly pick-up and a reduced trash volume. He indicated that there is a momentum throughout the state with Governor Snyder interested in recycling, plus state resources available, and a critical mass in the market place gives a better return on investment. He said that the downside is the aesthetics with a larger container, but he countered that with a complaint about the appearance of orange totes that cost more than a more subdued color. He indicated that a one-time investment would be necessary, but argued that an efficient, effective, robust program should realize some payback. He expressed the realization that the compliance issue would be a human nature issue because some people simply will not comply; however, he indicated that, through education, information regarding the benefits to the City and the environment of the City should mitigate this issue. He cited the momentum across the State with Kent County, Holland, Ann Arbor, Kalamazoo Township and many others participating with the City of Kalamazoo currently looking into it. He offered the services of the Environmental Board by education, research to aid further development of the program, recruiting advocates and coordinating synergistic events and programs.

Mayor Strazdas thanked Bill for his presentation. Environmental Board Chair Ruth Caputo read a *Resolution in Support of Single-Stream Recycling* into the record and provided a copy to each Councilmember. Mayor Strazdas spoke in support of Single-Stream Recycling and explained there are details that have to be addressed.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson spoke in support and expressed the need for a study and the support of staff for this effort. Discussion followed. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ford, to accept the unanimous Environmental Board Resolution on Single-Stream Recycling, reissue the original Moorsbridge Single-Stream Recycling Pilot results to all Councilmembers, ask the City Manager to make a recommendation to Council regarding the Environmental Board recommendation regarding Single-Stream Recycling, and receive the report from Environmental Board Member Bill Beck regarding Single-Stream Recycling, including the Resolution adopted by the Environmental Board.

Councilmember Randall said she recently returned from Costa Rica, extolled the cleanliness of Costa Rica, everywhere they went, and mentioned that the guide indicated that this is made possible by educating their children. She asked Ms. Caputo if the Board has ever worked with the schools with recycling and Ms. Caputo indicated that there are programs offered by the waste haulers; that the Board has looked into help the schools with recycling; and, that they are constantly trying to get the apartment complexes included in the program. Councilmember Randall encouraged the Board to get involved with this and discussion followed.

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Ms. Caputo thanked City Council support for the Environmental Board's first prescribed burn successfully performed earlier this afternoon with no untoward incidences. Discussion followed.

* **MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** City Council received the minutes of the following Boards and Commissions:

Portage Human Services Board of February 5, 2015.

Portage Youth Advisory Committee of February 9, 2015.

Portage Planning Commission of March 5, 2015.

Portage Brownfield Development Authority Draft of March 11, 2015.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CENTRAL COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY (CCTA): Councilmember Urban indicated that last Friday, the CCTA met with the Kalamazoo County Transit Authority (KCTA) and the Metro Transit Authority Board of Kalamazoo (TAB) to finalize ballot language and the millage request for the Central County Transit Authority millage, and that this will in effect combine TAB and the other transit services in the County under the Authority of the County. He noted that there was still some

discussion and debate on the millage level; that the millage request was set for 0.75 mills for five (5) years; and the millage will be a question on the ballot for the August 4, 2015 Special Election. He also said that a Campaign Committee is being formed and will meet for the first time next week to help citizens become informed with what this means for the County.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson indicated that the CCTA is independent of the City Council and expressed his appreciation for the support of City Council and the people at the public hearing as all are looking to the future and the interest of young people in a viable transit system.

Motion by Ford, second by Ansari, to receive the report from Councilmember Urban and Mayor Pro Tem Pearson regarding the Central County Transit Authority. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

BID TABULATION:

* **STORMWATER, ASSET MANAGEMENT, AND WASTEWATER PROGRAM (SAW GRANT):** Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to award an engineering contract for the Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater Program (SAW) to Hurley & Stewart, LLC, in the amount not to exceed \$209,000 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this matter on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

OTHER CITY MATTERS:

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Catherine Niessink, 5120 Angling Road, thanked City Council for their support for the CCTA as she has a friend who cannot go to Church on Sunday because she cannot get on a bus or in a regular car owing to a permanently paralyzed leg.

Bill Lenehan, 1626 Henley Avenue, complained that mention was made at the bottom of an article in the *Kalamazoo Gazette*, Sunday, March 15, 2015 where Councilmember(s) he chose not to name indicated that the quality of the retail is going down and where the question was asked, "Is there any way to track the data?" He said he was particularly humiliated when another question was asked, "Was there any way to control who rents space" because he is a small business owner and found this line of questioning objectionable.

STATEMENTS FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL: All of the Councilmembers and the Mayor expressed kudos and appreciation to the student participants, parents and the Student Advisors in the Student Mayor and City Council for the Day Program.

Councilmember Randall and Mayor Pro Tem Pearson also expressed an appreciation for the Proclamations issued by Mayor Strazdas, and Councilmember Randall asked to incorporate positive comments from citizens in the City Social Media options as they develop.

Councilmember Urban apologized for not being able to make it to the earlier meeting with the students and expressed his appreciation for the students, their efforts and the importance of public service.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson thanked Community Development Director Vicki Georgeau for her efforts and the policy recommendations that foster economic development. He also mentioned the presentation during the earlier Committee of the Whole by IT Director Devin Mackinder with respect to Social Media and the advent of the electronic agenda.

STATEMENTS FROM STUDENT MAYOR AND STUDENT COUNCIL: Student Councilmembers Wes Hyames, Maycie McGowan, Kyle Vickery, Alicia Abdo, Ben Orwin and Danny Saba, and Student Mayor Marcus Moore expressed their respective appreciation for the opportunity to participate and serve during the Student Mayor and City Council for the Day Program, and the efforts of City Council to make it an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

STATEMENTS FROM MAYOR: Mayor Strazdas thanked the Student Councilmembers and the Student Mayor and thanked all of the students to whom he read during Reading Month. He stressed that it is important for everyone to get engaged in the community and thanked all for getting involved. He indicated that the Student Councilmembers and the Student Mayor were adult and professional throughout the day; they were engaged and wanted to learn about government; and, they did a great job being student representatives of Portage Public Schools.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

James R. Hudson, City Clerk

***Indicates items included on the Consent Agenda.**