

# CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

February 24, 2015

## PROCLAMATION

- ◆ Senator Margaret O'Brien and House of Representatives Brandt Iden presented a Resolution of Respect from Governor Rick Snyder, Senator Margaret O'Brien, House of Representatives Brandt Iden and the 90<sup>th</sup> Legislature to Retired Park, Recreation and Public Services Director Bill Deming for his nearly 35 years of service. Bill, Margaret, Brandt and City Council had a photograph taken together.

## ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Check Register of February 24, 2015, as presented.

## STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ Senator O'Brien introduced her District Director, Megan Hicks, who will be representing her at the 157 Kalamazoo Mall Office in Kalamazoo. She also provided and explained a fact sheet on the upcoming sales tax issue for the May 5, 2015 Special Election, and promised to bring updates on the budget process as it develops.

## REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Received the update and presentation from Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) Executive Director Sean McBride.
- ◆ Approved a one-year agreement for comprehensive liability, property and auto fleet insurance through the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) at a total cost not to exceed \$446,134 for the period of March 1, 2015, to March 1, 2016, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved the License to Locate Sign in a City Right-Of-Way for North of Centre, LLC, 2317 East Centre Avenue, and authorized the City Manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Established April 21 and May 5, 2015, from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. as the dates for review of the proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget.
- ◆ Set a Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting for Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room No. 1 to discuss enriching culture and increasing community engagement and the City Retail Profile topics.
- ◆ Received the January 2015 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Departmental Monthly Reports.

## NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ Appointed Mayor Pro Tem Pearson to the Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority Search Committee.

## STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Councilmember Ansari thanked Kalamazoo County Commissioner Scott McGraw for attending the meeting and Linda Teeter for her service.
- ◆ Councilmember Ford thanked Linda Teeter, Sean McBride and the elected officials for attending the meeting and expressed appreciation to Bill Deming for his years of service to the City of Portage. He reminded everyone that the Winter Blast Race is Sunday and cautioned everyone to be careful and to have safe travels.
- ◆ Councilmember Randall expressed her appreciation for the Portage Central High School production of the musical, West Side Story, and all who contributed to the effort. She noted that registration for the Winter Blast Race on Sunday is at Portage Central High School on Saturday, February 28, 2015, at Portage Central High School (Commons area) from 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., and late registration for the 5k only is available at Portage Central High School (Commons Area) from 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 1, 2015.
- ◆ Councilmember Urban said he toured the Earth Fare Health Foods Store on Kilgore Road and announced the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for this welcomed addition to the community is at 6:45 a.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2015. He also stressed the need for comment from the public for the CCTA millage proposal as presented by Mr. McBride earlier.
- ◆ City Manager Shaffer complimented Sean McBride and his group and noted that as part of the South Westledge reconstruction, the plan is to incorporate new bus shelters and accoutrements at the bus stops along South Westledge Avenue. He mentioned the two meetings with approximately eighty Portage citizens regarding leaf and brush pick-up along private roads in the City, and he said that Department of Public Services Director Rod Russell is meeting with property managers representing the various property owners and associations to see what accommodations are necessary to expedite the process and will bring a report back to Council possibly at the next Regular City Council Meeting. He indicated that on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at 6 p.m., Council Chambers, there will be a meeting of the property owners of the City Center area to discuss the issues identified in *Portage 2025* and the Comprehensive Plan for the possibilities of a City Center development. He finished by describing the two sessions held to discuss the International Fire Code where the Administration met with those opposed to the Code and reached some accord and satisfaction with them. He said that questions were posed that will be answered formally, and that a proposal regarding the Code will be before City Council at the next Regular Meeting.

- ◆ Councilmember Reid announced that a newly formed opportunity for business and community leaders to engage with state and local government representatives about issues that affect the region has been established as the Listening Post, which is a conversation over a cup of coffee as an effort to build relationships and open lines of communication necessary to grow Southwest Michigan for the better. She noted that this is a collaboration between the Chamber of Commerce and the Council of Governments (COG) with the first meeting to be held on Friday, February 27, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m., at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission, 3801 East Kilgore Road, Kalamazoo, and thereafter on a monthly basis on the fourth Friday of each month.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Pearson announced a new television show on CBS called *Battle Creek* that premieres on March 1, 2015, and that CBS will be having a big premier in Battle Creek, as well as satellite premiers in Southwest Michigan, including one for 100 people, first come, first served, at 9:00 a.m., Room 209 in the Bernhard Center of Western Michigan University. Discussion followed.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas said he will be at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new Earth Fare Health Foods Store on Kilgore Road at 6:45 a.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2015, and mentioned what a great addition this is for the whole region. He likened the Earth Fare Store to a Farmer's Market in Portage since they will be procuring a lot of local products and organic products for the store, but Portage will not be paying any tax dollars for it because Earth Fare will be paying taxes to be here. He mentioned the Winter Blast Race on Sunday and that he will be starting the race with a fake gun and thanked all who will not be able to travel from their homes for their patience with this inconvenience.

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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.**