

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

March 24, 2015

STUDENT MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS FOR THE DAY

- ◆ City Clerk James Hudson swore in the Student Mayor for the Day and Student Councilmembers for the Day.

PROCLAMATIONS

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas issued a Fair Housing Month Resolution and a Lending Hands of Michigan Month Proclamation.

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER

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

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Established 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.
- ◆ Approved 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; adopted a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign Contract 15-5048, and authorized the City Manager to sign all other documents related to this project on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Adopted 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 authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the above resolutions on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Adjourned the discussion of and decision on the approval of the revisions to the Brownfield Redevelopment Incentive Policy to the April 14, 2015 Regular City Council Meeting.
- ◆ Adopted 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.
- ◆ Accepted 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.
- ◆ Approved the purchase of a 2015 Elgin Street Sweeper, through the State of Michigan purchasing program (MiDEAL) at a purchase price of \$146,207 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to these purchases on behalf of the city.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Adopted the Resolution Designating Polling Places and Rate of Compensation for the May 5, 2015 Special Election.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the sale of city property (10323 Archwood Drive update) as information only.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the February 2015 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Department Monthly Reports.

COMMUNICATION

- ◆ Accepted the unanimous Environmental Board Resolution on Single-Stream Recycling, reissued the original Moorsbridge Single-Stream Recycling Pilot results to all Councilmembers, asked the City Manager to make a recommendation to Council regarding the Environmental Board recommendation regarding Single-Stream Recycling, and received the report from Environmental Board Member Bill Beck regarding Single-Stream Recycling, including the Resolution adopted by the Environmental Board.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

- ◆ Received the report from Councilmember Urban and Mayor Pro Tem Pearson regarding the Central County Transit Authority.

BID TABULATION

- ◆ Awarded 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 authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this matter on behalf of the city.

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 THE 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.

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.