

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

July 21, 2015

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Accounts Payable Register of July 21, 2015, as presented.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Accepted the order of the Construction Board of Appeals to raze and remove the house at 5523 Monticello Avenue; and authorized the City Administration to take the necessary action to place a lien and assess the property to recover the costs associated with razing and removing the structure, consistent with city ordinance.
- ◆ Approved the Public Media Network Municipal Video Production System Agreement, including Addendum #1 of the Agreement, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Approved the purchase of the Cimline Magma 230 Melter/Crack Sealer Trailer Mounted Spray Injection Road Repair Machine from Alta Equipment Company of Byron Center, Michigan, utilizing the Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) Cooperative Purchasing Program at a cost of \$58,032, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding a Charter Amendment Petition as information only.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the June 2015 Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Department Monthly Reports from the various City Departments.

COMMUNICATION

- ◆ Received a communication from Ed Buday, Jr., 1503 Bradford Street, regarding fireworks.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ◆ Received a communication and report from Councilmember Randall regarding the Discover Kalamazoo Advisory Council.
- ◆ At the request of Councilmember Ansari, Mayor Strazdas recognized former Mayor Pro Tem Ed Sackley, who updated City Council on the Public Media Network Municipal Video Production System Agreement.
- ◆ Received a report from Mayor Strazdas and the minutes of the June 30, 2015 Investment Committee Meeting.
- ◆ Received a report from Mayor Pro Tem Pearson regarding the Kalamazoo County Transit Authority (KCTA) and the Central County Transit Authority (CCTA).

BID TABULATION

- ◆ Awarded a construction contract for the Garden Lane Transmission Water Main Replacement Project to Pajay, Incorporated, of New Buffalo, Michigan, in an amount not to exceed \$263,787 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

- ◆ Mayor Strazdas provided the opportunity for Councilmember Ford, Councilmember Randall and Mayor Pro Tem Pearson to announce their candidacy for City Council which will be determined at the November 3, 2015 City Election and each recounted some of the positive changes that have taken place while serving on City Council.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Councilmember Ford expressed kudos to the City Parks Department and recounted his experiences while attending the United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus, the Celery Flats Music Festival and the Taste of Portage.
- ◆ Councilmember Randall concurred with Councilmember Ford, commented further and thanked City Manager Shafer for his military service to our country. She also encouraged everyone to attend the activities and family fun associated with the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Tournament being held from July 31 through August 9, 2015, at Kalamazoo College.
- ◆ Councilmember Ansari praised the 70 years of experience held by the sitting City Council and the excellent job performed by Council in the best interest of the City, as a way to endorse the incumbents, especially Mayor Strazdas for the November 3, 2015 City Election. Mayor Strazdas thanked him for it.
- ◆ Councilmember Reid thanked and recognized Councilmembers Randall and Ford and Mayor Pro Tem Pearson for the time and effort they have expended serving as members of Portage City Council and said she looked forward to the race coming up. She reviewed some of the details of Item F.2, Public Media Network Municipal Video Production System Agreement, and the advantages to the City of Portage. She reminded everyone that the August 4, 2015 Special Election for the Metro Transit millage is only two weeks away, that the absentee ballots for those on the permanent list went out July 7, and information is available on line for those who need more information on this issue. She indicated that this week is the 25th Anniversary of the American Disabilities Act of 1990, and explained that there are 60,000 jobs that are open and 500,000 persons with disabilities who cannot find employment and are looking for employment. She mentioned that 43% of adults will become disabled during their working years and stressed that it is important that our systems do not discriminate against people with a disability. She also recounted her experiences while attending the United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus, the Celery Flats Music Festival and the Taste of Portage.

- ◆ City Manager Shaffer provided an update on the South Westnedge Construction Project and indicated that it is still on target for completion by mid-August, despite the enormous amount of rain that has fallen throughout the construction, and he asked for continued patience from citizens for three more weeks. Mayor Strazdas asked for a campaign from the Administration when it is opened as a measure to assist businesses that have felt the strain of the low traffic numbers on Westnedge Avenue during the construction.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Pearson thanked Councilmember Ansari for his endorsement and Councilmember Reid for her kind words. He also said he has enjoyed working with Council.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas thanked and congratulated his three colleagues on City Council, who are taking another step to be good stewards of the community and anyone else who is running as it is a noble volunteer undertaking. He indicated that the United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus was spectacular and thanked the efforts of the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) for helping this event take place. He thanked all who attended the Taste of Portage, despite the rain. He recounted his visit with all of the Mayors of West Michigan who were able to attend the Mayor Energy Summit. He commented that Grand Rapids Mayor George Hartwell has an annual event and invites all of the Mayors from this side of the state to talk about topics that concern City and State Government and the main topic this year was energy policy since Governor Snyder organized State Departments to have an Energy Bureau. The Director of the Bureau is talking to all of the Mayors regarding what will be coming up with regard to energy policy that will impact businesses, industry and citizens.

COMPLETE MINUTES OF EACH CITY COUNCIL MEETING ARE AVAILABLE ON THE CITY WEBSITE AT PORTAGEM1.GOV, IN CITY HALL AND IN THE DISTRICT LIBRARY. MINUTES OF CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS.