

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

August 11, 2015

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Accounts Payable Register of August 11, 2015, as presented.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Adopted the resolution approving the Complete Streets Policy.
- ◆ Approved a two-year contract renewal with Delta Dental Plan of Michigan and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the City.
- ◆ Approved a revision of the City Investment Policy as recommended by the Investment Committee.
- ◆ Received the responses to the Charter Amendment by Initiative Petition from Governor Rick Snyder and Chief Legal Counsel for the Attorney General, Matthew Schneider, as information only.

COMMUNICATION

- ◆ City Council received a communication from the Michigan Municipal League regarding the Annual Meeting Notice.

CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ◆ Received the Presentation by the City Manager Employment Manual Committee and adopted the *City Council Policy with Regard to Employment of City Manager*.
- ◆ Received the Report from Mayor Pro Tem Pearson regarding a meeting of the Central County Transit Authority, Kalamazoo County Transit Authority and the Kalamazoo Transit Authority.

BID TABULATIONS

- ◆ Awarded a contract for the maintenance of the city traffic signal system from September 1, 2015, to June 30, 2018, with the option to renew for one 3-year period to Severance Electric Company, Incorporated, in the base amount of \$173,800 with hourly rates as bid for call-in work and additional intersections as necessary and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the City.
- ◆ Awarded a construction contract for the Pine View Drive Sanitary Sewer Project to Balkema Excavating, Incorporated, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, in the amount not to exceed \$261,328 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the City.
- ◆ Awarded a contract to perform engineering services for the West Centre Avenue Traffic Signals and Roadway Improvements project for the intersections of Old Centre Road/West Centre Avenue and Cooley Drive/West Centre Avenue to Abonmarche Consultants, Incorporated, in the amount not to exceed \$75,160 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the City.
- ◆ Approved a two-year contract with Specialty Business Forms, Inc., in the estimated amount of \$60,715.58 for tax bill and assessment notice printing, with the option to renew for two additional two-year periods, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the City.
- ◆ Approved the purchase of six Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units and 14 air supply bottles from West Shore Fire of Allendale, Michigan, in the amount not to exceed \$47,726.04 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the purchase on behalf of the City.
- ◆ Approved a contract in an estimated annual amount of \$18,775 with Automatic Microfilming Co., Inc., for document microfilming, imaging and destruction services, with the option of four one-year contract renewals, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the City.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ Kalamazoo County Commissioner Larry Provancher provided an update of County activities for City Council. He indicated that Consolidated Dispatch (911) is moving forward and the Executive Director search is going well, but the Kalamazoo County Administrator is not going as well. He reviewed the Kalamazoo County Local Housing Assistance Fund Millage that is specifically geared toward assisting children from families of low income who are homeless, or who are at risk of becoming homeless, and said that it is a "Vote for kids" campaign. He announced the free picnic at Milham Park from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m., on August 12, 2015, for National Alliance on Mentally Illness (NAMI). Mayor Strazdas thanked Commissioner Provancher for his service as a County Commissioner and as a volunteer over the years.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL

- ◆ Councilmember Ansari mentioned that he, Mayor Strazdas and Councilmember Ford attended the Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Jared's Jewelry, 6307 South Westnedge Avenue, on Saturday, August 1, 2015. Mayor Strazdas concurred and noted the recent addition of a bank as part of the business growth in the City. Councilmember Ford acknowledged it was a welcomed addition to the business community.
- ◆ Councilmember Reid highlighted the activities during Teen Movie Night sponsored and put on by the Youth Advisory Council in conjunction with the Optimist Club; she mentioned that the Kalamazoo County Council of Governments (COG) is meeting at the Kalamazoo County Road Commission on Wednesday, August 13, 2015, at 3:30 p.m. where John Pinkster of Life Emergency Services will discuss emergency medical procedures and best practices for municipalities; she announced that the Art Encounters Activity will take place in collaboration with the Senior Center at the Portage District Library, Saturday, August 15, 2015, from 1 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. with a myriad of entertainment offerings. She also indicated that the Library has its "Food for Fine" option where patrons can trade their Library fine with canned food with the focus being the Library list of food for the Thanksgiving baskets for families. She recognized that the Transit Millage passed on August 4, 2015, with a 2::1 margin across the County.

- ◆ Councilmember Randall recognized John Hilliard and the non-profit organization known as Lending Hands of Michigan, Inc. She mentioned that Mayor Strazdas issued a Proclamation on behalf of City Council proclaiming the Month of May Lending Hands of Michigan Month. She also thanked Councilmember Ansari and Mayor Pro Tem Pearson for obtaining a \$2,000 grant for Lending Hands, whose purpose is to lend medical equipment to patients throughout Southwest Michigan at no charge for up to nine months without regard to age, race, sex, creed, income or disability. Mayor Strazdas concurred.
- ◆ With regard to the Transit Millage passed on August 4, 2015, Councilmember Urban explained that when the 2000 Census Data was received in 2002, and the City of Kalamazoo and Kalamazoo County disputed the findings. He said some of members of the Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study (KATS) were not pleased with their unwillingness to compromise and decided to withhold 10% of their funds until the dispute was settled, and this resulted in their agreement to consolidate. After some deliberation, he said the two entities presented an aggressive timeline. As a result of the passage of the Transit Millage and State Law, two Authorities, CCTA and KCTA, hopefully with the same membership on both, will work together with one mind to solve issues as they arise. He explained some of the services planned, the expectations and the hard work ahead. He gave a special tribute to Chair Linda Teeter and a special thanks to all who worked on this consolidation.
- ◆ City Manager Shaffer announced that the South Westnedge Project is substantially completed on time and within budget. He expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Portage citizens to Utilities Engineer Kendra Gwin, who led the Project in the absence of Transportation & Utilities Director Chris Barnes, and the balance of City staff who assisted with the Project. Mayor Strazdas concurred and expressed his hope that the reopening of this major thoroughfare in the Region gets proper media coverage since “Westnedge is Open for Business.” He gave special thanks to the businesses in the area for their patience and consideration throughout the progression of the improvements.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Pearson gave credit to Councilmember Randall for revealing the special work of John Hilliard and Lending Hands of Michigan, Inc., and the subsequent Proclamation on behalf of City Council proclaiming the Month of May as Lending Hands of Michigan Month. He indicated that he asked Councilmember Ansari to write the grant request to the District Rotary for \$1,000, which was matched by Portage Rotary. He said that he was honored as President of Rotary to present the grant two weeks ago to Lending Hands.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas indicated that he signed a letter to Linda Eliason with pictures of a recent event enclosed to let her know that the community is enjoying the David J. Eliason Nature Reserve in honor of her late husband. He encouraged everyone to participate in the annual garage and sidewalk sale this Saturday, August 15, 2015, by the Portage Lake Center Businesses on Portage Road south of Centre Avenue. He said he was recently sworn in as President of his Professional Association as an Associate Vice President of Facilities Management of Western Michigan University and mentioned that he showed a couple of his colleagues around the City from Australia, who loved Portage and said it is a great city.

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.