

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

February 8, 2011

CHECK REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Check Register of February 8, 2011, as presented.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Accepted the Amendment to Chapter 50, Section 222, Providing False Information to Public Officer, for First Reading.
- ◆ Approved a two-year contract extension for city facility heating, ventilation, air conditioning and maintenance services to Pleune Service Company in the amount of \$78,616 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action.
- ◆ Approved a one-year renewal with Peters Construction Company for the Sanitary Sewer Service Repair Call-in Contract at the original not-to-exceed amount of \$26,212.87 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city.

COMMUNICATION

- ◆ Received the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority 2010 Annual Report Presentation by Linda Teeter, Chairperson.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ Accepted Ordinance Amendment 10-B, Home Occupation Ordinance, for first reading and established a public hearing on March 8, 2011, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard; subsequent to the public hearing, will consider approval of Ordinance Amendment 10-B, Home Occupation Ordinance; and will consider adoption of the resolution establishing an application fee for home occupations.

BID TABULATION

- ◆ Accepted the low bid submitted by Tiger Direct, Incorporated, in the amount of \$23,910 for six “ruggedized” mobile computers for installation in Portage Fire apparatus; accepted the sole provider quotation submitted by New World Systems Corporation in the amount of \$11,100 for Aegis fire mobile unit software; and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to these actions on behalf of the city.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ Ralph Warrick, 604 Mallard Circle, pointed out that the tax assessment notices are going out Friday (February 11, 2011) and urged citizens to look at the information and check the Portage website for Board of Review procedures.
- ◆ County Commissioner Phil Stinchcomb, 1607 Bellaire Avenue, reported on Kalamazoo County activities, specifically, the progress of the Metro Center at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds, Phase II, and that the construction bid was awarded to Cornerstone Construction. He indicated that the Board discussed local preference and asked for input from the public on that subject.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Councilmember Randall commended those involved in the First Annual Portage Snow Party, Oakland Drive Park, organized by Deputy City Clerk Adam Herringa, with 200 participants, 15 student organizers from the Youth Activities Committee and two Park Rangers. She also applauded the *Hairspray* Play Production by Portage Central High School Students performed at Portage Northern High School and reminded everyone of “Stepping Out” Fundraiser at the State Theater, Kalamazoo, Saturday, February 12, 2011, at 7:30 p.m., for the Portage Athletic Foundation. She expressed her appreciation for expediting the Tax Notices to property owners by an extra two weeks to allow them time to analyze their tax assessments and announced a Property Tax Symposium hosted by The Greater Kalamazoo Association of REALTORS® (GKAR) and the Home Builders Association of Greater Kalamazoo (HBAGK), Thursday, February 10, 2011, 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., 5830 Venture Park Drive, Kalamazoo.
- ◆ City Manager Maurice Evans announced that the City of Portage would be hosting two information sessions on the Assessment Process by Joyce Foondle, Southwest Michigan Governmental Consultants, on the Assessment Process, the Board of Review and the Michigan Tax Tribunal Appeals process.
- ◆ Councilmember Bailes indicated that the Home Builders Association of Greater Kalamazoo announced the 2011 Home Expo will be held March 9 through 12, 2011, at 665 Mall Drive, in the former Sam’s Club building.
- ◆ Councilmember Campbell thanked City Manager Evans for preparing his communication regarding training safely on Portage roads for the 2011 Kalamazoo Marathon, May 6 through May 8, 2011. She emphasized the need for patience on the part of Portage motorists and the runners from the runners training “camps” that require certain safety measures from their runners and stress this in writing via e-mail, organizational meetings, word of mouth and advertising. She asked residents and businesses to cooperate by keeping adjacent sidewalks clear of snow and ice and to share the road.
- ◆ Councilmember Reid recognized the Streets Department for their snow removal efforts and the use of the website to provide information regarding which neighborhoods would receive snow removal and when. She also reminded everyone that Walk for Warmth is on February 26, 2011, to raise money and awareness for energy relief and to help low income households.
- ◆ City Manager Maurice Evans thanked Councilmember Reid for her comments on the snow removal and commended Parks Department and Streets Department personnel for a job well done. He also recounted the heroic efforts of Police Officer Eric Vesey, who saved the life of a victim of a fire on January 30, 2011, at Timberwood Crossing.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas thanked City Council for their comments as they covered each of the topics he had planned to mention and thanked them for their activity in the community and their passion for Portage. He also praised the heroic efforts of Police Officer Vesey and expressed sorrow for the individual in the fire who he could not save.

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.