

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL  
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL FOR THE DAY OF MARCH 22, 2011**

Mayor Peter Strazdas called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. The following members of City Council were present: Councilmembers Cory A. Bailes, Elizabeth A. Campbell, Patricia M. Randall and Claudette S. Reid and Mayor Peter J. Strazdas. Mayor Pro Tem Edward J. Sackley arrived with U.S. Congressman Fred Upton at 11:30 a.m. Councilmember Terry R. Urban was absent with excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Maurice S. Evans, City Attorney Randall L. Brown and City Clerk James R. Hudson.

Present from Portage Northern High School were: Youssef Farran, Kelsey Kitchens, Maddie Lange, Nathan Novaria, Olivia Pfund, Nate Rajpoot and Evan Williams. Also present was Student Advisor Rick Searing.

Present from Portage Central High School were: Darby Bennett, Mara Bennet, Zach Cook, Sam Ettwein, Max Geib, Maddy Krenselewski and Jared Szymanski. Also present was Student Advisor Mark Sutherland.

Mayor Strazdas provided a summary of the planned activities of the day and asked the students to introduce themselves and explain why they had an interest in government. Discussion followed.

City Attorney Randy Brown, each of the City Councilmembers, Mayor Strazdas and City Manager Maurice Evans provided a discussion of the Roles and Perspectives of their respective offices. Discussion and a question and answer session followed.

RECESS: 9:05 a.m.

Mayor Strazdas and the City Councilmembers each took a group of students on a tour of the offices of City Hall.

RECONVENE: 10:06 a.m.

Mayor Strazdas introduced Tom Haroldson, Reporter for the *Portage Gazette* and the *Kalamazoo Gazette*, who provided his background and discussed the role of the media as it relates to local government. Discussion and a question and answer session followed.

Mayor Strazdas asked the students to tell everyone what they felt are the important issues for the community and the football field for Portage Northern High School came up as the number one concern, again. Discussion followed.

ADJOURN: 10:33 a.m.

Mayor, City Council, Student Participants, Student Advisor and City Clerk Hudson adjourned and toured Portage Police Headquarters with Police Chief Richard White and Portage Fire Station #1 with Fire Chief Randy Lawton, both of whom took questions from the students. The students toured each of the facilities and discussion followed.

RECONVENE: 11:25 a.m.

Mayor Strazdas reconvened the meeting and U.S. Congressman Fred Upton arrived and spoke with the students and had a question and answer session.

Mayor Strazdas invited the student participants to eat lunch and asked each student to provide a speech stating why he or she wanted to be Mayor or Councilmember for the Day.

Following the student speeches, City Clerk James Hudson and Deputy City Clerk Adam Herringa led the process for voting in the Mayor and City Councilmember for the Day Election. The election for Student Mayor for the Day followed and the Student Mayor Elect for the Day was Nathan Novaria.

The following students were elected Student Councilmembers for the Day from Portage Northern High School: Kelsey Kitchens, Nate Rajpoot and Yossef Farran, and from Portage Central High School: Maddy Krenselewski, Jared Szymanski and Zach Cook. Discussion followed.

Mayor Strazdas thanked all of the students for participating and wished them success and asked each of them to give it their “all” each day so the community can get better and thanked City Council for participating in this session.

**ADJOURN:** Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 12:10 p.m.

---

James R. Hudson, City Clerk