

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Strazdas at 7:30 p.m.

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, Reverend Chad Wells of the First Baptist Church of Portage gave the invocation and the City Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk called the roll with the following members present: Councilmembers Cory A. Bailes, Elizabeth A. Campbell, Patricia M. Randall, Claudette S. Reid, Terry R. Urban and Mayor Pro Tem Edward J. Sackley and Mayor Peter J. Strazdas. Also in attendance were City Manager Maurice S. Evans, Assistant City Attorney Charlie Bear and City Clerk James R. Hudson.

PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Strazdas issued a National Gymnastics Day Proclamation and a National Moment of Remembrance, 10th Anniversary of 9-11 Proclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Sackley, seconded by Campbell, to approve the August 23, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0 with Councilmember Reid abstaining.

* **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Strazdas asked Councilmember Randall to read the Consent Agenda. Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve the Consent Agenda motions as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2011:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve the Check Register of September 6, 2011. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

* **LIFE AND LONG-TERM DISABILITY INSURANCE:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve a one-year contract extension with The Hartford for employee basic life, basic accidental death and dismemberment, contributory life, contributory accidental death and dismemberment, dependent life and long-term disability insurance and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **COMPUTER REPLACEMENT:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve the extended one-year lease of 54 Hewlett Packard replacement computers from Capital Advantage Leasing of Grand Rapids, Michigan, at a price of \$10,690.40 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **SPECIAL MEETING WITH BOARD AND COMMISSION APPLICANTS:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2011, beginning at 5:15 p.m. to interview board and commission applicants. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: City Council received the minutes of the following Boards and Commissions:

Portage Human Services Board of May 5, 2011.

Portage School Board Special and Regular Business Meeting of June 20, Organizational Meeting of July 11, Policy Governance Meeting of July 13 and Special Meeting of July 29, 2011.

Portage Historic District Commission of August 3, 2011.

Portage Planning Commission of August 18, 2011.

BID TABULATION:

* **WEST MILHAM AVENUE/12TH STREET/TEXAS DRIVE INTERSECTION:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to award a contract to GreenPlus Landscaping, Incorporated, of Bryon Center, Michigan, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$11,437.03 for landscaping improvements at the 12th Street/Texas Drive/West Milham Avenue intersection and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this matter on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

OTHER CITY MATTERS:

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Caryl Tregerman, 1413 Edington, spoke in opposition to a city invoice in the amount of \$264.97 for mowing her back yard, asked that the invoice be nullified and objected to the fact that the complaints against her property are allowed to be anonymous. Mayor Strazdas referred the matter to the City Manager for review and report. Discussion followed.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Randall wished everyone a great and safe school year.

Councilmember Bailes reminded everyone that the 27th Annual PCOC Peacock Strut takes place Saturday, September 17, 2011, at 8 a.m. with the 5k and 10k event registration options, including registration on line.

Councilmember Reid reported on the National Community Action Agency Council Conference in San Francisco, California, where she obtained good information for the Community Action Board regarding networking, training and strategizing. She also reminded everyone of the Council of Governments Meeting, Wednesday, September 7, 2011, at 3:30 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce where a Representative of the Land Information Access Association, a non-profit organization, will be present as a facilitator in the collaboration efforts in the area. She announced that the 2011 Kalamazoo Area Foot Chase will be held at Celery Flats, Portage, Saturday, September 10, 2011, at approximately 9:00 a.m. with registration from 7:00 a.m. until 8:30 a.m. She indicated that this is a 3.5-mile fun run patterned after a police foot chase in pursuit of a fleeing suspect and proceeds go to assist families of fallen police officers.

City Manager Evans reminded everyone that the new traffic signal on South Westnedge Avenue at McCamley Field is now activated and motorists should remember to observe caution and use due diligence while driving by the schools. Mayor Strazdas concurred.

Mayor Pro Tem Sackley announced the CommUniversity Night, Saturday, 4 p.m., and the football game between Western Michigan University Broncos and Nicholls State University Colonels at 7 p.m. He also indicated that the 10th Anniversary of 9-11 would be observed at 1 p.m. at the Overlander Bandshell, Portage, and 4 p.m. in Bronson Park, Kalamazoo.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

James R. Hudson, City Clerk

*Indicates items included on the Consent Agenda.