

CITY COUNCIL MEETING SUMMARY

August 28, 2012

CHECK REGISTER

- ◆ Approved the Check Register of August 28, 2012, as presented.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS

- ◆ Referred the Metsa Court Water Main Petition from Portage Road to West End to City Administration for review and report.
- ◆ Former Mayor Betty Lee Ongley, 8620 Tozier Lane, thanked Technology Services and Community Marketing Director Devin Mackinder for his work on the “We Get It” Joint Portage Marketing Effort, a collaborative initiative with the Portage Public Library and the Portage Public Schools and commented that it was the 92nd Anniversary for the Right to Vote for Women in the country.

PUBLIC HEARING

- ◆ Adopted Resolution No. 2-12 expanding Industrial Development District No. 55 and Resolution No. 3-12 setting a public hearing on the issuance of the Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for FEMA Corporation for real and personal property in the estimated amount of \$3.65 million on September 11, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

- ◆ Resolved to submit an application to the Michigan Liquor Control Commission for a Special License for the sale of beer and wine for consumption on the premises at Celery Flats Historical Area – Hayloft Theatre, 7335 Garden Lane, for *Shindig at the Hayloft* on October 13, 2012, and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Adopted the resolution of approval for a Microbrew and Small Wine Maker license request from Ruth Stoddard of Portage Brewing Company, planned for 7842 Portage Road.
- ◆ Set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, beginning at 6:30 p.m. to interview Planning Commission applicants.
- ◆ Held a closed session immediately following the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting of August 28, 2012, to discuss a personnel matter.
- ◆ Received the communication from the City Manager regarding the July 2012 Summary Environmental Activity Report as information only.
- ◆ Received the Department Monthly Reports.

COMMUNICATIONS

- ◆ Received the communication from the Michigan Municipal League regarding the Annual Meeting Notice.
- ◆ Received the communication from Mayor Pro Tem Claudette Reid as Kalamazoo County Council of Governments (COG) Vice President.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ◆ Received the withdrawal communication from The Lockwood Companies Direct Asset Management Representative Robert J. Salomon dated August 27, 2012, to Community Development Director Vicki Georgeau.

AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT

- ◆ Received the report from Mayor Strazdas regarding the “We Get It” Joint Portage Marketing Effort, a collaborative initiative with the Portage Public Library and the Portage Public Schools.

NEW BUSINESS

- ◆ Accepted the resignation of Councilmember Campbell and appointed Mayor Strazdas to the City Council Sign Ordinance Committee.
- ◆ Directed the Administration and the City Attorney to investigate and report back on the best practice policy for notification of tree removal by utilities.
- ◆ Gave an outstanding performance review to City Manager Maurice Evans, a 2.5 per cent raise and a \$5,000 bonus.

BID TABULATIONS

- ◆ Approved the purchase of ice control salt from Detroit Salt Company in the low bid amount of \$45.21 per ton for 1,500 tons at a total cost not to exceed \$67,815 for early delivery; Detroit Salt Company in the low bid amount of \$54.91 per ton for 1,100 tons at a total cost not to exceed \$60,401 for seasonal back up on an as-needed basis; and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to these purchases on behalf of the city.
- ◆ Awarded a contract for the planting and maintenance of 141 evergreen trees on Michigan Department of Transportation property to Spruce Trees Direct, LLC, of Byron Center, Michigan, in the amount of \$65,320 and authorized the City Manager to execute all documents related to this agreement on behalf of the city.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER

- ◆ Councilmember Pearson announced that the West Lake Drive-In was open for business and wished them well.
- ◆ Councilmember Urban thanked City Manager Evans for his fine service to the city this past year and the many years before. He recounted that City Council “hit a homerun” by selecting Maurice Evans to lead Portage as the City Manager then expressed his appreciation to Mr. Evans for all he has done for Portage. Mr. Urban reported that the Long Lake Governmental Board approved an Invasive Aquatic Species Management Program with a first year budget of \$40,000 and

\$37,000 for years two through four. He indicated that the assessment will be assessed per parcel among 319 parcels and was championed by the Lake Association, taken to Pavillion Township to be delegated to the Governmental Lake Board as

the appropriate taxing body that can effect these lake improvements, and had near unanimous agreement. He also indicated that at the same meeting, the Board reconfirmed the assessment of \$37,000 per year to operate the pump and, in both instances, Pavilion Township and the City of Portage will contribute 8.33 %, and that the Board set a hearing on the Special Assessment Roll, 7:00 p.m., September 12, 2012, in City Council Chambers, City Hall.

- ◆ City Manager Evans thanked City Council for their kind comments and for the work of the City Manager Evaluation Committee. He thanked them for the wage adjustment and the bonus, expressed his appreciation for the debate on the funding issue, said he enjoyed working for the city and City Council and vowed to continue to do his best.
- ◆ Mayor Pro Tem Reid announced that the Transportation for Michigan Community Forums: Helping Decide How Michigan Rolls will take place Tuesday, September 11, 2012, at the Kalamazoo Regional Chamber of Commerce, 346 West Michigan Ave., Ste. 100, Kalamazoo, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. She made a plea for applicants who wish to serve on the Planning Commission to submit an application to the City Clerk and plan to attend the Special Meeting on Tuesday, September 11, 2012, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Finally, she announced that the 2012 Kalamazoo Area Foot Chase will be held at Celery Flats, Portage, Saturday, September 9, 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. She also mentioned that there is the option to walk and have the same experience.
- ◆ Mayor Strazdas attempted to put the City Manager Review Process in perspective by indicating that there are cities in Michigan trying to figure out how to get rid of the City Manager and/or dealing with a plethora of negative issues. He commented that City Council all agreed to reward Mr. Evans, but could not come to a consensus on how much to award a very good employee of the 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.