

**NOTES FROM THE PRE-MEETING OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL  
OF APRIL 23, 2018**

Mayor Randall called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Councilmembers Chris Burns and Lori Knapp joined via the conference phone line. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson and Councilmembers Richard Ford, Claudette Reid and Terry Urban were absent with excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Laurence Shaffer, Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis and City Clerk Adam Herringa.

Mayor Randall opened the meeting and inquired if there were any questions or concerns regarding items on the proposed April 24<sup>th</sup> Agenda. With regard to Item A.4., Public Media Network (PMN), Councilmember Burns inquired as to the budget impact of in-sourcing the work currently provided by PMN. City Manager Shaffer stated that the amount currently provided to PMN is in excess of expected costs associated with bringing services in-house. Mr. Shaffer indicated that approximately \$380,000 is provided to PMN annually while the anticipated costs of performing the work in-house should be in the range of \$120,000. Mayor Randall inquired if Information and Technology Director Devin Mackinder was working on a proposal related to this effort. Mr. Shaffer stated that a Request for Proposals has been issued with a goal of having services begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilmember Burns indicated that he has been reviewing minutes related to PMN and pointed out that a former Portage representative on the PMN Board of Directors, Ed Sackley, had commented that he believed PMN had an excessive fund balance and that some funding should be returned to participating entities. Councilmember Burns inquired if any discussion had occurred in this regard. Mayor Randall indicated that she is not aware of any plan to return funds to PMN participants. Mayor Randall shared that she has attended one meeting of the PMN Board of Directors, one meeting was cancelled and the next meeting will be April 26<sup>th</sup>. The question of Portage remaining part of PMN will be discussed at this next meeting. Mayor Randall shared that PMN has been discussing Kalamazoo County Government joining the consortium. She indicated that PMN is looking at charging Kalamazoo County \$500 per meeting for broadcast services.

With regard to Item A.5, Labor Agreement with Portage Police Officers Association (PPOA), Councilmember Burns inquired as to the “sticking points” that resulted in the Agreement needing to go to arbitration. Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis pointed to two issues which were PPOA asking to move to a defined benefit pension plan from the current contribution plan and for increases to their retiree health plan. Mr. Shaffer stated that he has no intention of city employees moving into a defined benefit plan citing the impacts such plans can have on municipal finances.

With regard to Item A.10, Kalamazoo County Identification Program, Mayor Randall inquired if the City Council needed to formally adopt participation in the program. Mr. Shaffer stated that City Administration has determined to participate in the program and the topic is being brought to the attention of City Council as an information item.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 8:11 a.m.

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Adam Herringa, City Clerk