

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 24, 2018

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Randall at 7:00 p.m. At the request of Mayor Randall, the City Clerk called the roll with the following members present: Councilmembers Chris Burns, Richard Ford, Lori Knapp, Claudette Reid, Terry Urban, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson and Mayor Patricia Randall. Also in attendance were City Manager Larry Shaffer, City Attorney Randy Brown and City Clerk Adam Herringa.

At the request of Mayor Randall, Pastor Clayton Smith of the First Reformed Church of Portage provided the invocation and, following the invocation, City Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Randall shared where the public can access the meeting agenda and asked if any Councilmember or anyone in the audience would like an item removed from the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Knapp, seconded by Reid, to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Reid, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 10 and Pre-Council Meeting Minutes of July 23, 2018. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF JULY 24, 2018: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Reid, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of July 24, 2018. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT PETITION FOR HILL 'AN' BROOK DRIVE: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Reid, to refer the special assessment petition in favor of creating a special assessment district on Hill 'an' Brook Drive (Angling Road to Greenhill Street) to the City Administration for review and report. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PRESIDENTIAL BREWING MICROBREWERY AND SMALL WINEMAKER LICENSE: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Reid, to adopt the Resolution granting the request from Presidential Brewing at 8232 and 8302 Portage Road for a Micro Brewer and Small Winemaker Liquor License. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR THE ELIASON NATURE RESERVE PHASE II: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Reid, to award a contract in the amount of \$89,750 to Abonmarche Consultants for Engineering and Architectural Professional Services for the Eliason Nature Reserve Phase II project and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

CONTRACT WITH MICHIGAN PAVING AND MATERIALS COMPANY: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Reid, to award a construction contract to Michigan Paving and Materials Company of Kalamazoo, Michigan, for the 2018 Local Streets Reconstruction Program in an amount not to exceed \$928,885.09 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Reid, to receive minutes of the Historic District Commission of June 6 and Park Board of June 6, 2018. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Mr. Maurice Rykert, 6812 Bratcher Street, spoke regarding commercial vehicles in residential neighborhoods and reviewed circumstances near his home on Bratcher Street. Mr. Rykert reviewed his discussion with his neighbor on the matter along with his discussions with City Manager Shaffer. Mr. Rykert also reviewed efforts and conversations he had with the Department of Public Safety and Office of the City Attorney regarding his desire for the issuance of a violation to a trailer parked on Bratcher. Mayor Randall expressed support for the fact that Mr. Rykert and his neighbor discussed the matter and assured Mr. Rykert that any steps being taken by the City regarding his concern are not politically motivated. Mayor Randall commented that the City is still reviewing the matter. Mr. Shaffer shared that he had met and spoken with Mr. Rykert regarding his concerns and that his preference would be for the neighbor to cooperate with the City. However, Mr. Shaffer stated, the City can seek compliance via administrative authority if necessary. Mr. Shaffer concluded by stating that the City is still working on the matter and he is hoping to come back to City Council with information involving a resolution.

City Attorney Randy Brown stated that the matter raised by Mr. Rykert is under review and details cannot be discussed publicly since the matter may result in criminal prosecution. Mr. Brown concluded by stating that now is not the time to get into discussions involving resolution or prosecution.

Mr. Robert Poole, 2623 Hill 'an' Brook Drive, spoke with regard to Item F.3 (Special Assessment Petition). Mr. Poole stated that Hill 'an' Brook is scheduled for road repairs and believes that now is the optimal time for curb and gutter to be installed on the street. He expressed support for the project and provided a list of reasons why the project should proceed.

Mr. Mike Quinn, 7025 Rockford Street, shared that it was very good news that Pfizer is continuing to expand and develop in Portage and that Portage is a great place to live and work. Mr. Quinn then spoke in support of the proposed "Senior Millage" which is on the August Primary ballot. He explained that the millage would be used to assist and care for seniors that may not have the financial means to do so on their own.

COMMUNICATIONS:

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS: At the request of Mayor Randall, City Clerk Herringa read the meeting schedule for the record. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to receive the Calendar of Meetings. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Knapp shared that she participated in a meeting of the Kalamazoo County Public Arts Commission. She explained that the Arts Commission is taking steps to modernize and make the organization more efficient. She also shared that local artists are attending the monthly meetings to explain their work and how it benefits the community. Ms. Knapp commented that art in public space, such as community murals, are beneficial to the community.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to receive the Council Committee Reports as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Burns encouraged residents to vote in the August 7th Primary Election.

Councilmember Ford shared that he attended and enjoyed the recent Damien Escobar concert at the Overlander Bandshell. Mr. Ford also shared that the Kalamazoo Spartans had a successful golf outing and thanked those who supported the event.

Councilmember Reid expressed her personal support for the countywide Senior Millage. She encouraged residents to get involved. She explained that the millage question is countywide and supports seniors with income, disability, finance, health and other issues. She concluded by stating that the services that would be provided by the millage should not be confused with programs and offerings at the Portage Senior Center.

Councilmember Knapp shared that she and Mayor Randall met with Scott Schrum, the Executive Director of Residential Opportunities, Inc. (ROI), and toured the Great Lakes Center for Autism Treatment on Portage Road. She shared that she and the Mayor also toured homes in the community managed by ROI and complimented ROI on their efforts and compassion.

City Manager Shaffer thanked Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis for filling in while he was on vacation.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson stated that it was exciting that the Governor was in town and Mayor Randall shared that Pfizer announced they are making a \$465 million addition to their plant in Portage. She stated that this means over 460 new jobs in the City with an average annual salary of approximately \$93,000. She stated that this development also means that the largest employer in the city, Pfizer, is committed to the City of Portage and here to stay. She stated that Pfizer comprises 10% of the tax base in the city and this will only increase. Mayor Randall concluded her comments regarding Pfizer by stating that the new jobs in Pfizer will translate into hundreds of new jobs in the broader community.

Mayor Randall shared that she and Councilmember Knapp toured the Autism Treatment Center along with ROI group homes in the city. She stated that this was an opportunity for both she and Councilmember Knapp to learn more about the good work ROI is doing in the community.

Mayor Randall concluded by sharing that prior to this meeting the City Council held a Committee of the Whole meeting that was well-attended by senior citizens. As a result of this meeting, Mayor Randall stated that at the August 14th Regular Meeting the City Council will be discussing a potential public/private partnership to rebuild the Senior Center. Mayor Randall shared her belief that there is a true need to rebuild the Senior Center and to take steps to make sure the City of Portage is an “age-friendly” community. Mayor Randall expressed her personal support for the Senior Millage and thanked Mr. Quinn for raising the matter earlier in the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Adam Herringa, City Clerk