

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 6, 2018

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Randall at 7:01 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmembers Chris Burns, Lori Knapp, Claudette Reid, Terry Urban, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson and Mayor Patricia Randall. Councilmember Richard Ford was absent with excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Larry Shaffer, City Attorney Randy Brown and Deputy City Clerk Erica Eklov.

At the request of Mayor Randall, the audience observed a moment of silence to honor all religions and personal beliefs and in recognition of the veterans who have served for the country. Following the moment of silence, City Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Randall invited John Paver of Paver Pet Supply (965 Portage Road) to assist in the reading of the Small Business Saturday Proclamation. Following the reading, Mayor Randall issued the proclamation.

Mayor Randall next invited the veterans in the audience to assist in the reading of the Veterans Day 2018 Proclamation. Following the reading, Mayor Randall issued the proclamation and thanked the veterans for coming. Mayor Randall then introduced Gerry Goidosik and asked him to update Council on the status of the Portage Veterans Memorial. Mr. Goidosik turned the presentation over to Leonard Batts to relay the Memorial's history. Mr. Batts noted his prior tenure with the city, along with his construction background, as to why the local veterans' organizations originally approached him to start the project with the city. Mr. Goidosik then introduced Ken Medema regarding the brick pavers at the Veterans Memorial Park and his oversight of the pavers, as well as the sales and the history on the paver project. Mr. Medema stated that the bricks are \$75.00 each, which includes a personal inscription and that 1,197 had been purchased to date with 63 bricks remaining. He noted that he would continue to oversee the brick favor project until its completion. Mr. Medema also reminded Council about the upcoming November 11 Veterans Day event planned for the Veterans Memorial Park. Mr. Goidosik closed by thanking the Council and the city for assisting with the Veterans Memorial over the years and agreeing to assume future oversight for the Memorial. Mayor Randall thanked the veterans for their efforts to date and their service, assuring the future of the Memorial going forward.

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 Reid, seconded by Burns, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, October 23, Special Meeting Minutes of Friday, October 26 and Pre-Council Meeting of November 5, 2018. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF NOVEMBER 6, 2018: Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of November 6, 2018. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

PROHIBITING MARIHUANA ESTABLISHMENTS - OTHER THAN MEDICAL MARIHUANA: Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to accept for first reading an amendment to Chapter 2, Administration, with the addition of Article 11, Prohibiting Marihuana Establishments pursuant to the

Michigan Regulation and Taxation Act, Ballot Proposal 1 of 2018, and take final action on November 20, 2018. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 38-35 - HISTORIC DISTRICT LOCATED AT 2663 MANDIGO:

Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to accept for first reading an amendment to Section 38-35 of Chapter 38, Historical Preservation and a Final Report from the Historic District Commission to modify the Historic District located at 2663 Mandigo Avenue, and take final action on November 20, 2018. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to receive the Senior Citizens Advisory Board minutes of September 19, 2018 and the Planning Commission minutes of October 18, 2018. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Ms. Ashley Serne and her daughter, 5841 Missouri Avenue, spoke regarding the dangerous nature of the Portage Northern High School and Northern Middle School area for student walkers. Ms. Serne noted that the area is not well lit by street lights and that high school students driving to school in the morning were an additional concerning factor. Ms. Serne presented the Mayor and the City Manager a picture of the area that she had taken to illustrate her concerns.

Councilmember Reid inquired with Ms. Serne regarding the intersections she was specifically concerned about and Ms. Serne noted the intersection of Oregon and Missouri streets was her major concern, but that the Nevada intersection was even worse. Councilmember Reid further asked whether Ms. Serne feels the area has increased in traffic volume or faster speeds in recent years. Ms. Serne responded that she was unable to comment as her daughter had just started attending middle school in the area and she had not previously paid close attention to the traffic or speeds, but she was able to say that she feels that traffic and speeds had increased in the area.

Councilmember Burns thanked Ms. Serne for coming and Mayor Randall inquired whether Ms. Serne had approached anyone else regarding these concerns, notably Portage Public Schools, to which Ms. Serne responded that she had not yet approached the schools or any other organization. Mayor Randall and City Manager Shaffer confirmed that they will look into the matter and get back with Ms. Serne.

COMMUNICATIONS:

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS: At the request of Mayor Randall, Deputy City Clerk Eklov read the meeting schedule for the record. Motion by Knapp, seconded by Reid, to receive the Calendar of Meetings. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Knapp shared that she participated in a meeting of the Senior Center Subcommittee that morning, which is composed of herself, Mayor Randall and Mayor Pro Tem Pearson. She noted that the first E³ ("Engage, Empower, Enrich") Cabinet Meeting for the new Senior Center fundraising is scheduled for the following week. Councilmember Knapp also reminded City Council of the importance of the city leadership supporting the fundraising effort and reminded Council that they had all been provided with pledge cards and to make sure to fill those out or if they had misplaced them, to contact her to get another.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to receive the Council Committee Reports as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Burns thanked the City Clerk's Office regarding the November 6 General Election efforts.

Councilmember Urban relayed his concerns regarding recent national news stories of motorist accidents and the dangers with regard to students walking to school, people on the road paying more attention to their cell phones than driving and asked everyone to please be cognizant of the road and safety measures.

Councilmember Reid noted her personal history with the creation the Veterans' Memorial Park and its construction. She expressed her appreciation for the veterans' efforts and states she regularly attends the annual Veterans Day event. She encourages everyone to attend the event, but noted she would not be able to attend this year's Veterans Day celebration due to being out of town.

Councilmember Knapp also reviewed Election Day and thanked the City Clerk's Office for their efforts, noting they had been hard at work.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson thanked the voters and noted the polls were still open for the remaining twenty minutes so get out and vote.

Mayor Randall discussed the veterans' efforts with the Memorial, noting that she was encouraged by the transition and the continued life of the Memorial going forward. She thanked city employees regarding the Brush and Leaf Collection Program efforts so far, further asking citizens and drivers to be safe with kids out among the roadside leaf piles. Mayor Randall reminded the public about the Veterans Memorial Park bricks for sale. She noted the current campaign season and Election Day efforts so far, with record setting levels for a Midterm Election and Portage's record absentee ballot response.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.



Erica L. Eklov, Deputy City Clerk