

**MINUTES FROM THE PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF NOVEMBER 19, 2018**

Mayor Randall called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Councilmembers Chris Burns, Richard Ford, Lori Knapp, Claudette Reid and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson joined via the conference phone line. Councilmember Terry Urban was absent with excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Larry 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 November 20th Regular Meeting Agenda. With regard to Item A.3, Mowing, Trimming and Landscape Maintenance, Councilmember Reid noted that the amount of the contract was 15% less than the previous year and inquired as to the reason for the decrease. City Manager Shaffer explained that there is a reduction in the number of locations that need to be mowed along with a reduction in mowing frequency in select areas. In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Reid, Mr. Shaffer explained that the 15% decrease is proportional to the work that will be performed by city staff. He also explained that mowing frequency will decrease in some areas and stated that, for example, this past summer City Hall grounds were mowed three times per week which was unnecessary. He continued by explaining that the city is trying to be more strategic in landscape maintenance of city properties. Councilmember Reid inquired if all bidders were aware of the proposed changes in landscape maintenance and Mr. Shaffer responded in the affirmative.

With regard to Item A.5, Tentative Plan Amendment for Streamsong Planned Development, Councilmember Reid stated that the developer is planning to reduce the size and number of condominiums and stated that, to her understanding, the developer is having difficulty selling the larger condo units. She inquired if the city has a minimum size standard for condo units and how the Streamsong condo units compare. Mr. Shaffer stated that he would research and respond. Mr. Shaffer stated that he has visited the development and confirmed that some of the units are quite large. He stated that, to his understanding, the larger units are too big for the current market. Councilmember Reid shared that she has visited Streamsong and concurs with the City Manager.

With regard to Item F.1, Recreational Marihuana, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson stated that he is seeking clarification as to what impact the proposed ordinance will have on the ability of individual residents to cultivate and use marihuana. City Manager Shaffer explained that the city learned from medical marihuana that it makes sense to get an ordinance passed as soon as possible to prevent businesses from opening prior to the State of Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) and local communities getting rules and regulations established. He explained that the city is not opposed to recreational marihuana and will return to City Council with a proposed ordinance once there is clarity from LARA. He also explained that Portage voters clearly supported the recreational marihuana proposal that was on the ballot. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson clarified that he is seeking to know whether the proposed ban would negatively impact an individual resident's ability to use and/or cultivate marihuana. Mr.

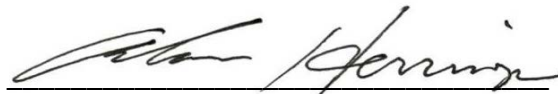
Shaffer responded that the proposed ordinance would not impact an individual's ability to use and cultivate but rather focuses on commercial enterprise.

Councilmember Reid inquired if there was any information from LARA regarding potential rules and regulations. Mr. Shaffer responded in the negative and stated that, with a new governor taking office in January, he anticipates changes in direction and regulation regarding marihuana in the State of Michigan.

Mayor Randall asked for clarification as to the application of punishments regarding marihuana possession to those aged 18 to 21 and those aged under 18. Mr. Shaffer stated that he would research and respond. Mr. Shaffer reiterated that Portage voters were clear in the last election as to their support for recreational marihuana. He stated that the goal of the city is not to ban recreational use but rather to ensure it is appropriately regulated. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson asked that Mr. Shaffer clearly articulate the stance of the city at the Regular Meeting. He stated that, at first glance, it appears the City Council will be banning something that a majority of residents support. Mr. Shaffer agreed that he would be clear in his remarks at the meeting. Mayor Randall asked for specific numbers as to how Portage residents voted on the statewide proposal.

With regard to Item F.2, Historic District Amendment, Mr. Shaffer explained that the ranch house on the property was built in the 1960's and not considered to be essential for inclusion in the Historic District. He indicated that city staff would be present at the meeting to further explain.

ADJOURNMENT: Following a summary of the meeting, Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 8:13 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Adam Herring", written over a horizontal line.

Adam Herring, City Clerk