

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM JANUARY 22, 2019

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

At the request of Mayor Randall, the audience observed a moment of silence to honor all religions and personal beliefs and in appreciation and recognition of the life and teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Following the moment of silence, City Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Randall issued a proclamation in recognition of the National Day of Racial Healing.

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. No items were removed. Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, 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 Knapp, to approve the Special and Regular Meeting Minutes of January 8 and Pre-Council of January 21, 2019. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF JANUARY 22, 2019: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of January 22, 2019. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

MDOT CONTRACT FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF WEST MILHAM: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp to approve Contract #18-5548 between the Michigan Department of Transportation and the City of Portage for reconstruction of West Milham Avenue from Oakland Drive to South Westnedge Avenue and adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign all documents related to the project on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

PURCHASE OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL POLES, MAST ARMS AND ASSEMBLIES: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp to award a contract for the purchase of traffic signal poles, mast arms and assemblies for the traffic signal upgrades on West Milham Avenue at Oakland Drive and Constitution Boulevard to the low bidder, Maico Industries of Ellsworth, Kansas, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$122,396 and authorize the City Manager to sign all other documents related to the contract on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

FINAL PLAN FOR MRS. O'S PRESCHOOL: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp to approve the Final Plan for Mrs. O's Preschool, 8025 Moorsbridge Road. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to receive the Youth Advisory Committee of December 3, Park Board of December 5, Human Services Board of

December 6 and Planning Commission of December 20, 2018. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

MATERIALS TRANSMITTED: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to receive the Materials Transmitted of January 8, 2019. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Ms. Meredith Place, Kalamazoo County Commissioner and resident of 1914 Forest Drive and Mr. Mike Quinn, Kalamazoo County Commissioner and resident of 7025 Rockford Street, provided an update to the City Council regarding activities and upcoming topics of the Kalamazoo County Commission. Commissioner Place shared that she, Commissioner Quinn and Councilmember Burns would be holding a coffee hour open to the public at Water Street Coffee on Centre in Portage on March 9th. She invited the Portage City Council and any residents to attend. Ms. Place expressed optimism for the ability of the Portage City Council and Kalamazoo County Commission to work together and collaborate. Commissioner Quinn echoed the sentiments of Commissioner Place and shared that he had been appointed to the Portage Local Development Finance Authority. Mr. Quinn shared that one topic of concern he raised with the Kalamazoo Metro Transit Authority is the number of bus stops in Kalamazoo County that do not have shelters. Commissioner Place shared that specific topics of discussion that have been or will be raised by the Kalamazoo County Commission include joining a lawsuit regarding opioids, the development of a new County services building, veteran services, homelessness and affordable housing. Mayor Randall thanked the Commissioners for their engagement and presence at the City Council Meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS:

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS: Motion by Ford, seconded by Burns, to receive the Calendar of Meetings. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Burns shared that he recently attended a meeting of the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA). He stated that the CCTA is looking to revise the policy regarding boundaries for fixed route services. The revisions, he stated, would primarily impact those communities in which only a portion of the community opted in for service. Councilmember Burns also shared that the contract for Dial-a-Ride and Metro Connect services is coming up for renewal and the CCTA is looking to improve upon the timeliness and responsiveness of these services.

Mayor Randall shared that she attended a meeting of the Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority (KCCDA). She shared that the operations of the KCCDA are going well and that the organization is in the process of hiring and training new staff.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Burns thanked the State Theatre in Kalamazoo for hosting an event in recognition of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The event was a panel discussion regarding racial disparity in healthcare outcomes in Kalamazoo County.

Councilmember Ford stated that he used the "PlowTrax" snowplow tracking program for the first time over the weekend following the snowstorm. He shared that he was able to locate the snowplow in his neighborhood, wait until his street was plowed and then only clear his driveway once. He encouraged residents to take advantage of the program.

Councilmember Reid informed the audience that this is the first City Council Meeting that is being broadcast using in-house resources instead of Public Media Network. She shared that this meeting is being broadcast via ATT U-Verse and livestreamed from the city website. In addition to these services, she stated, Charter Spectrum will begin broadcasting services in February. She stated

that she is looking forward to seeing the broadcasts and utilization of the new broadcasting equipment to improve video sound and quality.

Councilmember Knapp referenced the City Council Remote Attendance Policy that both she, and most recently Councilmember Reid, have used to participate in City Council Meetings. She stated that the policy is being used as intended and has proven to be adaptable and effective at allowing a Councilmember to be heard. She thanked Councilmember Reid for calling in at the last meeting and for City Council putting the policy in place. Councilmember Knapp shared that there is a 200-year-old millstone from the former Elijah Root Mill on display in the lobby of City Hall. She encouraged residents to stop by and check out a piece of Portage history.

City Manager Shaffer shared that the annual community celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be held on March 8th at the Air Zoo and feature Tuskegee Airman Alexander Jefferson and the Mattawan High School Choir. He thanked Portage resident and former Councilmember Dr. Romeo Phillips for his efforts in making the event possible.

Mayor Randall complimented the city snow plowing efforts during the recent snowstorm and on their efforts throughout this day and evening combatting the wintery weather that has caused numerous closures in the area. Mayor Randall next encouraged residents to attend the annual Snow Party event on February 2nd at Oakland Drive Park which is hosted by the Portage Youth Advisory Committee and complimented the Office of the City Clerk for their work with this committee. Next, Mayor Randall shared that she would be attending a discussion at Portage Northern High School hosted by Portage Public Schools and focused on addressing facility needs of elementary schools in the community. She encouraged City Council and the audience to attend. Finally, Mayor Randall echoed the comments of Councilmember Knapp regarding the ability and value of a Councilmember being able to participate in a meeting remotely.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Adam Herringa, City Clerk