

**MINUTES FROM THE PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF FEBRUARY 25, 2019**

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

Mayor Randall opened the meeting and noted that the invocation for the February 26th Regular Meeting Agenda will focus on education with the Mayor and Council for a Day students reading. She further relayed that the visiting Boy Scout troop will be reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call will include both the regular Council and the student Mayor and a proclamation will also be read by the students. Mayor Randall anticipated Tuesday's events to be quite busy due to the presence of multiple youth groups, in tandem with the dual Council meeting sessions scheduled. Mayor Randall then inquired if there were any questions or concerns regarding items on the proposed February 26th Regular Meeting Agenda.

With regard to Item A.2, Accounts Payable Register, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson inquired as to a \$62,888.07 payment made to Macy's Inc. for a Michigan Tax Tribunal (MTT) Appeal refund and questioned whether Council would receive the regular reports from the City Administration detailing MTT settlement information. City Manager Shaffer stated that he would provide the details of the settlement to Council.

With regard to Item A.3, Proposed Budget Review Sessions, Councilmember Knapp inquired whether the FY 2019-2020 Proposed Budget would be made available for the public to view ahead of the Council reviews. City Manager Shaffer relayed that the proposed budget will be posted online for public viewing. Councilmember Knapp further asked that the City Administration also publish a concise summary or overview detailing the FY 2019-2020 Proposed Budget highlights to increase public understanding of the budget document. City Manager Shaffer stated that he would do so. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson reviewed the Council Budget Session schedules and inquired if the Council were to complete its review of the proposed budget during the April 16th session, could the follow-up discussion and questions slated for the April 30th session instead be paired with a regular Council meeting. Mayor Randall agreed to keep the idea in mind, pending the outcome of the April 16th session.

With regard to Item A.5, Small Cell Distributed Antenna System Agreement, Councilmember Reid inquired why the city was pursuing an individual agreement with AT&T at this time in light of recent state legislation passed regarding regulation of small cell antenna networks to take effect in March 2019. City Manager Shaffer relayed that both representatives from AT&T and the city have concerns that the new law will face legal challenges due to potential constitutional issues, which may tie up the legislation for a time. He noted that the individual agreement before Council allows AT&T to secure desired arrangements with the city now. Councilmember Reid further inquired how obtaining the terms between AT&T and the city right now benefits the city. City Manager Shaffer provided that the city was able to

personally negotiate this particular agreement to its satisfaction with terms the city was willing to accept, before implementation of the statute.

With regard to A.7, City Sign Contract with Valley City Signs, Mayor Randall inquired whether this contract signaled completion of the city sign update project. City Manager Shaffer provided that one additional phase of the project was left to complete. Deputy City Manager Boulis further relayed that small directional signs in the city parks were still due to be updated. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson inquired about potential installation of a digital marquee sign for the City Centre corner based on prior discussions and whether this was still planned. City Manager Shaffer replied that a digital sign was not anticipated. Mayor Randall asked that the city consider donating the old City Hall sign to a local museum or similar institution for historical purposes. Councilmember Reid inquired whether the lighting proposed for the new signage would be directionally fixed to avoid potential vandalism similar to a prior incident with a city sign on Romence Road. City Manager Shaffer responded that the City Administration would review that aspect and take appropriate measures to ensure tampering with the lighting would not be possible.

With regard to the student Mayor and Council for a Day event, Mayor Randall asked that the student members elected to the Council for the evening meeting be requested to prepare their statements in writing prior to the meeting to avoid repeated sentiments. Deputy City Clerk Eklov confirmed the students will be advised.

ADJOURNMENT: Following a summary of the meeting, Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 8:14 a.m.

Erica L. Eklov, Deputy City Clerk