

**NOTES FROM THE PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF MAY 6, 2019**

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

Mayor Randall inquired if someone would be present to read and receive the proclamation. City Clerk Herringa confirmed.

With regard to Item A.4, Redevelopment Ready Communities, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson pointed out that the application from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) requires the designation of three redevelopment sites and inquired if the Crossroads Mall would be one such site. Mr. Shaffer responded in the affirmative. Mr. Pearson next inquired as to the MEDC request for an updated economic development strategy and vision. He pointed out that the last vision included a "City Center" in the vicinity of City Hall and stated his belief that this concept has failed. He inquired if such a concept would be continued and Mr. Shaffer commented that the concept of a "City Center" is more appropriately located at the Crossroads Mall property and not the area around City Hall. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson commented that the MEDC raises good questions and includes a request for an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT). Mr. Pearson asked that the response to the MEDC be included and discussed at the annual City Council Retreat.

Councilmember Knapp pointed out that the MEDC report includes deadlines such as "Quarter 2" and "Quarter 3." She inquired as to how the city is progressing in responding according to the identified deadlines and who established these deadlines. Mr. Shaffer stated that he would research and respond.

Mayor Randall inquired as to when the response will need to be submitted to the MEDC and whether this is a matter that should be concluded prior to Mr. Shaffer's retirement. City Manager Shaffer commented that if the Redevelopment Ready designation is a priority for City Council he will make it a priority as well. Councilmember Knapp inquired if a second City Council Retreat with this as a primary topic would be appropriate. Mr. Shaffer stated that this was a possibility and commented that Vicki Georgeau, Director of Community Development, was leading the response to the MEDC and would be present at the meeting to discuss the matter and respond to questions. Councilmember Knapp inquired when a response to the MEDC report was due and Mr. Shaffer stated that he would research and respond.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson indicated that he would be removing this item from the Consent Agenda so that questions can be answered but also so that citizens can be made aware that the City is working on future development and redevelopment efforts.

With regard to Item A.6, Mr. Shaffer indicated that the winning bidder, Northern Construction Services, would be, at least during his tenure as City Manager, new for the city and that he was glad to have a new construction company bid on a city project.

With regard to Item D.1, Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Proposed Budget, Mayor Randall inquired if the proposed 1.66% budget reduction would be presented. Mr. Shaffer responded in the affirmative and shared that it would also be included as part of the authorizing resolution scheduled for the May 21st Regular Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: Following a summary of the meeting, Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

Adam Herringa, City Clerk