

**MINUTES FROM THE PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF JULY 8, 2019**

Mayor Patricia 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. 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 receive the proclamation. City Clerk Herringa responded in the affirmative.

With regard to Item A.3, Valley City Sign Company, Councilmember Reid asked that city administration provide a cost breakdown of the recent signage improvement efforts.

With regard to Item A.4, Michigan Paving & Materials Company Change Order, Councilmember Reid inquired if the \$90,000 cost is due to increases in asphalt prices, an increase in square footage to be paved or a combination of both. City Manager Shaffer stated that this would be researched and Deputy City Manager Boulis indicated that the asphalt prices in the Change Order remain consistent with the original contract.

With regard to Item A.5, Community Development Block Grant and General Fund Human/Public Services Contracts, Councilmember Reid noted that during the budget review process funding for one entity was removed and the Human Services Board asked to redistribute the associated funding. She asked whether this had occurred and, if so, how the funds were distributed and if what is being presented to City Council reflects the determination of the Human Services Board. City Manager Shaffer stated that the city received less Community Development Block Grant funding than anticipated. Mr. Shaffer stated that he would ask the Department of Community Development to provide details in this regard.

With regard to Item A.6, Labor Agreement with the Portage Police Command Officers Association, Mayor Randall asked if negotiations went smoother than last time. Mr. Boulis respond in the affirmative and shared that negotiations with the Portage Police Officers Association are on-going.

With regard to Items A.7 and A.8, Councilmember Burns asked that City Council be provided with background information on the various appointees of the Downtown Development Authority and Local Development Finance Authority. Councilmember Reid asked specifically who the representative of Kalamazoo Valley Community College is on the Local Development Finance Authority.

With regard to Item A.11, Closed Session, Mayor Randall briefly reviewed the process of going into closed session and that this would occur at the end of the Regular Meeting.

With regard to Item D.1, Public Hearing on Rezoning Application #18-19-6, Councilmember Reid inquired if there was any new information. City Clerk Herringa pointed to a July 3, 2019, letter that was received from an attorney for the applicant and included in the agenda item. Mayor Randall stated that parking seems to be a longstanding problem with

this parcel and asked what the building/property could be used for given the parking limitations. City Manager Shaffer stated that he would research and respond.

With regard to Item F.1, Intergovernmental Agreement with Kalamazoo, Councilmember Knapp noted that the item has been pending for at least a month yet the proposed Agreement remains unchanged. She shared that she continues to have questions related to the salary that will be paid for these positions and how scheduling will occur. She noted that inconsistencies remain between what is being discussed and the actual agreement and asked when and how these inconsistencies will be addressed. Councilmember Reid shared Councilmember Knapp's questions and noted that the salary cap of \$90,000 that has been mentioned is not included in the agreement. Deputy City Manager Boulis shared that an agreement on the cap has been reached with the City of Kalamazoo and that he anticipates it being signed by the Kalamazoo City Manager either today or Tuesday. Councilmember Reid asked that the draft agreement referenced by Mr. Boulis be sent to City Council. Councilmember Knapp asked if scheduling was part of this secondary agreement and stated her belief that the agreement City Council is being asked to approve should be directly reflective of what the City of Portage is being asked to commit to.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson shared that the Kalamazoo County Transit Authority recently hired two Kalamazoo public safety officers and the annual cost was approximately \$105,000. He expressed skepticism that data experts would cost less. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson noted that it seems like the City of Kalamazoo is creating a "Fusion Center" as outlined by the Department of Homeland Security. A Fusion Center, he continued, requires a level of intergovernmental cooperation. He inquired if this is the intent of what is being proposed. He continued by inquiring if the Office of the Kalamazoo County Sheriff had been contacted about participating with the City of Kalamazoo and if the Sheriff's Office might be a more appropriate partner than the City of Portage. Mayor Randall echoed the concerns and questions that had been raised. She inquired that if serious crime and analytics were such an issue in Portage whether it would be more appropriate for the City of Portage to hire another detective. She continued by inquiring whether staff in the Department of Public Safety was aware of the proposed agreement with the City of Kalamazoo and, if so, what their thoughts were. Mayor Randall concluded by expressing support for intergovernmental cooperation but concern about paying for staff employed by other governmental entities.

ADJOURNMENT: Following a summary of the meeting, Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 8:21 a.m.

Adam Herringa, City Clerk