CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Patricia Randall at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Councilmembers Chris Burns, Richard Ford, Lori Knapp, Claudette Reid, Terry Urban, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson and Mayor Patricia Randall. 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 honor of all youth in the community that they enjoy a safe, healthy and education filled summer.

Following the moment of silence in recognition of all those impacted by suicide, City Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Randall issued a proclamation recognizing Suicide Prevention Month. Mayor Randall invited Scott Anderson of Kalamazoo HOPE to read the proclamation designating September as "Suicide Prevention Month" in the City of Portage. After reading the proclamation Mr. Anderson shared details about Kalamazoo HOPE, efforts related to Suicide Prevention and organizations that can provide assistance to those in crisis.

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. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 3 and Pre-Council Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2019. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2019: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of September 17, 2019. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

CITY CENTRE SNOW REMOVAL: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to award a three-year contract in the annual amount of $43,350, with the option for three, one-year renewals, to Wolverine Lawn Services, Inc. for snow and ice removal of city-owned sidewalk, City Centre facility driveways and parking areas, outlying Fire Stations, the Senior Center, and pedestrian crosswalks, and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

FIRE STATION NO. 1 HVAC AND BOILER UPGRADES: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to approve the low bid from R.W. LaPine, Inc., of Kalamazoo, Michigan, in the amount of $98,750 for HVAC and boiler upgrades at Fire Station No. 1 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS RAZE ORDER: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to accept the order of the Construction Board of Appeals to raze and remove the house, accessory building and any debris at 5834 Monticello Avenue; and authorize the City Administration to take the necessary action to place a lien and assess the property to recover the costs associated with the razing and removal of the structures. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 3-19 FOR STRYKER CORPORATION INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to adopt Resolution No. 3-19 setting a public hearing on October 1, 2019 for the issuance of the Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate to the Stryker Corporation for real property investments in the estimated amount of $6,265,544 at 3800 East Centre Avenue and 8065 Merchant Place. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 FOR WEST LAKE WEED MANAGEMENT PROGRAM: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to adopt Resolution No. 2 for the West Lake Management Program #020-Q, setting a public hearing of necessity on October 1, 2019. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

REPORT FROM LOCAL OFFICERS COMPENSATION COMMISSION: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to receive the report from the Local Officers Compensation Commission. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PLANNING COMMISSION WORK PROGRAM UPDATE AND FY 2019-20 PROGRAM: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to receive the FY 2018-19 Planning Commission Work Program Final Update and Proposed FY 2019-20 Planning Commission Work Program. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, receive the minutes of the Human Services Board of July 18, Historic District Commission of August 7, Zoning Board of Appeals of August 12, Planning Commission of August 15, and Portage Public Schools Board of Education Special Meeting of August 12 and Regular Meeting of August 19, 2019. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Ms. Sarah Baker, 5709 Stoney Brook Road, Kalamazoo, spoke regarding the "Engage, Empower, Enrich" campaign for the planned Portage Community Senior Center that was announced at an event earlier in the day. She shared that she is Co-Chair of the campaign and reviewed the status and success of the campaign to date and emphasized the importance of the community working to address the needs of all of its residents. She emphasized the importance of an age-friendly community and that she is thrilled to be a part of this important endeavor. Mayor Randall thanked Ms. Baker for her volunteer efforts, energy and excitement that she has brought to the campaign.

COMMUNICATIONS:

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS: Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to receive the Calendar of Meetings. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

REQUEST TO TERMINATE CENTRE PORT COMMONS BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 6: Mayor Randall opened the public hearing and invited public comment. Vicki Georgeau, Director of Community Development, reviewed the request to terminate the Centre Port Commons Brownfield Development Plan Amendment No. 6, the history of former and current development efforts, and why the termination is recommended. In addition, Ms. Georgeau reviewed the plan to revive the Brownfield Plan so that the developer can be reimbursed for costs incurred in

2010. She also explained that the developer is working with the city on an easement that could be utilized for landscape features and as an attractive entrance to the Lake Center Business District. In response to an inquiry from Councilmember Reid, Ms. Georgeau shared that the reimbursement for brownfield activities will be for work performed in the past. Mr. Fritz Brown, 3509 Sandhill Lane, of Treystar Holdings spoke on behalf of the developer and expressed support for terminating Brownfield Redevelopment Plan Amendment No. 6. He stated that the termination will support the developer's effort to recoup costs associated with remediating the brownfield in the year 2010.

Motion by Ford, seconded by Pearson, to close the public hearing. Upon a voice vote, motion carried unanimously. Motion by Knapp, seconded by Reid, to accept the request from Treystar Holdings, LLC and terminate the Centre Port Commons Brownfield Redevelopment Plan Amendment No. 6. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

UNIFNISHED BUSINESS:

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH JOSEPH S. LA MARGO: Mayor Randall introduced the item and Mayor Pro Tem Pearson commented that, based on information received earlier in the day regarding moving expenses, he was recommending an amendment to the contract to increase the funds for moving from $25,000 to $39,500. Councilmember Urban asked for clarification as to the increase and Deputy City Manager Boulis explained that while $25,000 seemed like a reasonable amount during negotiations new information indicated an increase was warranted. Mr. Boulis pointed out that former City Manager Maurice Evans received $29,500 for moving in 2005 and he relocated from Marshall, MI. Councilmember Reid questioned if this was to be a reimbursement for expenses or a lump sum payment. Mr. Boulis stated it was the latter. City Manager Larry Shaffer spoke in support of the increase in moving expenses. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to amend the proposed employment agreement with Joseph S. La Margo by increasing the funding identified for moving expense in Section 15.B to $39,500 and approve the employment agreement as amended and authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

ORDINANCE AMENDMENT #18/19-B, RESIDENTIAL AMENDMENTS: Mayor Randall introduced the item. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Burns, to accept Ordinance Amendment #18/19-B, Residential Amendments, for first reading and set a public hearing for October 15, 2019. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Ford shared that he had attended a meeting of Discover Kalamazoo at which discussions were held regarding such topics as efforts related to the "Imagine Kalamazoo" endeavor and related appropriations, plans to assume ownership for streets currently owned by the State of Michigan and plans to convert current one-way streets into two-way streets. Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to receive the Council Committee Report. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Urban apologized for missing the meetings held the previous day due to various commitments. He then expressed excitement and support for the capital campaign for the Portage Community Senior Center and that he is looking forward to the building becoming a reality.

Councilmember Reid expressed regret that, due to work commitments, she could not attend the capital campaign announcement for the Portage Community Senior Center that was held earlier in the day. She expressed excitement for the campaign and donations that have been received.

Councilmember Knapp stated that the campaign announcement was a great event and she was pleased to see such a cross-section of the community in attendance. She thanked campaign co-chairs Sarah Baker and Jim Stephanak for their efforts and congratulated and welcomed the La Margo family to Portage.

Councilmember Burns expressed appreciation to Joe La Margo for attending the recent CommUniverCity Night at Western Michigan University, the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Portage North Middle School and the Community Senior Center kickoff event. Mr. Burns next shared that he had recently attended an event regarding "expungement reform" in Kalamazoo. He shared a story from the event in which a Portage resident has been unable to get decade-old misdemeanors expunged from her record and the difficulties she has experienced as a result. He encouraged residents to contact their state representative and express support for efforts at expungement reform. Finally, he announced that a second "Community Coffee" at which he, County Commissioner Michael Quinn and County Commissioner Meredith Place will be available to answer questions from the public is upcoming and will be held at a local coffee shop.

Councilmember Ford thanked Ms. Baker, Councilmember Knapp, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson and Mayor Randall for their hard work on the Portage Community Senior Center project. He commented that the campaign has been professional and well-organized. Finally, Mr. Ford congratulated Mr. La Margo on his appointment and shared that he looks forward to working with him.

City Manage Shaffer welcomed Mr. La Margo and expressed optimism that the Portage community will be delighted by him and his family.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson welcomed the La Margo family. Mr. Pearson then commented that in 2017 Mayor Randall, in her campaign for Mayor, expressed her determination for a new Community Senior Center. He stated that other candidates echoed her idea and that he is grateful for the efforts of the Mayor, Sarah Baker and Jim Stephanak in their work to make the idea a reality. Next, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson thanked the Zhang family for their generous donation and stated that the capital campaign is currently at $9 million of its $11 million goal.

Mayor Randall welcomed Joe La Margo and his wife, Melissa. She expressed excitement for the 7 to 0 vote in support of the employment agreement and commented that the words "transformational, consensus and transparent" that Mr. La Margo used in his application letter resonated with her. Mayor Randall stated that the Community Senior Center event held earlier in the day was outstanding and everything that could be hoped for. She thanked the Zhangs and their commitment to the community. Next, she shared that Ms. June Belitz was the winner of the Second Annual Portage Art Prize and her work would be on display at City Hall through the end of October. Finally, she thanked the La Margos for attending a variety of community events over the past few weeks including the "Blue Mass" at St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church at which the service of first responders is recognized. In closing, Mayor Randall stated that the past week has been one for the record books for the City of Portage.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

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Adam Herringa, City Clerk