

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 3, 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 Joe La Margo, City Attorney Randy Brown and Deputy City Clerk Erica Eklov.

At the request of Mayor Randall, the audience observed a moment of silence to honor all religions and personal beliefs and in recognition of all that there is for which to be grateful.

Following the moment of silence, City Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve the Consent Agenda. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve the Committee of the Whole and Regular Meeting Minutes of November 19 and Pre-Council Meeting Minutes of December 2, 2019. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF DECEMBER 3, 2019: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of December 3, 2019. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

COMPUTER REPLACEMENT BID TABULATION: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve the purchase of computing devices, monitors and accessories from SHI International in the amount of \$166,716.82 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

LEXINGTON GREEN PARK ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to award a contract in the amount of \$58,900 to Fleis & VandenBrink for architectural and engineering professional services for the Lexington Green Park Renovation Project and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRACT RENEWALS: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve one-year contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network for employee health insurance; maintain current employer/employee cost sharing practices by taking action to exempt the city from requirements of PA 152 for the 2020 medical benefits plan year, and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract renewals on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

FINAL CONDOMINIUM SUBDIVISION FOR COPPERLEAF PHASE 4: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve the Final Condominium Subdivision for Copperleaf Phase 4, 3800 West Milham Avenue, subject to: 1) completion of sidewalks and street trees by November 2021; 2) confirmation the asphalt paving meets city specifications; and 3) two sections of the storm sewer be reviewed before expiration of the two-year maintenance bond. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

CITY OF PORTAGE BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT PLAN, PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 8, CENTREPORT COMMONS: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to accept the City of Portage Brownfield Redevelopment Plan, with Brownfield Redevelopment Plan Amendment No. 8 (8015, 8043 and 8061 Portage Road, and 2610 and 2700 East Centre Avenue), and set a public hearing for December 17, 2019. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

MDOT CONTRACT 2018-0770 – ZYLMAN AVENUE: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to sign all documents with the Michigan Department of Transportation related to Contract 2018-0770 on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

REZONING APPLICATION #19/20-3, 1816 EAST CENTRE AVENUE: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to accept Rezoning Application #19/20-3, 1816 East Centre Avenue, for first reading and set a public hearing for January 14, 2020; and subsequent to the public hearing, consider approving Rezoning Application #19/20-3 changing the zoning designation of 1816 East Centre Avenue from R-1B, one family residential, to OS-1, office service. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

SPECIAL MEETING FOR BOARD AND COMMISSION APPLICANTS: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, beginning at 5:30 p.m., to interview Board and Commission applicants. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to receive the minutes of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board of October 16, Portage Public Schools Board of Education Policy Governance Retreat and Committee of the Whole / Work Session of November 11, 2019. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

MATERIALS TRANSMITTED: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to receive the Materials Transmitted of November 19, 2019. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

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

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: Senior Citizens Advisory Board chairperson Doug Gilchrist provided a status update on the Board's goals from the prior year. Mr. Gilchrist specifically noted the Board's role in the new Senior Community Center Capital Campaign and an increase in membership of 15 percent. Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to review the annual update of the Senior Citizens Advisory Board. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

REZONING APPLICATION #19/20-2, 1730 EAST CENTRE AVENUE: Mayor Randall noted that the preliminary agenda originally included a public hearing for Rezoning Application #19/20-2 regarding 1730 East Centre Avenue, but that the public hearing was going to be rescheduled to the January 14, 2020 meeting due to an issue with proper noticing. She inquired whether anyone in the

audience was present to make a comment on the matter, stating that any comments would be entered into the official record and noted during the January 14 public hearing. As no one came forward, Mayor Randall asked for a motion to reset the public hearing.

Councilmember Reid highlighted that the January 14th City Council Meeting would now have two public hearings for two rezonings concerning properties adjacent to each other on East Centre.

Motion by Urban, seconded by Knapp, to set a public hearing for January 14, 2020, for Rezoning Application #19/20-2, 1730 East Centre Avenue; and subsequent to the public hearing, consider approving Rezoning Application #19/20-2, changing the zoning designation of 1730 East Centre Avenue from R-1B, one-family residential, to OS-1, office service. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Burns noted that it was Giving Tuesday, highlighting the city's human services grant application opportunities, as well as the opportunity to serve on a City Board or Commission. He noted the recent review of the I Love Portage student essay contest submissions, with the winners invited to the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Councilmember Ford stated he would be attending the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony. He also noted Giving Tuesday and emphasized the local Kzoo Spartans Alumni Organization's Scholarship Fund.

Councilmember Reid stated she would not be able to attend the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony this year due to a prior family conflict, but noted the event is a great tradition. She mentioned the recent Thanksgiving holiday and the beginning of the holiday season, asking everyone to be patient and kind when out and about.

Councilmember Knapp also mentioned the Tree Lighting Ceremony and relayed other upcoming holiday events sponsored by the city, including the December 8th Holiday Market, the Gingerbread House Building Workshops, and the 20th anniversary of the Millennium Ice Rink opening.

City Manager La Margo stated that he has been impressed so far by the array of city programming, as well as the Portage Senior Center offerings. He concluded by stating that he is excited to attend his first annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony with his family and encouraged everyone to shop locally.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson highlighted the January 14, 2020, Board and Commission Interview Session and the open positions on the noted Boards, including the Human Services Board. He closed by encouraging citizen participation on the city's Boards and Commissions.

Mayor Randall complimented city staff on the Fall Leaf Pickup Program, despite the early winter weather interruption. She stated that this week was the final week of the program. Mayor Randall noted that Vice President Mike Pence was scheduled to visit Portage late Wednesday morning and requested patience with potential traffic complications from the visit. Mayor Randall concluded by encouraging everyone to attend the annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony on Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.

Erica L. Eklov, Deputy City Clerk