

**MINUTES FROM THE PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF JULY 27, 2020**

Mayor Patricia Randall, via the WebEx meeting platform, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Councilmembers Chris Burns, Lori Knapp, Claudette Reid and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson also joined via the WebEx meeting platform. Councilmember Terry Urban was absent with excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Joseph La Margo, Deputy City Manager Mike Carroll, Communications Manager Mary Beth Block, and City Clerk Erica Eklov.

With regard to Item A.2, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson inquired about Check #314000 to McDonald's Towing and Rescue for a vehicle storage fee. Deputy City Manager Carroll responded that this arrangement was part of the prior towing contract per instruction from the City Attorney for serious accidents or instances of potential litigation. He elaborated that vehicles would be stored until the expiration of the statute of limitations, which was the case for this vehicle. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson asked for clarification if the city was responsible for the fee and Deputy City Manager Carroll confirmed, noting that the city could recoup part or all of the cost if the vehicle went to auction. Councilmember Reid and Mayor Randall asked for the storage duration of the vehicle in question. Deputy City Manager Carroll stated he would research and respond.

With regard to Item A.3, Councilmember Reid inquired whether the Kalamazoo Consolidated Dispatch millage proposal scheduled for the following week's election would affect the purchase of the proposed radios. City Manager La Margo responded that the city operated on a different radio frequency, which was highlighted during a recent joint response with the City of Kalamazoo, and the radios would be needed whether the millage passed.

With regard to Item A.4, Councilmember Reid asked for the total expense on the Hampton Bog project and whether the costs would be reimbursed by the potential special assessment. City Manager La Margo responded that he would research the total costs and respond. With regard to the reimbursement, Mr. La Margo stated that would be a policy decision for City Council. Mayor Randall noted the prior pumping efforts by the city in the Black Forest neighborhood and asked the City Manager to ensure equitable treatment. City Manager La Margo stated he would review the Black Forrest situation for comparison and would provide follow-up.

With regard to Item A.5, Mayor Randall asked if there was any insight that the City Administration was able to provide on the proposed closed session without disclosing the purpose. Deputy City Manager Carroll responded that the session was proposed as a follow-up to City Council regarding two parcels of interest to the Council. He further noted that the Action Recommended would be revised to remove "pending litigation," as well as a mention of the vote required by Council to enter a closed session in the communication per the recommendation of the City Attorney.

With regard to Item F.1, Councilmember Reid asked how the city planned to monitor the temperature of water run-off into Portage Creek during the hottest months of the year, citing continued concerns with the trout population. Deputy City Manager Carroll responded that staff had reached out to representatives from Trout Unlimited, as well as other organizations since early July, and were informed the provisions noted in the proposed ordinance should adequately address the concern.

With regard to Item H.1, Mayor Randall asked for a review of the voting process for the Council Vacancy nominations. City Clerk Eklov responded, citing the Governor's Executive Order on virtual meetings instructed to perform votes via Roll Call. Councilmember Burns asked if there could be time for public comment. Mayor Randall responded that she would open the meeting to public comment prior to any votes on nominated candidates. Mayor Randall asked the City Clerk whether any candidates planned to attend the Regular Meeting. City Clerk Eklov responded that she would be contacting each candidate following the Pre-Council to confirm.

ADJOURNMENT: Following a summary of the meeting, Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 8:32 a.m.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk