

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 11, 2020

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Patricia Randall at 7:02 p.m. The meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 2020-02 in light of COVID-19. The following members were present in Chambers: Councilmembers Vic Ledbetter and Mayor Patricia Randall. The following members were present via the WebEx meeting platform: Councilmembers Chris Burns, Lori Knapp, Claudette Reid, Terry Urban, and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson. Also in attendance were City Manager Joe La Margo, Deputy City Manager Mike Carroll, Deputy City Manager Adam Herringa, City Attorney Randy Brown, Communications & Research Coordinator Sam Bowers, and City Clerk Erica Eklov.

At the request of Mayor Randall, the audience observed a moment of silence to reflect upon welcoming Vic Ledbetter and the anticipation of sharing talents and perspectives. Following the moment of silence, the City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

SWEARING IN OF VIC LEDBETTER AS COUNCILMEMBER: City Clerk Eklov gave the Oath of Office to Vic Ledbetter as Councilmember and Councilmember Ledbetter signed the Oath of Office and *The City Council Code of Ethics and Values Policy*.

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. Councilmember Reid removed Item A.7. Motion by Knapp, seconded by Burns, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Burns, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 28, 2020, and Pre-Council Meeting of August 10, 2020. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF AUGUST 11, 2020: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Burns, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of August 11, 2020. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

VEHICLE PURCHASES - COOPERATIVE PURCHASING: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Burns, to approve Authorize the purchase of five 4-wheel drive sports utility vehicles through the State of Michigan MiDEAL and the Oakland County Cooperative Purchasing Program at a total cost of \$177,945 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to these purchases on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING ROOF REPAIRS - BID TABULATION: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Burns, to approve a contract in the amount of \$146,176.23 to Division 7 Building Contractors, Inc. to replace two sections of roofing on the Department of Public Works building 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.

POLICE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING ROOF - BID TABULATION: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Burns, to approve a contract in the amount of \$103,460 to Great Lakes Systems, Inc. to replace eight sections of roofing the Police Headquarters Building 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.

WATER MAIN EASEMENT RELINQUISHMENT - 2700 EAST CENTRE AVENUE: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Burns, to adopt Resolution 20-2, Relinquish Portion of Water Main Easement at 2700 East Centre Avenue. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LEAGUE ANNUAL MEETING: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Burns, to designate the City Manager as the official City of Portage voting representative for the Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

MINUTES OF BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Burns, to accept the meeting minutes of the Historic District Commission of June 3, 2020, and Planning Commission of July 9, 2020. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

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

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Patricia Rakoci, applicant and representative for Redwood Living noted she was on hand to speak regarding the rezoning application. Mayor Randall thanked Ms. Rakoci for calling in and stated that she would defer to Ms. Rakoci during the Regular Business portion of the meeting.

Dr. Monifa Jumanne (610 Mall Drive, Apt. 107) welcomed new Councilmember Ledbetter and expressed interest in his role going forward on the City Council.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA:

REZONING APPLICATION #19/20-4, 7801 GARDEN LANE AND THE NORTH 660-FEET OF 1203 EAST CENTRE AVENUE: Mayor Randall deferred to Councilmember Reid for an explanation regarding removing the item from the Consent Agenda.

Councilmember Reid expressed concern with the proposed development exhibiting only one point of ingress and egress. She requested that the city strives for two points of ingress and egress, noting the secondary access point as presented currently is only for emergency access. Ms. Reid stated that she understood the action recommended was for setting the public hearing on the proposed development but hoped to start a discussion for increased access now.

City Manager La Margo stated that the Fire Marshal and International Fire Code did not require a second ingress/egress due to the single-story construction and fire suppression system constructed within each unit, which is beyond code requirements. However, he noted the Community Development Department had requested a paved secondary emergency exit that will function as a pedestrian and bicycle access. Mr. La Margo stated that the Community

Development Department did not pursue a secondary automobile access drive to Garden Lane due to negative feedback from the adjacent property owners.

Interim Community Development Director Forth explained that both the Public Safety and Traffic Engineer reviewed the project with neither requiring a second access point for the project. He further noted that the proposed emergency access drive will be owned and operated by the developer. Mr. Forth provided additional information regarding recent traffic patterns and the benefits of a Lover's Lane access point as compared to access on Garden Lane. Mr. Forth closed by stating City Council has three options with the first being approval of the development plan as presented with the primary access point and secondary emergency access, or approve the development without any secondary emergency access, or to approve the proposed development with full vehicular access for both Lovers Lane, as well as Garden Lane.

Councilmember Reid inquired whether Garden Lane was slated for any type of improvements or reconstruction in the near future. Interim Director Forth responded that it was not likely noting that Garden Lane had been recently re-paved. Councilmember Reid encouraged City Council to pursue a second ingress/egress point in light of the number of residential units each featuring a two-car garage.

Councilmember Burns inquired whether the city currently had similar residential developments featuring single ingress and egress access. Interim Director Forth confirmed citing several examples. Councilmember Burns then asked whether staff had responded to the residents opposing the development during the Planning Commission process. Interim Director Forth stated that staff was able to review and allay concerns with the residents prior to the Planning Commission's public hearing.

Following additional inquiries from City Council, Mr. Forth introduced Patricia Rakoci, the representative for the Redwood Living development. Ms. Rakoci relayed similar communities constructed by the developer in Michigan and summarized the proposed project for the City of Portage.

Councilmember Reid asked the City Attorney to clarify whether to recommend a revision to the proposed development at the current meeting or wait for the September 8th public hearing. City Attorney Brown responded that such a modification should be pursued during the public hearing.

Councilmember Urban asked whether Ms. Rakoci's firm was amenable to a secondary vehicular access point, noting that he simply desired to have the alternative option available at the public hearing in an effort to maintain an interconnected community. Ms. Rakoci confirmed a secondary access point was possible.

Mayor Randall asked City Manager La Margo to notify the adjacent Garden Lane property owners that secondary access was under Council consideration for the September 8th public hearing.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to accept Rezoning Application #19/20-4, Redwood Living PD, 7801 Garden Lane and the north 660-feet of 1203 East Centre Avenue, for first reading and set a public hearing for September 8, 2020; and subsequent to the public hearing, consider approving Rezoning Application #19/20-4, Redwood Living PD and changing the zoning designation of 7801 Garden Lane and the north 660-feet of 1203 East Centre Avenue

from R-1B, one family residential to PD, planned development. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Burns provided an update regarding the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA). He stated the CCTA continues to review its Youth Mobility Program operated in conjunction with Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS). Mr. Burns relayed the Metro Transit continues to board passengers from the rear entrance without charging fares until such a time when riders can board in the front safely. He noted that the KPS demand for rides will be down in light of upcoming school year learning taking place remotely. Finally, he highlighted a September 16th Public Hearing on the upcoming fiscal year CCTA budgets, which are in good shape as a result of CARES Act funding assistance.

Councilmember Reid provided an update regarding the Kalamazoo County Environmental Health Advisory Council (KCEHAC). She noted that the KCEHAC has not met since March in light of COVID-19, but she had an informational update from the County Health and Human Services Department projects. Ms. Reid relayed County efforts regarding the tracking of mosquito-related Eastern Equine Encephalitis and Zika, PFAS monitoring, and mitigation in partnership with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for Portage, Cooper and Richland communities, as well as the provision of personal protective equipment to vulnerable populations for COVID-19. Councilmember Reid also relayed that Kalamazoo County Health and Human Services Department is monitoring local restaurants for COVID-19 precautions and pursuing violations of the Governor's Executive Orders.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Knapp, to accept the Council Committee Reports as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Reid welcomed Councilmember Ledbetter, noting she looked forward to working with him in person soon.

Councilmember Urban also welcomed Councilmember Ledbetter, relaying that they had been able to have an informal conversation while out in their neighborhood as they learned they live in the same subdivision.

Councilmember Knapp welcomed Councilmember Ledbetter noting she looked forward to working with him.

Councilmember Burns also welcomed Councilmember Ledbetter. Mr. Burns then asked the City Clerk for an update regarding the August 4th Primary Election, which City Clerk Eklov provided.

Councilmember Ledbetter thanked everyone for the welcoming words, noting that his life experiences have both prepared him for this role, as well as to assist in improving the city. Mr. Ledbetter expressed his love for Portage and noted he looks forward to his new position.

City Manager La Margo welcomed Councilmember Ledbetter as well, noting there are several upcoming projects in which he will be involved. Mr. La Margo then thanked the Office of the City Clerk staff for their efforts with the August 4th Election. Mr. La Margo closed by noting the well-attended 3-day charrette from the week prior regarding the Lake Center District Area and provided an update on that program.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson welcomed Councilmember Ledbetter, stating it was an exciting time to be a part of the City Council.

Mayor Randall also welcomed Councilmember Ledbetter, stating she looks forward to adding his perspective to the City Council. She then congratulated the Office of the City Clerk on the August 4th Election and stressed the importance of voting, noting that Portage had the highest voter participation in Kalamazoo County. Mayor Randall highlighted the recent protest by Portage Public School teachers, parents, and bus drivers regarding the Return to Learn plan. She stated that the City Council will support Portage Public Schools in any way while stressing that the city does not have authority over the school district. Mayor Randall closed by stating she hopes a consensus regarding the upcoming school year can be safely achieved.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk