

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 25, 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, and City Clerk Erica Eklov.

At the request of Mayor Randall, the audience observed a moment of silence to reflect upon the Labor Day holiday and those essential and non-essential workers keeping the economy open. Following the moment of silence, the City Council 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 as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 11, 2020, and Pre-Council Meeting of August 24, 2020. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF AUGUST 25, 2020: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of August 25, 2020. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

APPOINTMENT OF CITY ATTORNEYS: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to appoint Bauckham, Sparks, Thall, Seeber & Kaufman, P.C. as City Attorneys for General Municipal & Legal Prosecution Services, with Catherine P. Kaufman appointed as lead City Attorney; and to appoint Douglas A. Boodt, PLLC as conflict counsel and for use on special projects, as needed. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

MCACA GRANT APPLICATION SUPPORT: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to resolve to support the grant application to the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) in the amount of \$100,000 to support construction of the performing arts space in the new Charles and Lynn Zhang Portage Community Senior Center. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

BLUE CARE NETWORK ADVANTAGE PLAN: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve a one-year contract, with the option for two additional one-year renewals, with Blue Care Network for the Blue Care Network Advantage Plan for retiree health insurance and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract renewal on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

RESOLUTION TO DESIGNATE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT COORDINATOR:

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to adopt the Resolution to Designate the Freedom of Information Act Coordinator and designate the Public Information Officer. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PURCHASE OF 217 E. CENTRE AVENUE: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to authorize the City Manager to sign a contract for, and purchase, 217 E. Centre Ave. with a purchase price of \$137,000 and closing costs and expenses not to exceed an additional \$3,000. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY APPROVAL FOR AUSTIN LAKE TRAIL LAND PURCHASES:

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to adopt a Resolution of Necessity to acquire two fee simple interests for development of the Austin Lake Trail. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER AND UPGRADE OF LIQUOR LICENSE - WINE AND

CANVAS (7055 SOUTH WESTNEDGE): Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to recommend approval by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) of the Application for Transfer and Upgrade of Liquor License by Wine and Canvas for 7055 South Westnedge. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

MINUTES OF BOARDS & COMMISSIONS: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to accept the meeting minutes of the Construction Board of Appeals of August 8, 2019, Zoning Board of Appeals of July 13, 2020, and Planning Commission of July 23, 2020. 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: Kate Getman (7567 Bingham, Kalamazoo) introduced herself as the realtor for Laura and Michael Patton of 8642 Portage Road. She relayed frustrations with the Lake Center District Area Moratorium in relation to a pending sale agreement for the Portage Road property. Ms. Getman asked the City Council to consider a waiver for the sale and development of her clients' property.

Laura Patton (8642 Portage Road) also spoke and provided additional background regarding the pending sale.

City Manager La Margo noted that the moratorium did not prevent property transfers, solely development in light of the Lake Center District business plan. He relayed that the moratorium is set to expire September 18, 2020, but noted City Council was likely to extend the moratorium. City Manager La Margo offered that he and Deputy City Manager Carroll would contact Ms. Getman and her clients to review the matter in the following week.

Jeff Hoose (10711 East Shore) inquired about a "pending" notation on the map for the Resolution of Necessity for the development of the Austin Lake Trail item. He then asserted that his neighbor, Peg Giem, was taken advantage of by former City Manager Larry Shaffer

through negotiations on the trail location through her property, which divided the parcel in such a way to render it inaccessible and that Ms. Giem be compensated. Deputy City Manager Herringa responded that this agreement had been finalized before his time in the City Manager's Office but confirmed he would review the matter with Parks and Recreation Director Kathleen Hoyle to address any issues.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Knapp provided an update on the Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission. She relayed that its recent meeting had featured Portage and Parks Director Kathleen Hoyle. She closed by noting upcoming opportunities for art in Portage.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson provided an update on the Kalamazoo County Consolidated Dispatch Authority (KCCDA), noting that the Finance Sub-Committee had met. He relayed that KCCDA had its countywide millage pass in the recent August Election and was now reviewing a tower upgrade along with potential return funding to Portage, Kalamazoo, and the County.

Councilmember Reid provided a Long Lake Governmental Lake Board update. She stated the lake pump had broken but a new part was pending. She closed in noting that the lake was experiencing low water levels, which was unusual in light of other areas in the city suffering from high water issues.

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 Knapp wished everyone a happy Labor Day holiday.

Councilmember Reid highlighted the appointment of a new law firm and the process. She thanked City Attorney Randall Brown. She then wished everyone a happy and safe Labor Day holiday. Councilmember Reid closed by noting school would be resuming soon in a unique format but reminded residents to be alert for traveling school children

Councilmember Urban also thanked City Attorney Randall Brown, noting his long tenure of service.

Councilmember Burns highlighted the Labor Day holiday but relayed it would be different with COVID-19. He noted that COVID-19 continued to affect things such as the employment rate, as well as events like the 2020 PCOC Strut, which had gone virtual.

City Manager La Margo highlighted the Parks and Recreation Department's recent successful drive-in movie with accommodations for COVID-19 safety. He then noted the upcoming Night Lights Water Lantern Festival at Ramona Park.

Mayor Randall also highlighted the upcoming Labor Day holiday. She recognized the first day of school, stressing safety for school children, as well as the new virtual formats. She also thanked City Attorney Brown for his years of service and urged citizens to participate or donate to the upcoming PCOC Strut.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk