

**MINUTES FROM THE PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

Mayor Patricia Randall, via the WebEx meeting platform, called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Councilmembers Chris Burns, Lori Knapp, Vic Ledbetter, 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, Deputy City Manager Adam Herringa, and City Clerk Erica Eklov.

With regard to Item A.2, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson inquired about Checks 314468, 314469, and 314470. He noted that each check was addressed to the same payee for the same amount. He asked whether the payments were repeats or separate expenditures. City Manager La Margo stated he would research and respond.

With regard to Item A.3, Councilmember Burns inquired about the nature of the pending attachment. Deputy City Manager Herringa responded that updated quotes for the fire trucks would be forthcoming but hadn't been received from the vendors before the early close of business on Friday. Councilmember Reid inquired about the cost of leasing compared to purchasing. She further asked why the \$200,000 cost was proposed from the Police Division's operating funds when there were identified Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds available. Councilmember Reid then asked why both pumpers required replacement this year, as well as clarification on the value of a pumper when decommissioned. City Manager La Margo responded that a new fire pumper truck costs \$700,000 each and the lease option was expected to allow for fiscal responsibility while revenue was suffering from the effects of COVID-19, especially since both of these vehicles were beyond their serviceable life. He then stated that there were more funds available in the Police Division's operating budget and by having the department assume the costs, then more funds were available for other projects in the CIP. City Manager La Margo closed by stating that the City Administration is working to optimize the replacement schedule for replacement vehicles and other city assets. Councilmember Reid additionally asked for clarification regarding the available \$200,000 in the Police budget in the current year, as well as the subsequent seven years. She then inquired as to why trucks are reaching the point of overuse as opposed to a pre-planned cycle. City Manager La Margo stated the \$200,000 was remaining from budgeted department positions. Deputy City Manager Carroll provided an additional explanation regarding the Police Division position changes for the current fiscal year remnants.

Councilmember Burns asked for the useful lifespan of a fire pumper truck. Deputy City Manager Carroll responded that it is approximately 10 years. Councilmember Burns then inquired regarding the expected low salvage value. Deputy City Manager Carroll responded that reusable apparatus are sometimes provided for auction but these particular vehicles may be provided to less fortunate municipalities or salvaged for parts. He noted the vehicles no longer meet MDOT road safety requirements. Councilmember Burns inquired whether the lease agreement language concerning the limit of \$10 million of bonded debt applied solely for 2020. City Manager La Margo confirmed it did and Bond Counsel had further verified it.

With regard to A.6, Councilmember Knapp inquired about the proposed six-month extension to the Lake Center District moratorium as compared to the noted introduction of a new zoning district. She asked for clarification whether the intent with the Action Recommended was to be whichever comes first or an either/or stipulation. Deputy City Manager Carroll clarified that it is to be whichever comes first. Councilmember Reid asked when Council would be getting the actual resolution document. Mr. Carroll responded that he was planning to get it from the City Attorney shortly.

ADJOURNMENT: Following a summary of the meeting, Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 8:25 a.m.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk