MINUTES FROM THE PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF OCTOBER 5, 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, Councilmember Burns inquired about Check No. 13832 regarding the PredPol software renewal. He asked the outcome regarding a prior citizen concern overuse of the software. City Manager La Margo responded that Council had been provided follow-up information via e-mail following the citizen's concerns. Councilmember Burns confirmed he had located the noted e-mail.

With regard to Item A.3, Councilmember Reid inquired about additional hourly rate charges noted as part of the contract with ImageStream and asked for a cost breakdown from year one and year two. She further inquired whether there had been any consideration to offering educational broadcasting programs since leaving Public Media Network, notably with high school youth. City Manager La Margo stated he would further research and respond.

With regard to Item A.4, Mayor Pro Tem Pearson inquired about the amount of the contract with American Hydrogeology Corporation (AHC) and asked whether there would be additional fees and studies performed in the future. Deputy City Manager Carroll responded that the annual cost for PFAS water sample testing was unknown at this time as PFAS is present throughout the aquifer and multiple samples at different levels will need to be taken. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson asked if Portage had high PFAS test results. Deputy City Manager Carroll noted the samplings from South Westnedge Park. Councilmember Reid inquired whether the contract price was for the setup of the wells only or included additional testing. She also inquired if this proposed contract would be in addition to the city's existing contract with AHC. Deputy City Manager Carroll responded that the proposed contract would be in addition to the city's current contract and additional costs were expected. Mr. Carroll stated he would calculate those costs and respond. Councilmember Burns noted that the map provided showed a proposed well next to an existing well. Deputy City Manager Carroll responded that PFAS testing wells required deeper depths than normal sample wells. Councilmember Burns inquired whether AHC planned to complete any future modeling. Deputy City Manager Carroll stated he was unsure but tests had shown the groundwater moves in a north/northwest direction. Councilmember Burns then asked whether the funding was from the Water Fund or the General Fund. City Manager La Margo stated he would research and respond. Mayor Randall inquired whether the city was continuing testing under the direction of the State of Michigan, Kalamazoo County Health Department, or for resident safety. City Manager La Margo stated all three were driving continued testing.

With regard to Item E.1, Mayor Randall inquired about the meeting format of the Board and Commission Interviews. City Clerk Eklov provided an update.

With regard to Item F.1 and F.1(a), Mayor Randall inquired about the planned motion and order of items regarding 225 East Centre Avenue. Councilmember Reid inquired if the order of the items could be switched on the agenda. Deputy City Manager Carroll confirmed they would be switched. Councilmember Reid then inquired as to the sale price for the assessment role. City Manager La Margo confirmed that the $176,400 property transfer price would be the recorded total.

With regard to Item H.1, Mayor Randall inquired about the Halloween plans of neighboring jurisdictions. City Manager La Margo stated he would research and respond.

Councilmember Reid inquired about the potential for a New Business item in response to the Michigan Supreme Court's recent ruling on the Governor's Executive Orders for COVID-19. City Manager La Margo stated he would clarify with Kalamazoo County and respond.

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

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Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk