

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 12, 2016

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Strazdas at 7:30 p.m.

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, Ms. Sujatha Krishnamurthy of the Indo American Cultural Center and Temple of Portage gave the invocation and City Council and the audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk called the roll with the following members present: Councilmembers Richard Ford, Jim Pearson, Patricia M. Randall, Claudette Reid and Terry Urban, Mayor Pro Tem Nasim Ansari and Mayor Peter Strazdas. Also in attendance were City Manager Laurence Shaffer, City Attorney Randy Brown and City Clerk James R. Hudson.

PROCLAMATIONS: Mayor Strazdas issued a Fair Housing Month Proclamation and Mayor Pro Tem Ansari issued a Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Ansari, seconded by Ford, to approve the the Special Meeting Minutes of March 22, 2016, and the March 22, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to approve the Pre-Council Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2016, as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0 with Councilmember Ford abstaining.

* **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Strazdas asked Councilmember Urban to read the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Reid asked that Item F.3, Kalamazoo County Brownfield Redevelopment Plan, be removed from the Consent Agenda. Mayor Strazdas removed Item F.2, 2016 Utility Rate Financial Study, from the Consent Agenda. Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve the Consent Agenda motions as amended. Discussion followed. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF APRIL 12, 2016:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of April 12, 2016. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Glen Smith, 1591 West Centre Avenue, stated he is an Attorney representing two clients who are caregivers under the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MMMA) passed by the voters of Michigan. He cited Ter Beek v. Wyoming (City of) and argued that the Portage Ordinance is too restrictive because it limits a dispensary to have only home occupations in Portage. ZHe mentioned that according to the 2010 Census, there are 700 licensed caregivers in Kalamazoo County and conjectured that as many as 300 homes in Portage are dispensaries. He pointed out that the MMMA is not pre-empted by the Federal Controlled Substance Act and argued that most homes are not ADA accessible, not ventilated properly, do not have the necessary water supply, that dispensaries do not grow the product, that the five (5) patients per caregiver is not practical, and that his clients are in an I-2, industrial, zoning district implying that is more conducive to this type of operation. He asked that City Council stay the enforcement of the ordinance until the City Council can act on a new ordinance. He indicated that he knows of ten other municipalities that have changed from a home only occupation scheme to a dispensary scheme and argued the legal principles do not comport with the economic principles. He again asked that City Council stay the enforcement of the ordinance until the City Council can act on a new ordinance.

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, City Manager Shaffer indicated that the Administration has discussed this matter extensively and will ask City Council to consider a moratorium at the next Regular Meeting and take under advice to consider setting a public hearing to consider enacting a six month

moratorium. He mentioned there is pending legislation at the State level that may or may not have an impact on a Council decision in this matter, and a referendum and vote in November for full legalization of Marihuana would render the Portage Ordinance obsolete. The moratorium would allow the Administration to bring forth some best practices of other communities in the State and to garner input from the advocates of medical marihuana. Relative to staying any action, he indicated discussions with the City Attorney revealed that City Council has the authority and could stay any actions with regard to the two existing dispensaries in the City, including any citations.

Travis Copenhaver, Associate Attorney, Cannabis Attorneys of Michigan, 4312 East Grand River Avenue, Howell, stated he is representing one of the caregivers and that a moratorium is appropriate. He also indicated it would be appropriate to consider an ordinance change to allow these dispensaries to exist, asked for a stay of action and indicated that what his client is doing is well within the MMMA and explained. He handed out packets of information and outlined its contents. At the request of Mayor Strazdas, City Manager Shaffer indicated that he did not take any exception with any of the comments from Attorney Copenhaver, and expressed his appreciation for the two draft ordinances he provided.

Jevin Weyenberg, 5817 Cheshire Street, indicated marihuana is a very safe product and mentioned that there is a very competent lab in Kalamazoo with state of the art equipment to test everything. He described his experience with the product outlining its efficacy and spoke in favor of it and having a Portage Ordinance that expands beyond the home occupation option. He gave further testimony and discussion followed.

Brianna Hill, 4709 Fox Valley Drive, Apt. 1A, indicated that she was a caregiver, that her business address was 5092 Sprinkle Road, and spoke of the need for a dispensary option in the Portage Ordinance. She asked for a quality controlled product and safe access to a caregiver, pointed out that Kalamazoo County is short 300 caregivers and spoke in favor of the MMMA. Discussion followed.

Devin Loker, 1595 West Centre Avenue, Suite 100, spoke in favor of a moratorium and a stay of enforcement of the ordinance as a good idea to allow public a chance to think about what can be done.

Robert Blackford, 23305 Sherer Street, Mattawan, from Colorado, spoke in favor of quality controlled marihuana and safe access to the product.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET: City Manager Larry Shaffer indicated that the Proposed Budget is the culmination of three months of effort by Staff and Department Heads that includes a comprehensive analysis of City revenue streams going forward, reviews all of the needs of the City as defined by the departments of the City and the future needs of the community. He indicated the Budget contains 22 separate funds with a budget amount of \$67,168,585 which represents a 1.3% increase over last year. He said virtually all of the increase is found in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) line and debts in our community, or about \$850,000 - for a total CIP Budget of \$14 million. He noted that the Budget also includes funding for three additional police officers and three firefighters to address the increase in the number and severity of the calls. He indicated that City Council will be asked to meet with staff in Conference Room No. 1 on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, and Tuesday, May 3, 2016, from 4:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. Mayor Strazdas explained that these are open meeting sessions and the public can participate at the end of the sessions. Discussion followed.

At the request of Councilmember Randall, Mr. Shaffer assured Council and the public that the Budget will be available to everyone on line by this week. In response to Councilmember Pearson, Mayor Strazdas asked that all requests concerning the Budget be in writing through the City Manager for dissemination. Discussion followed.

In answer to Councilmember Urban, Mr. Shaffer assured him that Council would receive a line item budget as provided in the past. Discussion followed.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to receive the Presentation of Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget from City Manager Larry Shaffer. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

2016 UTILITY RATE FINANCIAL STUDY: Mayor Strazdas asked for a response to the following questions from the City Manager and City Engineer: How is our water quality? How is our present maintenance? How is the future of our water system? What is the increase? Is it a good value? Mr. Shaffer provided a brief overview of Portage water. He said that lead pipes are not at issue for the City of Portage because the age of our City is such that water was brought in well after the use of lead pipes ceased. He also noted that there are no lead mains and no lead pipes servicing those mains, except for the occasional soldering that was done. He referred to the Suez Report where Suez Environmental performed 6,700 water testing, or 20 per day, with no “hits” proving that Portage water is excellent.

Mr. Shaffer recognized that the real issue is perception and announced that there is another open house at the Water Treatment plant on April 23, 2016, and that the City offers free water testing which have all turned out negative. With regard to future needs, he indicated that the water and sewer funds are healthy with significant cash to address capital needs in the system along with an aggressive CIP process where needs are predicted ahead of time. He said any rate increase is something to be concerned about, but the total rate increase this year is only 0.75% for both water and sewer.

In answer to Mayor Strazdas, Transportation & Utilities Director Chris Barnes shared that we are always planning for the future and the projected needs as a community with exploring new resources and protecting our water with the Wellhead Protection Program. He cited the new water mains and new hydrants installed on South Westnedge last year with the road improvements for reliability and dependability. Discussion followed and Mayor Strazdas thanked the Water and Sewer Rate Committee Members and mentioned that the City is poised to pay cash for a very large project, a new water tower, with no need for bonding. Mr. Barnes noted the importance of the hydrant flushing program to keep the water fresh for the end user. Discussion followed.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Randall, to establish a public hearing for April 26, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard, to consider resolutions to: adopt the recommendation that the sewer commodity rate remain at \$4.60 per 1,000 gallons of metered water; adopt the recommendation that the water commodity rate remain at \$3.19 per 1,000 gallons of metered water; adopt the recommendation that adjustments be made to both the sewer and water base quarterly charges as noted in the 2016 Utility Rate Financial Study; adopt the recommendation that the new rates become effective on October 1, 2016; and adopt the recommended water and sewer franchise area fees and other service fees and charges as outlined in the 2016 Utility Rate Financial Study. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT PLAN:

Councilmember Reid introduced this Brownfield Redevelopment Project and indicated that it will require \$190,540 to address the contamination issues in order to develop the land of this tax exempt property. She mentioned that taxes will be forgone by the various jurisdictions, not just Portage, by adopting the proposed Resolution. So, she asked for more information on this project so the citizens will know what City Council is doing.

District 11 Kalamazoo County Commissioner Scott McGraw, 10608 Dandale Street, encouraged City Council to adopt the resolution of support for the Brownfield Redevelopment Plan and commented that it is a “win-win-win” because it is not often that we can take tax exempt property, place it on the tax rolls and bring jobs to the community.

Joe Agostinelli, Associate Vice President, Southwest Michigan First, 1906 Forest Drive, and Chair of the Kalamazoo County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, applauded this as the second project in collaboration with the City of Portage and thanked City Council for their consideration. He indicated that the company is RAI Jets, LLC, and is a second location for them. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Reid noted that the City of Portage is foregoing \$40,098 and asked what are the other jurisdictions foregoing? Mr. Shaffer deferred to Community Development Director Vicki Georgeau, who referred City Council to Table 3 in the City Council Agenda Packet, reviewed the total

amounts for each jurisdiction listed and explained. Councilmember Reid spoke in support of the project, but did want to point out that there are costs associated to be borne by various jurisdictions. Discussion followed.

Motion by Randall, seconded by Reid, to adopt the resolution of support for the Kalamazoo County Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Brownfield Redevelopment Plan for 5825/5901 Willoughby Drive for tax capture in the maximum amount of \$190,540 over a period of up to 15 years (including five years for the Local Site Remediation Revolving Fund) or when eligible activities have been fully reimbursed, whichever occurs first. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 151 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 46.

* **SPECIAL MEETING FOR BOARD AND COMMISSION APPLICANTS:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, beginning at 5:15 p.m., to interview Board and Commission applicants. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETINGS:** City Council received the minutes of the following Boards and Commissions:

Portage Public Schools Board of Education Regular of February 22, Special of February 29 and Committee of the Whole of March 14, 2016.

Portage Historic District Commission of March 2, 2016.

Portage Planning Commission of March 3 and 17, 2016.

Portage Human Services Board of March 3, 2016.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

DISCOVER KALAMAZOO: Councilmember Randall reported on her meeting on Monday, April 11, 2016. She said that the presenter, Rebecca Kick, was from the City of Kalamazoo, who disclosed the specifics of their process utilized for their imaginary program on visioning. She mentioned the ten minute survey which is an attempt to poll the masses downtown for input regarding the future direction of the City. Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to receive the report from Councilmember Randall on the Discover Kalamazoo Meeting of Monday, April 11, 2016. Upon a voice vote, Motion carried 7 to 0.

CENTRAL COUNTY TRANSIT AUTHORITY (CCTA): Councilmember Urban reported on the meeting with the CCTA on Monday, April 11, 2016, where work continues that is necessary to transfer all of the Metro Transit System from the City of Kalamazoo to the CCTA by the closing date of October 1, 2016. He mentioned that of significant interest, and with much past discussion in the community, the CCTA approved the service agreement with Texas Township and Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC) to continue the route that serves KVCC from downtown. He pointed out that the final portion of that route was outside the CCTA District in which Texas Township chose not to participate, but that a service agreement is available under CCTA Policy for a one time duration of our millage, so there is no danger of the service being interrupted. He noted that it is one of the most popular routes in the system, and approximately 17% of the ridership got off at KVCC and approximately 22% got off at Texas Township. Discussion followed. He also mentioned that the minutes of the CCTA are on line. As a member of the CCTA, Councilmember Pearson concurred and recognized the exceptional work by Executive Director Sean McBride and Chairperson Linda Teeter. In answer to Councilmember Ford, Councilmember Urban indicated that no agreement has been reached by neither Oshtemo Township, nor Pavilion Township. Discussion followed. Councilmember Urban indicated that even though there was no interest in working with a service agreement by Oshtemo Township, Mr. McBride will be circulating back around since there are new discussion points, but such an agreement cannot be anticipated at this point.

Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to receive the report from Councilmembers Urban and Pearson on the Central County Transit Authority Meeting of Monday, April 11, 2016. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS:

MEDICAL MARIHUANA: Councilmember Randall indicated that she viewed the Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting last evening with interest and noted that the issues expressed were beyond the purview of the ZBA, but not that of City Council. She expressed an interest in hearing more about the proposal from City Manager Shaffer regarding a six month moratorium, as well as a stay in enforcement of the current City of Portage Ordinance during that six month period.

Mayor Strazdas asked if anyone has any specific questions that they direct them to the City Manager for response, and Mr. Shaffer indicated that he would appreciate it if the questions could be submitted by Wednesday, April 20, 2016. He pointed out that the one remaining issue is the request for a stay of the enforcement of the Ordinance and, unless the City Council directs otherwise, consideration of the moratorium question will be on the April 26, 2016 Regular City Council Meeting Agenda. He said he was not predisposed to look for other opportunities to cite someone else, or other practitioner, until the Council has completed their discussion on the moratorium and the potential for a stay of the enforcement of the Ordinance. Mayor Strazdas reminded City Council that under New Business, the only question is whether the Council wishes to direct the City Manager to research a topic and bring back a recommendation or report.

City Attorney Randy Brown indicated that his office is preparing a lengthy opinion that will be ready for the next meeting that describes the law in this area and asked Council to direct any questions to him regarding the opinion. He noted that Council has been through the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MMMA) before, so it is not a surprise that it has been found to be confusing and complicated by those citizens who spoke earlier. He acknowledged that it is complicated and courts have struggled with it since it was passed. He indicated that there are many Court of Appeals cases that have interpreted provisions of the Act and several important Supreme Court Cases that have interpreted the Act, but there is a long way to go yet. He pointed out that the Courts have not discussed the dispensary issue point blank and the Act does not permit, nor does it prohibit what would be considered a dispensary – the free flow of marihuana – through caregivers and patients.

However, Mr. Brown indicated that he did not wish Council to think that Ter Beek v. Wyoming (City of) authorized dispensaries because it did not. It held that if a person is in compliance with the MMMA; that if a person is in compliance with the MMMA, i.e. if that person is in compliance with the close relationship that is the intent of the Act between the caregiver and his or her five (5) qualified patients who are registered with the State of Michigan, then that person is legal, and a Zoning Ordinance cannot prohibit that activity. He indicated that to comply with the Act in that way makes it very difficult to have a dispensary because by nature a dispensary would take it outside the 5:1 ratio. He stated we still have the MMMA which is law that we are bound to follow and a home occupation ordinance which we are bound to enforce. He pointed out that enforcement has gone forward because evidently what is happening at these locations in question are not in compliance with the Act. He disclosed that since the ZBA denial of the request last evening to stay the enforcement of the ordinance, even though it was stayed while the appeal was pending, that allowed the City to continue the enforcement. He anticipated there might be further interest to stay the enforcement of the ordinance, so he has prepared a motion for Council which he admitted is rather long because of the details required to stay the enforcement of an ordinance.

Councilmember Reid objected because she has not seen any of the proposed language and stressed that she is not prepared to act on something on such short notice without the chance to review it, first. Discussion followed and Mr. Brown indicated that the proposed ordinance does not contain a stay of enforcement provision because it just prohibits the establishment of any future facility.

In answer to Councilmember Reid, Mr. Shaffer indicated that it is premature to take any action on this matter until the Council has a full opportunity to discuss it, the petitioners have a chance to

appeal the action of the ZBA, and/or a resolution might be reached in court; so, he plans to take no action until Council has the opportunity to discuss this matter at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Councilmember Pearson indicated that he watched the ZBA Meeting and, like Councilmember Urban, as a former Chair of the ZBA, he never remembered having the Assistant City Attorney ask applicants to take sworn statements before they could present their case, so he took this as “collecting evidence” for prosecution. He agreed with Councilmember Reid that it is premature to take any action on this matter until the Council has a full opportunity to discuss it, and wanted assurances that there would be no prosecutions during the next ten days using this evidence. Mr. Brown indicated that Legal Counsel does not proceed with enforcement action without the direction of the City Administration. In answer to Councilmember Pearson, City Manager Shaffer indicated that the moratorium would be introduced on April 26, 2016; Council would be asked to hold a public hearing on May 10, 2016; and Council would have a chance to vote on the matter thereafter.

Councilmember Urban asked what exactly does the moratorium contemplate. Discussion followed. Mr. Shaffer indicated that the moratorium would be designed to take a look at the present home occupation marihuana zoning ordinance and to take the opportunity to create a new ordinance or to add to the current ordinance in order to take into consideration some of the issues raised. He explained that it is the chance to give space in time to craft a new ordinance; to step back for a period of time in order to take a look at what happens at the State level and at the referendum level and to ascertain how those activities might inform Council regarding a potential ordinance. He summed up and emphasized that the moratorium would provide the time for consideration of the details of a new ordinance or the expansion of the current home occupation ordinance.

In answer to Councilmember Urban’s quest for clarity of what the moratorium would contemplate, City Attorney Brown indicated that the moratorium ordinance actually excludes the home occupation type of medical marihuana transaction; that will not be prohibited at all because it is an exclusion; however, the moratorium will prohibit any establishment of a medical marihuana use if it does not fall within the Act requirement. In answer to Councilmember Urban, he said that this requires action because there are arguments that what they are doing is legal. The moratorium ends that discussion and the establishment of new marihuana facilities like the ones in question will not happen because they are prohibited during the moratorium period, and this allows us to obtain some clarity during the moratorium period. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Ford listed some of the pending legislation to be considered when considering a new ordinance, and City Attorney Brown welcomed discussion of any sample ordinances from anyone. Councilmember Pearson reminded Council that he suggested that Council needs to meet as a Committee of the Whole on this issue and asked that Council take it into consideration May 10, 2016. Mayor Strazdas responded that this would be a pre-judging of the decision of Council and expressed a preference for a public hearing for citizen input, then have a work session and explained that the timing is an important consideration here. Councilmember Pearson offered that he would be proposing a Committee of the Whole in the near future for a discussion of the medical marihuana issues.

Councilmember Ford noted that Council set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, May 10, 2016, beginning at 5:15 p.m., to interview Board and Commission applicants and, in that case, Councilmember Pearson deferred to May 24, 2016, as a possibility.

Councilmember Urban commented that members of the audience admitted establishing a business knowingly illegal in the State of Michigan or the City of Portage, and said he was disturbed that City Administrators were not going to continue enforcement since they lost their appeal last night. He said he has no sympathy for people who knowingly flaunt the law; but, he does have sympathy for patients and people who are using medical marihuana, but little sympathy for businesses who flaunt the law willingly. He restated his disappointment that City Administrators were not going to continue enforcement. Mayor Strazdas summed up.

BID TABULATIONS:

*** 2016 LOCAL STREETS RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT – BID TABULATION:**

Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to award a construction contract for the 2016 Local Streets Reconstruction Project to Rieth-Riley Construction Company, Incorporated, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, in an amount not to exceed \$1,639,086.77 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.

*** SOUTH SHORE DRIVE SANITARY SEWER PROJECT #416-S– BID TABULATION:**

Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to award a construction contract for the South Shore Drive Sanitary Sewer Improvements Project #416-S to Balkema Excavating, Incorporated, of Kalamazoo, Michigan, in an amount not to exceed \$481,463.06 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.

*** SCOTT BREATHING AIR SYSTEM – BID TABULATION:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve the purchase and installation of a Scott Breathing Air System Hush/Revolveair in the amount of \$62,439 from Argus-Hazco of Chesterfield, Michigan, and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this matter on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

*** DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY - POLICE DIVISION VEHICLE MAINTENANCE – BID TABULATION:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to award a two-year contract, with the option for up to three one-year extensions, to the low bidder Michigan Municipal Police & Fire Repair, LLC, for maintenance of all Department of Public Safety Police Division vehicles at a labor rate of \$45.00 per hour and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

OTHER CITY MATTERS:

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Travis Copenhaver of Cannabis Attorney of Michigan, representing one of the Medical Marijuana caregivers, indicated that he does not believe the Home Occupation Ordinance of the City of Portage is valid and will continue to challenge that ordinance. He indicated that he does not encourage people to break the law, but in this case, there is no law being broken owing to the ordinance being invalid.

Attorney Glenn Smith asked whether the City Attorney opinion is public record and City Attorney Brown indicated that it is covered under Attorney-Client privilege and does not have to be released; however, a majority of Council can vote to release it.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Urban reiterated his comments regarding CCTA that the process has been an effort of the entire County that has been 15 years in the making; that the Committee was concerned when Texas Township chose not to be a part of the District since it would have meant the end of service to KVCC if something had not happened; but, they chose to take advantage of the CCTA provision that facilitated retention of that route. He expressed his hope that service to the other entities continues similarly for those who need it.

Councilmember Reid expressed her appreciation for the discussion of the Medical Marijuana issue and asked for input from people who are working within the home occupation ordinance. She noted that because of HIPPA requirements, there is no list of the homes that have care providers, so she asked current caregivers to provide their side of the situation. She reminded citizens of the electronic collection and recycling event, April 16, 2016, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Department of Public Services, 7719 South Westnedge Avenue, and the latex paint collection and recycling event on May 14, 2016. She mentioned that this past week she attended the American Occupational Therapy Conference

with over 10,000 attendees in Chicago which will celebrate its 100th Anniversary next year, and she recognized the practitioners by indicating April is Occupational Therapy Month.

Councilmember Randall thanked the citizens and the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals for attending the ZBA Meeting April 11, 2016, for four hours. She said, "Progress takes time, but we will do it slowly and we will do it together." She expressed her empathy for people who use this product and need it to maintain both physical and mental health. On a lighter note, she mentioned the Deer Management Forum, April 14, 2016, at 7 p.m., Portage City Hall. She also mentioned the upcoming City Spring Cleanup and the Brush and Bagged Leaf Collection.

Councilmember Ford indicated that he cannot make the pre-Council meetings and asked if something could be done with regard to his having to abstain from the approval of the minutes of that meeting each time. Mayor Strazdas indicated he would work with Staff, Mayor Pro Tem Ansari and the City Attorney to make that better.

Councilmember Pearson reviewed item L.1, 2016 Local Streets Reconstruction Project, and indicated that more than \$3 million in street work would be taking place this summer. He noted that Council freed up over \$1million from City surplus funds to pave 50 streets. He said a fresh coat of asphalt would be constructed on 9 miles of roadway on 37 local streets and an additional 20 neighborhoods will see greater than 4 miles of roadwork in Spring 2016. He also mentioned that Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive would finally be reconstructed and turned over to the City. Mayor Strazdas concurred and discussed the process.

Mayor Pro Tem Ansari noted the surplus and mentioned that the Portage priority is our streets. He thanked Maliha Khan, Chair of the Kalamazoo County Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Council, and Director Karen Hayter for their focus and work on child care in our community.

Mayor Strazdas reflected upon his recent trip to Europe and commented that Portage roads are appreciated as compared to the 600 year old infrastructure of France and the United Kingdom. He emphasized that Council needs to continue focus on safety, water, sewer, roads and the basics.

MATERIALS TRANSMITTED:

* **MATERIALS TRANSMITTED OF MARCH 22, 2016:** Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to receive the Materials Transmitted of Tuesday, March 22, 2016. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 9:48 p.m.

James R. Hudson, City Clerk

*Indicates items included on the Consent Agenda.