

**MINUTES FROM THE PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF MARCH 8, 2021**

Mayor Patricia Randall called the virtual meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. Councilmembers Chris Burns, Lori Knapp, and Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson also joined virtually. Councilmember Vic Ledbetter joined virtually at 8:02 a.m. In compliance with Michigan Public Act 228, the Mayor and Councilmembers disclosed their virtual participation from Portage, Michigan. Councilmembers Claudette Reid and Terry Urban were 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.

Mayor Randall began by highlighting the Proclamations, noting Mayor Pro Tem Pearson would read the March for Meals acknowledgment and requesting Councilmember Knapp read the Girl Scouts Month acknowledgment.

With regard to Item A.5, Lume Cannabis Appeal, Councilmember Burns inquired regarding the City Administration's expected timeline regarding the city's marijuana ordinance updates in light of the Michigan Marijuana Regulatory Agency policy changes. City Clerk Eklov responded that staff, under the direction of the City Attorney, planned to operate under the current ordinance until the preset sunset stipulation of November 2021 that requires a medical license in order to apply for a retail use. She further relayed that a Committee of the Whole meeting was anticipated for the upcoming summer or early fall to review the proposed ordinance revisions from staff with City Council in order to have an updated ordinance ready following November 2021.

With regard to Item A.6, Adoption of Notice of Intent Resolution, Councilmember Burns requested that the City Administration revise the Action Recommended language to be more specific for public clarity. City Manager La Margo stated staff would research and modify accordingly. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson inquired about the Zylman Avenue/Portage Road intersection project quoted on page 39 of the agenda packet for \$175,000. He relayed that he recalled the former City Administration had planned for a pocket park at that location and had secured state funding with the assistance of former Councilmember Margaret O'Brien. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson inquired about the proposal for the \$175,000 expenditure and the plans for the property in question. City Manager La Margo responded that the former City Administration had proposed the state funding opportunity to City Council but never ultimately applied for the state funds. He stated that the city still planned for a pocket park at that location and the proposed \$175,000 would fund the development of that property as originally planned.

ADJOURNMENT: Following a summary of the meeting, Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk