CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 27, 2021

Mayor Patricia Randall called the Regular Meeting to order at 07:02 PM. The regular meeting was held virtually as permitted by PA 228, in accordance with December 2020 Kalamazoo County Emergency Declaration. Mayor Patricia M. Randall, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson, and Councilmembers Chris Burns, Lori Knapp, Vic Ledbetter, Claudette Reid, and Terry Urban were present. Also in attendance were City Attorney Catherine Kaufman, Deputy City Manager Mike Carroll, and City Clerk Erica Eklov.

At the request of Mayor Randall, the audience observed a moment of silence to reflect on working toward a more equitable and just community. 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. Councilmember Reid removed Item A.4, Substantial Plan Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant Program FY 2020-21 Annual Action Plan. Motion by Reid, seconded by Ledbetter, to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ledbetter, to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of the Committee of the Whole Meeting of July 13, 2021; Special Meeting of July 13, 2021; Regular Meeting of July 13, 2021, and, Pre-Council Meeting of July 26, 2021. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Accounts Payable Register: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ledbetter, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of July 27, 2021, as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

West End Drive Special Assessment Petition: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ledbetter, to accept the special assessment petition in favor of creating a special assessment district on West End Drive (South Shore Drive to road end) and refer the matter to the City Administration for review and report. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Property Acquisition - 9303 Portage Road: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ledbetter, to approve the purchase of property addressed as 9303 Portage Road in the amount of $375,000 and authorize the City Manager's Office to execute all related documents on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Property Acquisition - 9617 Portage Road and 2010 Woodbine Avenue: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ledbetter, to approve the purchase of properties addressed as 9617 Portage Road and 2010 Woodbine Avenue in the total amount of $265,000 and authorize the City Manager's Office to execute all related documents on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Portage Community Senior Center - Audio/Video Systems: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ledbetter, to approve Third Coast Tech, LLC for design and installation services for the Charles & Lynn Zhang Portage Community Senior Center audio and video systems under the Oakland County G2G Government Purchasing Marketplace pricing program in the total amount of $152,465.74 and authorize the City Manager's Office to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Millennium Park Ice Rink Chiller – Recommendation: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ledbetter, to approve the sole source purchase for the design, removal, and installation of an updated chiller from

CIMCO in the amount of $95,649.23, and authorize the City Manager's Office to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Purchase of Two Palo Alto 3220 Firewalls: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ledbetter, to approve the purchase of two Palo Alto 3220 series firewalls, three-year maintenance and support services from the preferred Palo Alto vendor, Trace 3, in the amount of $88,108 and authorize the City Manager's Office to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Application for Liquor License - 468 Winery (8135 Cox's Drive): Motion by Reid, seconded by Ledbetter, to recommend approval by the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC) of the Application for a Tasting Room Permit for 468 Winery (8135 Cox's Drive). Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Minutes of Boards and Commissions: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ledbetter, to receive the Minutes of the Zoning Board of Appeals of June 14, 2021, as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

Calendar of Meetings: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ledbetter, to receive the Calendar of Meetings as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: None.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA:

Substantial Plan Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) FY 2020-21 Annual Action Plan Councilmember Reid stated she had removed Item A.4 from the Consent Agenda due to questions regarding the Action Recommended language, specifically sub-item C. She noted the language as proposed could give the incorrect impression the city would be the entity constructing the affordable housing and suggested language stating the city supports the effort. Councilmember Reid also inquired about the term "affordable housing" as compared to "workforce housing" and recommended changing the term in the Action Recommended. Deputy City Manager Mike Carroll deferred to Community Development Director Kelly Peterson regarding the proposed changes and compliance with federal government requirements. Director Peterson accepted the revisions to the Action Recommended, stating the critical aspect was assurance that the city would utilize the funding to serve low and moderate incoming residents.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Urban, to approve the Substantial Plan Amendment to the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) FY 2020-21 Annual Action Plan that recommends allocating: $50,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) CDBG-CV3 grant to the Portage Community Center; $50,000 for facility improvements in the Lexington Green neighborhood park; $107,041 for housing rehabilitation projects and/or property acquisition to support the construction of workforce housing; $30,000 for grant administrative costs, and, authorize the City Manager's Office to submit the Substantial Plan Amendment to HUD, and sign the required documents related to the funding request on behalf of the City. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resignation of City Manager: Mayor Randall stated that City Council was adding an item to New Business. She stated that pursuant to Section 9 of the City Manager's Employment Agreement, a

motion to accept the resignation of the City Manager, Joseph La Margo, effective August 30, 2021, was being requested. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ledbetter, to accept Mr. La Margo's resignation. Councilmember Reid inquired about whether the City Council was required to add the date effective to the actual motion in light of existing stipulations in Mr. La Margo's contract. City Attorney Kaufman confirmed the inclusion of the effective date.
Mayor Pro Tem Pearson amended the motion to state to accept Mr. La Margo's resignation effective August 30, 2021. Councilmember Reid seconded. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 0.

New Staff: Mayor Randall then introduced Community Development Director Kelly Peterson on a new matter. Director Peterson introduced Biqi Zhao as the city's new Senior City Planner and provided a summary of Ms. Zhao's background.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: None.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Urban highlighted the list of candidates for the November 2, 2021, Mayor and City Council election. He noted the lack of new candidates and expressed disappointment with the level of citizen interest. Councilmember Urban provided a brief history of the prior City Council elections he had experienced and encouraged future citizen engagement.

Councilmember Reid welcomed the new Community Development Department staff person and provided a COVID-19 update regarding the Delta variant growing concerns.

Councilmember Ledbetter had no comment.

Deputy City Manager Carroll provided an update regarding the December 2020 Kalamazoo County Emergency Declaration as it related to permitting virtual meetings. He relayed recent discussions at the county level confirmed the continuation of the Emergency Declaration through the end of the 2021 calendar year.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson had no comment.

Mayor Randall acknowledged the presence of Jim Stephanak, Co-Chair of the Portage Community Senior Center Capital Campaign. She highlighted the approval of the state-of-the-art audio/visual system purchase on the Consent Agenda and stated she looks forward to seeing the fully constructed Center. Mayor Randall closed by encouraging the public to enjoy the beautiful weather.

ADJOURNMENT. Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 07:23 PM.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk