

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM MAY 10, 2016

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

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, Pastor Craig Glass of Portage Free Methodist Church 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, Patricia M. Randall, Claudette Reid, Terry Urban and Jim Pearson, 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 Days of Remembrance Proclamation and a Young Men's Christian Association 150th Anniversary Proclamation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to approve the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2016, as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2016, as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to approve the Budget Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2016, as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Randall, to approve the Pre-Council Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2016, as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 5 to 2 with Councilmembers Urban and Ford abstaining.

* **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Strazdas asked Councilmember Ford to read the Consent Agenda, who removed Item H.1, Right-of-way Encroachments for Private Parking, from the Consent Agenda. Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to approve the Consent Agenda motions as amended. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0 with Mayor Pro Tem Ansari abstaining from Item F.1, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

* **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF MAY 10, 2016:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of May 10, 2016. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

PUBLIC HEARING ON FISCAL YEAR 2016-2017 BUDGET: Mayor Strazdas introduced this item and asked City Manager Larry Shaffer to comment on the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget as presented. Mr. Shaffer thanked City Council for managing two budget sessions of approximately four hours each to go over in detail the \$68 million Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Budget. He indicated that the budget represents a 1.3% increase in expenditures over last year's budget. It includes 22 different funds with six different categories: the General Fund at approximately \$25 million, of a reduction of one-half of 1%, and the Capital Improvement Plan with \$14.8 million, or a 6% increase. He reviewed some of the highlights of the Proposed Budget including: funding for three additional police officers and three firefighters to address the increase in the number and severity of the calls; a number of efficiencies especially with the use of technology; consolidation of Administrative activities; a commitment to the Parks Department with a new Farmer's Market and a renewal of entertainment activities; and a commitment to do public works in house at the Department of Public Services.

Mayor Strazdas reflected on the improvements being brought by this budget and asked, how does the City bring back six public safety officers, not raise the millage rate, and still accommodate the loss of the Personal Property tax along with the unknowns in the economy. He concluded by thanking the Administration and the City Council for their work and collaboration. Discussion followed.

Mayor Pro Tem Ansari concurred and added the extra benefit of paying down the debt. Mayor Strazdas concurred and Mr. Shaffer explained debt reduction and refinancing that has taken place. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Randall acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Shaffer and his influence on the Budget. She explained that the police and fire increases are a part of the Budget to assure that the ratio of police and fire personnel to the number of citizens is optimum. She also mentioned the feasibility of a Fall Clean-up in addition to the Spring Clean-up without the need to increase the millage.

Councilmember Reid indicated that besides reducing the debt, this Budget puts more cash toward some of the projects, and mentioned the water tower at Haverhill Park as an example where half of the cost will be paid with cash and half with bonding. She mentioned that she brought the Fall Clean-up to light, and asked for an explanation from Mr. Shaffer of how he plans to fund the extra pick-up. Mr. Shaffer indicated that Finance Director Bill Furry shows \$150,000 surplus in this Fund this year, plus the projection is to be able to add \$25,000 to that Fund partially due to lower gasoline costs, or a total of \$125,000 in the account. He mentioned that Waste Management has quoted a price of \$147,000, so a difference remains. He offered to propose supplementing this need with a General Fund appropriation at a later date when there is a better idea of the surplus for Fiscal Year 2015-2016. He said there is approximately \$450,000 at the present time and it keeps getting better, so no millage increase is necessary and explained. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Ford expressed his appreciation that the City is spending \$133,000 less than last year and hiring six new employees in the Public Safety Department. Councilmember Pearson concurred by saying the City has less people working in offices and more people working in the streets and the parks helping people in our community and thanked the City Manager.

Mayor Strazdas opened the public hearing; seeing no one come forward, motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to close the Public Hearing on the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 proposed Budget and the tax rate of 10.9256 mills required to support the proposed budget. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

MEDICAL MARIHUANA: Mayor Strazdas recused himself from the discussion of this item and left the room. Mayor Pro Tem Ansari took this item regarding the Michigan Medical Marihuana Act (MMMA) off of the table from April 26, 2016, and opened discussion from City Council. Councilmember Reid asked that the City Attorney explain what the moratorium does that would not be addressed if the moratorium was not in place. City Attorney Randy Brown responded that the moratorium would provide the Administration and his Office the time necessary to look at the issues that are pending with regard to Home Occupation, the use of marihuana, the issue of “dispensaries” which are not permitted in the City of Portage at the present time, pending Bills at the State level; so, there is the need for time to evaluate and investigate those issues, and perhaps propose an ordinance to Council that will change the status of the law in Portage with regard to those issues. He indicated that the second reason is that while we are doing that, we certainly do not want more “dispensaries” to open in the City of Portage and further complicate the issue, so the moratorium prohibits the establishment or extension of such a business.

Mr. Brown acknowledged that Councilmember Urban’s contention at the April 26th Meeting that the dispensaries are already illegal (so why do we need a moratorium to stop them) as being very true. He said that the reason for the moratorium is that there are arguments that they may be legal, but our position is that they are not legal, so we would rather have a moratorium than get into that issue at all. We would rather have a moratorium declare “dispensaries” not permitted, making it easier to enforce than to have to get into issues, discussions and even court proceedings as to whether those issues are or are not legal.

Councilmember Reid asked what happens to the two existing “dispensaries” that are active in Portage, functioning illegally and have been cited. Mr. Brown noted that the moratorium does not apply to the Home Occupations which are legal in Portage, nor does it disallow a patient or caregiver to grow the number of plants for himself or herself for personal use. So for the two businesses operating illegally in our community, he said that enforcement proceedings will ensue against them; there was a Zoning Board of Appeals decision that was denied, which did not go in their favor and, if they appeal then the City will defend that appeal and possibly take other enforcement action against them. He also responded that if there are other “dispensaries” of which we are unaware, they will be treated the same because they are not protected, just as the pending two are not protected. Moreover, he said if the City becomes aware of other “dispensaries” that are operating, then the City will take enforcement action there as well because the moratorium does not protect any kind of “dispensary” whether it is in business now, or goes into business after it is passed; in fact, it prohibits “dispensaries.” He pointed out that the only thing the moratorium is protecting is the Home Occupations presently existing in Portage or future Home Occupations that may be established.

Councilmember Pearson asked City Attorney Brown whether there is any big difference between the 2011 Moratorium and the 2016 Moratorium, and Mr. Brown answered that the language is very similar, that he used the 2011 version as a model and what is different is what is happening in the field. He said at that time, the City was not aware of any business in operation that we believed violated the MMMA whereas now we know of at least two that do.

Councilmember Urban asked for a better understanding of what the moratorium does because their position is a “dispensary” allowed under State Law, and the City of Portage cannot preempt State Law; neither the current ordinance, nor the moratorium allows a “dispensary” so what protection does the moratorium give to the City? Mr. Brown explained that if a “dispensary” opens, and the City does not have a moratorium, the City then has to take enforcement action in Court and go through this argument - this disagreement - that they believe they are operating in compliance with the MMMA, and the City believes they are not. He pointed out that the moratorium would prevent this from happening because the moratorium would state they are prohibited, so the first step in defending enforcement action would be to tell the Court that the City has a moratorium and this particular use falls under the prohibitions of the moratorium, and the matter should be settled at that point even though other arguments may surface, but it is a much better argument for the City to have a moratorium where “dispensaries” are a prohibited use than if the City did not have this prohibition. Discussion followed.

Mr. Brown indicated that the whole purpose of the moratorium is to stop uses from establishing, even if they are legal, because we do not want to continue those uses during the six month evaluation period.

Councilmember Randall asked if there have been any votes by the public, any court cases, or any decisions made in Lansing that has rendered our 2011 Ordinance outdated or obsolete in part or in full protecting some uses under State Law? Mr. Brown pointed out that the Law has been in flux and has been changing for years, in case after case. He agreed that there has been a trend, though not a total trend, as there are cases trending toward expanding the MMMA, which explains why there are bills pending in the Legislature and why other cities are looking at allowing “dispensaries.” He emphasized that this is why there is a need for some time to look into that in order to be able to advise Council with an opinion, and perhaps propose an Ordinance. He restated that the moratorium puts a stop to the establishment of these uses to give time to “analyze and determine that.”

Councilmember Pearson asked if staff is considering moving marihuana from just a neighborhood situation to a business district because there are a lot more patients who are being prescribed marihuana and because it could be an overburden for neighborhoods to accommodate these patients? City Attorney Brown answered he does not have an opinion today, so he needs the time to evaluate this matter. He concurred that there is a movement in the direction proposed by Councilmember Pearson, so he will be evaluating whether the City would want to expand these uses, not restrict them to Home Occupations, but to include them in the business district in one way or another. He said this is what will be analyzed, but there may be regulations attached to that, so it is important to have a moratorium, so there are no uses established during that period, and then present an ordinance

that makes them illegal or nonconforming uses. He noted that back in 2011, the Model Ordinance was the Home Occupation Ordinance; that was the Grand Rapids Ordinance and many other communities, and pointed out that yet today there is still that 5:1 ratio, close relationship under MMMA, and some may argue that that is what is intended and explained.

Councilmember Ford confirmed with City Attorney Brown that any type of “dispensary” occupation would be prohibited in the City of Portage, except the Home Occupation. Mr. Brown did explain that the City would have to look at businesses that do establish, and his guess was that they would violate the moratorium; however, there may be a business out there that may establish that somehow falls under the Home Occupation type of use. In answer to Councilmember Ford, City Attorney Brown responded the timeline for an appeal to the Circuit Court is 30 days from the date of the decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA); he said the Circuit Court could uphold the decision, reverse the decision, or send it back to the ZBA to do it again. He indicated that briefs would be filed by each party, perhaps supplemental briefs, and oral arguments, and concluded it would take many months. As far as costs, Mr. Brown indicated that there would be a significant amount of staff time invested to provide factual background information for the briefs, but no testimony, and his office would handle the matter under the retainer contract, so no additional cost. If the City decided to handle it outside his office, he said it would cost many, many thousands of dollars.

Mayor Pro Tem Ansari asked the audience to maintain the decency and decorum of this Chamber before opening the public hearing. He opened the public hearing for comments from the audience and said the audience has four minutes to speak, and asked them to limit their discussion to moratorium.

Those who spoke in opposition to the moratorium were: Blake Sims, 1307 Wayside Road, Kalamazoo Township; Jevin Weyenberg, 5817 Cheshire Street; Attorney D. Glen Smith, 10143 Portage Road; Susan Dishette (sp and no address); Eric Johnson, 6109 Milham Woods Court; Attorney Scott Wagenaar, 2534 Cumberland Street, Kalamazoo Township; Private Investigator Tim Gilbert, 34435 Nancy Street, Westland; Dean Marks, 1711 Forest Drive; David Westman, 2720 Woodhams Avenue; Shaun Barsic, 1602 Cedar Point Drive, Niles Charter Township; Michael Brandt, 2724 Beethoven Avenue; Mary Underwood, 2727 E 7 Mile Road, Sault St. Marie; Joey Cernick (sp), 2926 South 9th Street, Oshtemo Township; Victoria Patterson, 227 North State Street, Kalamazoo; Arnie Demand (sp and no address); Jeff Binghamman, 2301 Fairfield Avenue; and Garrick Ehrnstrom, 530 Minor Avenue, Kalamazoo. Discussion followed.

Those who spoke in favor of the moratorium were: Mindy Tai, 1620 Romence Road; Tim Earl, 6862 Shallowford Way. Discussion followed.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Randall, to close the public hearing. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0. Discussion followed. City Attorney Brown advised Councilmember Randall that if she makes a motion, she cannot vote against it, and if she speaks, she cannot speak against it.

Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to approve an ordinance to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Portage, Michigan, by adding Article 9, Temporary Moratorium on the Use of Property and Structures for Dispensing and Cultivating Marihuana of Chapter 2, Administration.

When Councilmember Pearson asked that Councilmember Randall elaborate on her question to the City Attorney, she indicated that it was her understanding that the six month moratorium allowed the City to really look at the situation, let Lansing make its decisions, court cases be settled and the vote in November take place before the end of it. She understood the two businesses already in business in the City would be somehow be protected by a stay of enforcement by City Council, or a decision with the City Manager to not instruct the Police to actively close these places down. She noted there is a divided Council and a full audience; laws are changed all of the time through social pressure and grass roots effort; and, she expressed her preference that Portage become a leader in this area and explained there are no protections for these people with this moratorium. Mr. Brown explained it is up to City Council to do that and the Ordinance can state that if Council so desires, and he pointed out that this is not an unusual moratorium ordinance and again explained the purpose of the moratorium and the duty of the City Manager with regard to ordinance enforcement. He pointed out there are only a handful of

dispensary ordinances because the State Law does not address this and Portage is not late; hence, there is hesitation to move forward with “dispensaries” in the State. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Ford agreed that the moratorium is desirable since it gives Council time to make sure we are doing the right thing early on, and the State level is important rather than have the municipality spend a lot of time only to have the State change it and take away all of our hard work. He also expressed his trust that the City Manager will enforce ordinances for the health and safety of our community and take into consideration the comments made by these patients this evening. He said enforcement of ordinances is an Administrative matter and that he had an interest in the City Manager to stay the enforcement of this ordinance.

Councilmember Pearson indicated that he has a Phd. In Biochemistry, 29 years in the Pharmaceutical industry; was in the development of addictive opioids; knows of the literature on Medical Marijuana; knows that the State of Michigan legally qualifies marijuana treatment; knows of the alternatives to glaucoma and that marijuana works very well; knows of it as an indication for chronic pain; and knows that THC works very well when compared with the opioids. He indicated his reluctance to see people going into a back alley to obtain marijuana not knowing what it will do and advocated testing as the safe thing to do and pointed out that the City Council is divided and explained. He spoke in favor of the motion.

Councilmember Reid thanked everyone for their comments regarding the benefits of marijuana and recognized that the State Regulation was set up a long time ago with a caregiver and five patients and the current Portage ordinance was set up by this standard. She objected to the requirement that the City of Portage to set up regulations to control “dispensaries” and sees it as a State responsibility and cited House Bill 4209 and 4210 and explained. Nevertheless, she indicated that the Council cannot ignore businesses that are operating illegally, and advocated continued enforcement action in this matter. She reviewed the options of going to Court by the businesses and disagreed with Councilmember Pearson that there would be an extra cost in real dollars. She expressed her preference for the need for the moratorium for more time to consider what to do.

Mayor Pro Tem Ansari expressed his empathy for those who are suffering and cited the MMMA which enabled the City of Portage Home Occupation Ordinance as an alternative. He objected to the shops being set up in the business district, and said he is not free to pick and choose which ordinances to enforce and which ones to ignore. He disagreed with micromanaging the City Manager, and left it up to the Administration as to how when and where to enforce the ordinance. He concurred with the moratorium and the time needed to consider this issue and noted the State and referendum options available and pending and explained there are other issues and listed some of them. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0. Discussion followed.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Randall, to request the City Manager to temporarily refrain from issuing citations or enforcing any currently issued citation(s) for a business operation on April 26, 2016, which is engaged in registered qualifying patient/registered caregiver exchanges or dispensing of medical marijuana to registered qualifying patients until such time as a Moratorium Ordinance has expired or an ordinance is adopted by Council addressing issues concerning the medical use of marijuana under the Michigan Medical Marijuana Act, whichever occurs first. This applies only to a business which has exhausted its administrative remedies under the Portage Zoning Ordinance through the Zoning Board of Appeals. This does not apply to building, plumbing, electrical, or non-zoning code violations, nor does it give any rights as a non-conforming use of otherwise. If an ordinance is adopted as described above, such businesses shall conform to the ordinance or cease its operations. Discussion followed.

Upon a roll call vote, motion failed: Upon a roll call vote, motion to call the question failed 3 to 3. No: Councilmembers Reid and Urban and Mayor Pro Tem Nasim Ansari. Yeas: Councilmembers Ford, Pearson and Randall. Discussion followed.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

* **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to approve the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program 2016-2020 Consolidated Plan and FY 2016-2017 Annual Action Plan element of the Consolidated Plan and authorize the City Manager to submit the application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0 with Mayor Pro Tem Ansari abstaining.

* **MILHAM #1 PUMP REPLACEMENT AND MOTOR REHABILITATION:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to award a sole-source contract for the Milham #1 pump replacement and motor rehabilitation to Peerless-Midwest, Incorporated, in an amount not to exceed \$25,436.78 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.

* **AMENDMENT TO THE CODE OF ORDINANCES:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to accept for first reading the proposed amendments to the City of Portage Code of Ordinances, Chapter 34, Fire Prevention and Protection, and consider final adoption no later than May 24, 2016. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **SAFARI MONTAGE PURCHASE:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to approve the purchase, professional installation and training services of the SAFARI Montage digital learning platform through the local authorized SAFARI Montage dealer, Secant Technologies at a cost of \$28,317 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.

COMMUNICATIONS:

HARRY HAASCH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC MEDIA NETWORK (PMN): Since there was no discussion, motion by Randall, seconded by Urban, to receive the communication from Harry Haasch, Executive Director of Public Media Network. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0 with Councilmember Ford abstaining.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

RIGHT-OF-WAY ENCROACHMENTS FOR PRIVATE PARKING: City Manager Shaffer referred to the communication to him from T&U Director Chris Barnes dated May 3, 2016, enclosed in the City Council Agenda Packet dated May 10, 2016. He indicated that the City of Portage enacted an Ordinance that prohibited parking places in the City right-of-way. He explained the process of the removal of pavement where there is the paving of parking spaces in the public right-of-ways as a part of road reconstruction. He reviewed the optional compromise measures as solutions for the affected property owners and discussion followed.

Judy Anderson, 5737 Bratcher Street, asked when did the Ordinance become effective, how does her paved parking space in the public right-of-way deteriorate the neighborhood, and is it alright for people to park on their lawns. Mr. Barnes responded that the Ordinance became effective in the year 2000 in response to an investigation by the City and was based upon a complaint from a neighborhood which resulted in finding out that there were a number of these illegal parking areas throughout the City. With regard to the deterioration effect on the neighborhood, he said there is a constructability and a maintenance issue, and there is an aesthetic issue. He noted that this neighborhood has the highest density of these structures in the City so far; they are not built to a particular standard; there is no particular size or location for the structures; some obstruct drainage; some are constructed on streets with no curbing; they are haphazard and there is no uniformity of materials utilized for the construction; there are various methods utilized; sometimes the City is unsure whether it is our responsibility to

maintain them; and there is even a question of ownership and exclusivity – can a neighbor park there, for example. Discussion followed

Mr. Shaffer explained that this is a zoning violation; people are constructing parking on spots they do not own; terraces are owned by the taxpayers, not by one individual; so, the City turns a “blind eye” to them until it is time to reconstruct the streets. He said this is not an idiosyncratic issue with one

individual; the problem is the lack of a policy on how to deal with it; and, if the Council is predisposed to approve and allow these structures and change the Ordinance, he asked, “What would your policy be?” He asked rhetorically, “Would all of the public right-of-ways to be subject to private ownership and use?” He expressed empathy for Ms. Anderson saying it has gone on for a long time, but it is not their land and it is a Zoning violation. Discussion followed.

Ms. Anderson asked for something to be done about parking on the front lawns. At the request of Mayor Strazdas, Mr. Shaffer informed her that she may anonymously call the Community Development Department at 329-4477 or go to the City website and the portal, *SeeClickFix on Report It!* when there is a problem or concern and track the progress. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Urban provided his assurances that a contractor did not obtain a permit to put one of these parking spaces in as indicated at the last Council Meeting and Mr. Barnes said any construction within the public right-of-way with the exception of trees and shrubs is subject to Council approval and gave examples of the extent of the agreement necessary. Discussion followed.

Simone Heller, 6846 Cornell Street, spoke in favor of the parking spots.

Motion by Randall, seconded by Pearson, to receive the communication from the City Manager regarding right-of-way encroachments for private parking. Discussion followed regarding street configuration and widening where possible. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0 with Councilmember Ford abstaining. Discussion followed.

*** MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETINGS:** City Council received the minutes of:

Portage Public Schools Board of Education Regular of March 28, 2016.

Portage Human Services Board of April 7, 2016.

Portage Planning Commission of April 21, 2016.

NEW BUSINESS:

*** APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to appoint Aiyla Arif, Amanda Boelman, Eli Cartier, Riya Chaudhary, Cortney Chow, Megan Chow, William Chung, Shayaan Dar, Casey Flanagan, Vishnu Ghantasala, Alena Gleason, Sara Gleason, Lauren Hart, Anna Heystek, Enrique Infante, Maham Khanum, Tanvi Khurmi, Lily Kitagawa, Anjana Krishnan, Benjamin Miller, Sheila Mwanda, Lindy Nebiolo, Nicole Prihoda, Arya Shembekar, Tanvi Shembekar, Samhita Sunkara, Sana Syed and Omar Thaj to the Youth Advisory Committee with terms ending June 30, 2017; appoint Tanvi Shembekar as Youth Participant on the Environmental Board, Lindy Nebiolo as Youth Participant on the Human Services Board, Anna Heystek as Youth Participant on the Park Board, and Cortney Chow as Youth Participant on the Senior Citizens Advisory Board with terms ending June 30, 2017; reappoint Don Ramlow with term ending May 31, 2019, to the Public Media Network Board; reappoint Betty Schimmel and appoint Sarah Joshi and Raymond Shoup III with terms ending May 31, 2019, to the Planning Commission; and reappoint Barney Martlew, George Theodoru and Larry Schmidt with terms ending June 1, 2019, to the Construction Board of Appeals. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

BID TABULATION:

*** CLEANING MAINTENANCE CONTRACT FOR PARK FACILITIES – BID**

TABULATION: Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to approve the bid from Too Clean, Incorporated, for cleaning maintenance of park facilities in the amount of \$30,160 with the option of four one year renewals, 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: Arnie Demand, who admitted he was “hard of hearing,” indicated the need to accommodate the hearing impaired in City Council Chambers.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Ford indicated that he enjoyed a visit to Greenfield Village with his son.

Councilmember Pearson spoke of the Road Diet Study Meeting, May 5, 2016, which reflected the need to reduce the number of driving lanes on Portage Road, and complimented City Attorney Brown and his preparedness regarding the Marihuana Moratorium Ordinance with the audience this evening.

Councilmember Reid expressed her appreciation for the Boards and Commissions applicants who interviewed at the earlier meeting and her appreciation for the spirited discussion of the Medical Marihuana Ordinance.

Councilmember Randall concurred and thanked the public for passionately speaking about Medical Marihuana; she also congratulated Till Longjohn, Portage Central High School Chamber Singers, for winning a Michigan Arts Scholarship where the top 1,000 students were picked from 250,000 students.

Mayor Pro Tem Ansari addressed the Marihuana Moratorium and asked for the patience of the public as the City Council takes the time to review Portage Ordinances as the law and regulations in this area develop statewide.

Mayor Strazdas recognized Cindy Huntington of Portage who won the Women’s Division of the Borgess Run, a Kalamazoo Marathon, and reflected on the passion of the youth in our community as observed at the earlier Youth Advisory Committee interviews.

MATERIALS TRANSMITTED:

*** MATERIALS TRANSMITTED OF APRIL 22, 2016:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to receive the Materials Transmitted of April 22, 2016.

*** MATERIALS TRANSMITTED OF APRIL 26, 2016:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to receive the Materials Transmitted of April 26, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 10:34 p.m.

James R. Hudson, City Clerk

***Indicates items included on the Consent Agenda.**