

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

Mayor Patricia Randall called the Regular Meeting to order at 07:00 PM. The regular meeting was held in a partial virtual format as permitted by PA 228, in accordance with December 2020 Kalamazoo County Emergency Declaration. Mayor Patricia M. Randall, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson (virtual), and Councilmembers Chris Burns, Lori Knapp (virtual), Vic Ledbetter (virtual), Claudette Reid, and Terry Urban (virtual) were present. Those members that participated virtually did so from Portage, Michigan. Also in attendance were Acting City Manager Adam Herringa, 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 acknowledge and offer support for those affected by suicide. Following the moment of silence, the City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS: Councilmember Burns read the National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month 2021.

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. Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

City Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 7, 2021, and the Pre-Council Meeting of September 20, 2021. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

Accounts Payable Register: Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of September 21, 2021, as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

South Westnedge Block Lift Station Renovation Project - Tabulation of Proposals: Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to award a contract to perform engineering services for the South Westnedge Block Lift Station Renovation Project to Abonmarche Consultants, Incorporated of Portage, Michigan, in an amount not to exceed \$189,810 and authorize the Acting 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.

Vehicle Purchase - Cooperative Purchase: Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to authorize the purchase of four 4-wheel drive sport utility vehicles through the State of Michigan MiDEAL extended purchasing program at a total cost of \$179,096 and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to these purchases on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

Portage Road/Forest Drive Traffic Signal Project - Tabulation of Proposals: Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to award a contract to perform engineering services for Portage Road/Forest Drive Traffic Signal Project to Abonmarche Consultants, Incorporated of Portage, Michigan in the not-to-exceed amount of \$166,550 and authorize the Acting 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.

Minutes of Boards & Commissions: Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to receive the Zoning Board of Appeals minutes of July 12, 2021. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

Calendar of Meetings: Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to receive the Calendar of Meetings as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS:

Captain Ronnie Amick (1700 South Burdick, Kalamazoo) stated he and his wife were the new officers for the Salvation Army for the Kalamazoo location. He provided an update on the organization's current efforts and assistance in the surrounding community.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority Presentation: Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority (KCTA) Executive Director Sean McBride and Chairperson Greg Rosine gave a presentation regarding the public transit millage for the November 2021 election. Mr. McBride noted the millage proposal will be a renewal to fund the KCTA Metro Connect service. Mr. Rosine requested a statement or show of support for the millage renewal from the Portage City Council.

Councilmember Reid inquired whether the Metro Connect service or the bus system was more popular with Portage residents. She also asked Mr. McBride to clarify the ridership survey he presented illustrating car owners choosing to ride the bus system. Mr. McBride responded, stating the bus route system was more popular, especially the South Westnedge Avenue and Crossroads Mall routes. He then stated that the survey he presented was from 2019, as one had not been performed in 2020 due to the pandemic, and the results were more indicative of the good economy during 2019.

Councilmember Burns asked for clarification regarding the transit millage question previously approved by voters in 2020 and the current millage proposal. Mr. McBride stated that the March 2020 millage issue established funding for the Central County Transportation Authority area, whereas the current millage renewal proposal supports the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority with Metro Connect services. Councilmember Burns then asked about the mills levied under the 2020 CCTA millage. Mr. McBride responded that the CCTA was authorized to levy up to 0.90 mills but was only charging taxpayers 0.75 mills in the first year as the current level provided sufficient funding support.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to receive the presentation by Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority Executive Director Sean McBride regarding the public transit millage for the November 2021 election. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

IDD No. 90 for 6501 Portage Road - District Expansion: Mayor Randall opened the public hearing. Acting City Manager Herringa and Community Development Director Kelly Peterson provided a summary of the Stryker Corporation / Kenco Logistics operation currently at 6501 Portage Road and described the proposed expansion project. Director Peterson noted that Stryker representatives Matt Williams and Nicole Thiel were present to answer any questions.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to close the public hearing. Upon roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Following the close of the public hearing, there were no additional questions or comments. Motion by Reid, seconded by Burns, to adopt Resolution No. 2 to expand Industrial Development District No. 90 for the Stryker Corporation and adopt Resolution No. 3 to set a public hearing on the proposed industrial facilities exemption certificate at 6501 Portage Road for October 5, 2021. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Burns provided an update regarding the September 13 meeting of the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA). He relayed that the CCTA had successfully passed the next year's budget without issue and stated the Authority was in a sound financial position. Councilmember Burns closed by noting the CCTA continues to need additional full-time bus drivers.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: None.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER:

Councilmember Reid asked for civility and respect in light of continued COVID-19 safety protocols. She noted that individual school districts are making policy decisions in the absence of a statewide mask mandate and are doing so with student safety in mind. Councilmember Reid closed by encouraging everyone to become fully vaccinated.

Councilmember Burns highlighted the September Portager article featuring the Parks Department's fall season activities. He encouraged citizens to continue outdoor activities and habits as the colder fall and winter months begin.

Councilmember Knapp stated she is in support of the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority millage proposal.

Councilmember Urban stated he also supports the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority millage proposal.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson noted his support of the Kalamazoo County Transportation Authority millage proposal.

Mayor Randall relayed that she has received complaints regarding traffic issues with the resumption of the school year. She encouraged continued patience and safety when driving around the city.

ADJOURNMENT.

Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 07:42 PM.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk