

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF JUNE 13, 2016**

Mayor Peter Strazdas called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The following were present: Councilmember Claudette Reid, Mayor Pro Tem Nasim Ansari and Mayor Peter Strazdas. Councilmembers Patricia M. Randall and Jim Pearson were present via the conference phone line. Those not present were: Councilmembers Richard Ford and Terry Urban. Also in attendance were City Manager Larry Shaffer, Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis and City Clerk James Hudson.

Mayor Strazdas asked if there were any questions for the Administration regarding items on the Agenda.

Councilmember Randall asked City Manager Shaffer if any of the water bills listed under Item F.1, Delinquent Water and Sewer Bills, had been contested, such as was the case with the person who bought land on Portage Road, set up a restaurant and discovered he was responsible for an overdue water bill. In response, Mr. Shaffer indicated that he was not aware of any, but would check.

Councilmember Randall also asked for instruction on the process required to qualify as an organization to receive funds under Item F.2, FY 2016-2017 Community Development Block Grant and General Fund Contracts. She cited the disqualification of Lending Hands as an example from last year owing to their need for a different liability insurance policy, and pointed out that this disallows awarding funds to new recipients instead of the same recipients as in the past. Mr. Shaffer indicated he would follow up with Ms. Georgeau on this and report back to them. Councilmember Pearson concurred and asked whether this could be the subject of a 30-minute Committee of the Whole (COW) Meeting to discuss the criteria and grading process. Mayor Strazdas asked the Administration to provide the information on the process, and suggested waiting until after the Council has the information to decide whether there is a need for the COW Meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Ansari asked whether the matter is being publicized enough in order to get other applicants? Councilmember Reid asked whether this is tantamount to micromanaging the Human Services Board, who devised, refined and reviewed the process over the years, before presenting it to City Council for approval. She also asked whether the focus on housing and food, instead of medical, impacts the amount awarded to Lending Hands, which may mean that the focus of their service is perhaps not in Portage. Councilmember Pearson emphasized he is not interested in micromanaging HSB and indicated that there might be a need to revisit the Policy as proposed by the HSB.

Councilmember Pearson asked if Item G.2, Presentation by Councilmember Terry Urban regarding a report from Central Elementary 4th Grade students concerning suggestions to City Council, should come to City Council under "Petitions and Statements of Citizens" and Councilmember Randall offered the alternative that it be presented during "Other City Matters, Statements from City Council," as "Communications" may not be the appropriate category and may confuse the public

since it makes it look like it is official business from City Council? He also asked if the item was presented prior to noon on Friday in accordance with CHAPTER 4, Section 4.6(m) of the *Portage City Charter*. Mayor Strazdas asked Mr. Shaffer whether Councilmember Urban asked that it be G.2 on the Agenda, or did he “shoe horn” it there, and Mr. Shaffer indicated that he “shoe horned” it there, and offered to call Councilmember Urban and clear the matter up. Councilmember Reid indicated she would put it under “New Business” because he essentially asked for a New Business item. Councilmember Pearson indicated that if it was going to be under “New Business,” it had to be presented before noon on Friday. He suggested that Councilmember Urban go down to the podium at the time “New Business” is being addressed, or at the end of the meeting during “Other City Matters, Statements from City Council.” Mayor Pro Tem Ansari asked that Councilmember Urban be provided with both options.

Councilmember Reid noted a conflict between the last two paragraphs in the *Resolution Regarding Long Lake Improvement Pursuant to the Inland Lake Improvement Act*: “Now, therefore, be it resolved that the City Council considers it expedient to have Long Lake improved and hereby directs the Long Lake Governmental Lake Board (“LLGB”) to proceed with the necessary steps to consider the Water Quality Check Program of Long Lake and the continuation of the Long Lake Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Plan.” However, the motion would also direct them to go forward with the necessary steps to consider the Water Quality Check Program of Long Lake and the continuation of the Long Lake Invasive Aquatic Plant Management Plan which seems at odds with the desire that the Long Lake Governmental Board determine the scope of the proposed project, including an engineering feasibility report and an economic study report and estimate the cost of any other determination and/or investigation allowed by or required by the Act and provide its finding to the City Council. Specifically, she asked, does City Council provide approval or oversight on what the Governmental Lake Board actually does, or does Council simply provide the financial mechanism for them to do what they, within their group, decide to do? Councilmember Pearson concurred and Mayor Strazdas directed Mr. Shaffer to rework G.1.A, *Long Lake Improvement Recommendation*, to be more aligned with the *Resolution Regarding Long Lake Improvement Pursuant to the Inland Lake Improvement Act*. Councilmember Reid also asked why is Council adopting the Resolution at all?

Mayor Strazdas asked that the City Attorney be given the opportunity to weigh in on this, and Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis offered that he thinks they are interested in

continuing the three-year special assessment (forAeration and Bioaugmentation). Mayor Strazdas summed up that the City Manager has three things to do on this:

- a. Alter his communication to Honorable Mayor and City Council.
- b. Educate City Council regardingCity Council with the Governmental Lake Board.
- c. If a person from the Governmental Lake Board comes before City Council, that he or she be very clear about what they are proposing to do.

CouncilmemberRandall asked Mr. Shaffer to provide a response to Dan Kruger and Paul Selden from the Kalamazoo BicycleClub regarding safer bike routes.

ADJOURN: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 9:27 a.m.

James Hudson, City Clerk