

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
JANUARY 11, 2022
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS INTERVIEWS**

Mayor Patricia Randall called the meeting to order at 05:45 PM. Mayor Patricia M. Randall and Councilmembers Lisa Brayton, Chris Burns, Lori Knapp, Vic Ledbetter, and Terry Urban were present. Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson was absent with excuse. Also in attendance were Acting City Manager Adam Herringa and City Clerk Erica Eklov.

BOARD OF REVIEW: From 5:45 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., City Council interviewed returning members Patrick Buckley, Carol Eddy, Keith Hearit, Leonard Lamberson, Lyndsay Vainner, and applicant Orville Smith. At the invitation of Mayor Randall, Keith Hearit detailed the work of the Board of Review (BOR), the time commitments, and his interest in being reappointed. Pat Buckley explained the BOR "pod" structure. Councilmember Ledbetter inquired as to the number of pods. At Mayor Randall's request, Acting City Manager Herringa discussed the City Assessor's Office. Councilmember Urban asked Mr. Smith to clarify his preference for the BOR. Councilmember Burns had Acting City Manager Herringa provide an update on the expected applicant volume for the upcoming March BOR.

HUMAN SERVICES BOARD: From 6:00 p.m. to 6:11 p.m., City Council interviewed applicant Monica Lloyd. At the invitation of the Mayor, City Clerk Eklov summarized the purpose of the Human Services Board. Clerk Eklov also noted that the other two applicants on file were unable to attend due to COVID-related issues but remained interested in the appointment. Councilmember Burns noted he serves alongside Ms. Lloyd on the Read and Write Kalamazoo Board of Directors and commended her past work. Ms. Lloyd asked City Council to explain how the Human Services Board affects the work of the Council and aids the city.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: From 6:11 p.m. to 6:19 p.m., City Council interviewed Tracy Ezell and Ken Seybold. At the invitation of Mayor Randall, the City Clerk summarized the purpose of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Councilmember Urban further elaborated on the board's focus, membership structure, and attendance expectations.

ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD INTERVIEWS: From 6:19 p.m. to 6:27 p.m., City Council interviewed Michael Reddy and David Lancaster. At the invitation of Mayor Randall, the City Clerk explained the nature of the Environmental Board. Councilmember Brayton asked each applicant to relay their tenure in the city. Councilmember Urban asked the applicants to consider one helping to fill the additional vacancy on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

FINAL APPOINTMENTS DISCUSSION: Councilmembers agreed to reappoint the returning members of the Board of Review and appoint applicant Orville Smith. Following discussion, it was the consensus of the Council that Monica Lloyd was the best candidate for the Human Services Board position. With regard to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Councilmember Burns recommended appointing Ken Seybold to the regular position due to his lengthier residence in the City of Portage and appointing Tracy Ezell to one of the Alternate positions. The Council then reached a consensus to appoint David Lancaster to the Environmental Board and re-position candidate Michael Reddy to the remaining Alternate position on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 06:33 PM.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk