

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 22, 2022

Mayor Patricia Randall called the Regular Meeting to order at 07:01 PM in the Council Chambers at Portage City Hall.

ROLL CALL: Councilmembers Chris Burns, Lori Knapp, Vic Ledbetter, Jim Pearson, Patricia Randall, Terry Urban were present.

ABSENT: Councilmember Lisa Brayton.

ALSO PRESENT: Acting City Manager Adam Herringa, Deputy City Manager Michael Carroll, City Attorney Catherine Kaufman, and City Clerk Erica Eklov.

At the request of Mayor Randall, the audience observed a moment of silence to reflect on peace in everyone and the community. Following the moment of silence, the City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Fair Housing Month 2022: At the invitation of the Mayor, Human Services Board member Jihan Young read the proclamation for Fair Housing Month 2022, alongside Human Services Board staff liaison Tina Perry and Sharlee Coffman-Cook from the Fair Housing Center of Southwest Michigan.

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 Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

City Council Meeting Minutes: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 8, 2022. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Accounts Payable Register: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of March 22, 2022, as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

West End Drive Sanitary Sewer Project #419-S: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to adopt Resolution No. 2 for West End Drive Sanitary Sewer Project #419-S, setting a public hearing of necessity on April 12, 2022. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Romence Road Reconstruction Project - Bid Tabulation: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to award a construction contract to Rieth-Riley Construction Company, Incorporated, Benton Harbor, Michigan, for the Romence Road Reconstruction project for an amount not to exceed \$1,074,724 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 6 to 0.

Approval of a Council Resolution to apply for two MDNR Grants for the Lexington Green Park Improvement Project: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to approve the Resolution of Support for Local Match for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Land and Water Conservation Fund and Recreation Passport Program grants for the Lexington Green Park Improvement Project and authorize the Acting City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Resolution to apply for MDNR Trust fund grant for Elijah Root Dam and Portage Creek Improvements: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to approve the Resolution of Support for Local Match for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant for the Elijah Root Dam and Portage Creek Improvements Project and authorize the Acting City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

South Westnedge Avenue Reconstruction Project - Tabulation of Proposals: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to award a contract to Abonmarche Consultants, Inc, Portage, Michigan, in the amount not to exceed \$226,800 to perform engineering services for the South Westnedge Avenue Reconstruction Project 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 6 to 0.

Austin Lake Aquatic Nuisance Control - Tabulation of Proposals: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to award a 6-year contract to Progressive AE of Grand Rapids, Michigan, in the not-to-exceed amount of \$102,500 for consulting service and plan development for Aquatic Nuisance Control on Austin Lake 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 6 to 0.

Adoption of Bond Resolution: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to adopt the Bond Resolution authorizing the sale of Capital Improvement Bonds, Series 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000; and Capital Improvement Refunding Bonds, Series 2022, in an amount not to exceed \$2,555,000. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Approval and acceptance of public improvements in condominium project for Copperleaf Phase 5: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to approve and accept public improvements for the condominium project Copperleaf Phase 5, 3800 West Milham Avenue, subject to the following conditions: recording of the streetscape enhancement agreement; complete installation of sidewalks and street trees by March 2024, and re-testing of the public storm sewer from CB #8 to CB A to be completed for final review and determination as to whether or not repairs are necessary by the developer prior to final acceptance of the public storm sewer system. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Zoning Amendment #21/22-B (22-02): Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to accept Zoning Amendment #21/22-B (22-02) to add 'technology' and 'laboratory'-related office uses to the OS-1 Office District under Special Land Uses and set a public hearing for April 26, 2022. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Preliminary Condominium Plan for Pennridge Trail Planned Development Phase 3 (Units 46-64), 1800 West Osterhout Avenue: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to approve the tentative Preliminary Condominium Plan for Pennridge Trail Planned Development Phase 3 (Units 46-64), 1800 West Osterhout Avenue. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Special Meeting to Review City Manager Candidate Applications: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, beginning at 5:00 p.m., to review candidate applications for the position of City Manager and identify candidates to interview for the position. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Minutes of Boards & Commissions: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to receive the minutes of the Environmental Board of February 9, 2022; Zoning Board of Appeals of February 14, 2022; Planning Commission of February 17, 2022, and Planning Commission of March 3, 2022. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Calendar of Meetings: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Knapp, to receive the Calendar of Meetings as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS:

Justin Hassler (4317 Foxfire Trail) asked the City Council to consider the same traffic calming measures as deployed by the City of Kalamazoo. Acting City Manager Herringa responded that the City of Portage was aware of the Kalamazoo program and had reached out to learn the status of and feedback on the program before implementing it in Portage.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance Amendment - Chapter 18 "City Cemeteries": At the invitation of Mayor Randall, Acting City Manager Herringa summarized the parameters of the columbaria plans with the amendment to the City Cemeteries ordinance. City Clerk Eklov explained the rationale behind the proposal. Motion by Burns, seconded by Knapp, to adopt the amendment to Chapter 18 "City Cemeteries" of the Code of Ordinances to permit columbaria. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Burns provided an update regarding the Central County Transportation Authority Board (CCTA). He, along with Mayor Pro Tem Pearson, relayed that the CCTA had recently received financial statements showing good standing for the organization and the Board also decided to increase pay to the bus union as recognition of the staff maintaining service through the pandemic. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Urban, to receive the Council Committee Reports as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: None.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Burns had no comments.

Councilmember Urban spoke about the ongoing confirmation hearings for the nominee to the Supreme Court, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson.

Councilmember Ledbetter shared Councilmember Urban's sentiments regarding the Supreme Court nominee hearings. Councilmember Ledbetter then congratulated Police Officer David Barker for his recent receipt of an award from the Michigan Attorney General for actions related to stopping a citizen suicide attempt. He closed with a statement of thanks to emergency responders for their work.

Councilmember Knapp also congratulated and thanked Officer Barker.

Acting City Manager Herringa echoed Councilmember Ledbetter's and Councilmember Knapp's comments regarding Officer Barker and Attorney General Nessel.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson had no comments.

Mayor Randall also congratulated Officer Barker on his accomplishment. She then relayed her recent tour of Kalamazoo Valley Community College's (KVCC) campus and spoke of potential collaborations with programs there. Mayor Randall also noted her recent attendance at a Western Michigan University event for political affairs that included students and local leaders. She closed with a reminder that there would be a three-week break until the next City Council meeting and wished everyone a good spring break.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 07:27 PM.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk