

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 6, 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 Lisa Brayton, Lori Knapp, Victor Ledbetter, Terry Urban, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson, and Mayor Patricia Randall were present.

ABSENT: Councilmember Chris Burns.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Pat McGinnis, Deputy 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 equity and inclusion in the community for all to feel safe and welcome. Following the moment of silence, the City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS:

National Step-Family Month: Councilmember Knapp read the proclamation.

National Senior Center Month: Senior Citizen Advisory Board member Linda Zoeller read the proclamation with fellow board member Judy Riker and Senior Citizen Services Director Kim Phillips present.

Pro Services of Michigan Recognition: Representatives from Pro Services read the proclamation and spoke regarding the history of the business and its trade educational program.

National Suicide Prevention Month: Councilmember Brayton read the proclamation.

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Pearson, to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of the Committee of the Whole on August 23, 2022; and Regular Meeting on August 23, 2022. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

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

Blue Care Network Advantage Plan: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Pearson, to approve a one-year contract renewal, with the option for two additional one-year renewals, with Blue Care Network for the Blue Care Network Advantage Plan for retiree health insurance and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract renewal on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Fire Division Vehicle Replacements: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Pearson, to authorize the purchase of two 2023 GMC Sierra 2500 HD pickup trucks through the State of Michigan MiDEAL extended purchasing program for \$76,136.00, and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Tall Timbers Portage, LLC (Phase VII) Final Plan Approval: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Pearson, to approve the Final Plan for the previously-approved Tentative Plan amendment for Phase VII of Greenspire (Tall Timbers) Residential Planned Development, at 3413 West Centre Avenue, subject to the approval of a public utility plan by the City of Portage prior to construction of the public water and sewer mains. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Minutes of Boards & Commissions: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Pearson, to receive the minutes of the Human Services Board from May 5, 2022, and Planning Commission from August 18, 2022. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Materials Transmitted: Motion by Knapp, seconded by Pearson, to receive the Materials Transmitted of August 11 and August 23, 2022. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

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

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: John Paver (9651 Portage Road) relayed concerns regarding pesticide application scheduling in city parks with youth features. He also thanked the City Council for creating a welcoming community and relayed a recent encounter with new residents. Mayor Randall thanked him for his comments, as well as his company's donation of dog food to the K9 officers.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Planning Commission's Annual Work Plan: Following an introduction by Community Development Director Kelly Peterson, Commissioner Becky Sue Baldwin presented the Planning Commission's Annual Work Plan. Commissioner Baldwin highlighted the proposed fiscal year 2022-23 program, including related City Council goals, updating the Master Plan, Lake Center District overlay zoning review, the Capital Improvement Program, as well as education and collaborative opportunities. Mayor Randall thanked Commissioner Baldwin, noting her tenure with the Planning Commission.

Motion by Knapp, seconded by Pearson, to receive the Annual Planning Commission Work Plan. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Federal Update from Smith Dawson & Andrews: Brett Garson and Kristian Chin of Smith Dawson & Andrews presented information regarding the federal lobbying services provided by the firm to date, as well as upcoming projects, funding options, and efforts. Mayor Randall inquired about the intended target item for a federally funded waterways bill. Mr. Garson responded that the bill would fund the Portage Elijah Root Dam Removal Project, but was also broadly worded to the point that funds could be used on any water or wastewater restoration project. Mayor Pro Tem Pearson asked who was the firm's direct point of contact for city staff. Mr. Garson responded that both he and Mr. Chin were part of every correspondence. Mayor Randall then thanked them both for their efforts on behalf of the city.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Brayton, to receive the presentation from Mr. Garson and Mr. Chin of Smith Dawson & Andrews. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Rezoning application No. 22/23-1 for Streamsong Phase 3 at 715 W. Osterhout Avenue: Mayor Randall opened the public hearing at 7:45 pm. City Manager McGinnis and Community Development Director Peterson summarized the rezoning proposal.

Motion by Brayton, seconded by Urban, to close the public hearing. Upon roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0. Seeing no further discussion, motion by Pearson, seconded by Brayton, to approve rezoning application No. 22/23-1 for Streamsong Phase 3, 715 West Osterhout Avenue, to rezone 1.4

acres of land from Planned Development to R-1C One-Family Residential District to facilitate a future single-family detached house. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Brayton provided an update regarding the Discover Kalamazoo Advisory Board, including information about the Vicksburg Mill and the surrounding area's redevelopment project. She noted the project is slated for completion in 2026. Councilmember Brayton then relayed the addition of Avelo Airlines to the Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport with direct service to Florida.

Motion by Urban, seconded by Knapp, to receive the Council Committee Report as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: None.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Urban had no comment.

Councilmember Ledbetter spoke regarding a recent increase in local gun violence instances and urged a reduction in gun violence on a national level.

Councilmember Knapp had no comment.

Councilmember Brayton congratulated the Finance Department for receiving the Government Finance Officers Award for Excellence in Financial Reporting for another year. She then thanked Public Safety Director Arnold and his department for their efforts in recent events. Councilmember Brayton then acknowledged several new ribbon cuttings and the associated unveilings. She closed by issuing a reminder regarding September as Suicide Awareness Month, providing the phone number of the new helpline, and urging community members to check in with their family and friends.

City Manager McGinnis noted the City Administration has been involved in the National League of Cities boot camp training. He also noted staff has met with local solar companies to explore possible power alternatives on the roofs of public buildings, as well as Portage Public School buildings. Mr. McGinnis also noted the city has various position openings available. He closed with a mention of the city's presentation of the Tall Timbers project to the Michigan Strategic Fund scheduled for September 7th.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson addressed social media comments regarding a recent accident on Osterhout Avenue and concerns about the intersection. He noted the prior Lake Center District plan provides answers for location over the next few years, citing a prior Lakeview Drive incident that the city was also able to address.

Mayor Randall relayed that she recently participated in the Kalamazoo Valley Community College Police Academy's mock interview session with cadets, alongside Councilmember Ledbetter and City Manager McGinnis. She thanked Councilmember Ledbetter for his work with the cadets and his representation of the City of Portage. Mayor Randall then thanked several entities: the Portage Police Division for assisting with a successful start to the school year; Parker Hannifin for their bike repair station sponsorship; and, the representatives from Smith Dawson & Andrews. Mayor Randall closed with a reminder of the final Summer Entertainment Series concert scheduled for September 8.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 08:04 PM.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk