

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 18, 2022

Mayor Patricia Randall called the Regular Meeting to order at 07:00 PM in the Council Chambers at Portage City Hall.

ROLL CALL: Councilmembers Lisa Brayton, Chris Burns, Victor Ledbetter, Terry Urban, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson, and Mayor Patricia Randall were present.

ABSENT: Councilmember Lori Knapp.

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 the commitment to live drug-free lifestyles for Portage businesses, schools, families, and law enforcement. Following the moment of silence, the City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Scouts of Chapel Hill Troop #287.

PROCLAMATIONS:

Red Ribbon Week: Human Services Board Co-Chair Jihan Young introduced the proclamation, which was read by various youth members of the community.

Rotary International 2022: Members of the Portage Rotary read the proclamation. Rotary member Dick Hewitt spoke regarding a \$1.2 billion donation by the Gates Foundation to eradicate polio in cooperation with the Rotarian organization.

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

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Burns, seconded by Ledbetter, to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of the Board & Commission Interviews of October 4, 2022, and the Regular Meeting of October 4, 2022. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Accounts Payable Register: Motion by Burns, seconded by Ledbetter, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of October 18, 2022, as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Approve the Purchase of a Pierce Velocity 100' Aerial Platform Truck: Motion by Burns, seconded by Ledbetter, to approve the purchase of a Pierce Velocity 100' Aerial Platform through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Agreement #113021-OKC-1 in the amount of \$1,777,423.00, and authorize the city manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Workers' Compensation Third Party Administrator and Excess Insurance: Motion by Burns, seconded by Ledbetter, to approve the proposed contract renewals with Michigan Claims Service, Inc. dba The ASU Group for \$9,750/year and Midwest Employers Casualty Company for \$100,555 for the first year and \$101,558 for the second year plus payroll adjustments, with \$750,000 specific excess retention for Police and Fire and \$550,000 specific excess retention for all other employee groups, for the period of December 1, 2022 - November 30, 2024, and authorize the city manager to execute all documents on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Police Vehicle Replacement Purchase: Motion by Burns, seconded by Ledbetter, to approve the purchase of five (5) 2023 Ford Interceptor AWD vehicles from Gorno Ford in the amount of

\$257,830 using the State of Michigan MiDEAL program and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this purchase on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Replacement of Overhead Doors at Fire Station No. 1: Motion by Burns, seconded by Ledbetter, to award a contract to Overhead Door of Kalamazoo for the replacement of overhead doors at Fire Station No. 1 in the amount of \$106,807 and authorize the 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.

Kalamazoo County Urban Bird Treaty: Motion by Burns, seconded by Ledbetter, to adopt the City of Portage partnership in the Kalamazoo County Urban Bird Treaty and support the application for federal designation as the Kalamazoo County Urban Bird Treaty through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

2023 Parks and Recreation Open Space 5-Year Plan: Motion by Burns, seconded by Ledbetter, to receive the proposed 2023 Recreation and Open Space Plan Update and approve the distribution of the plan update to the planning commissions of adjacent communities and to the Kalamazoo County Planning Commission. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Minutes of Boards & Commissions: Motion by Burns, seconded by Ledbetter, to receive the minutes of the Environmental Board from August 10, 2022; Human Services Board from September 1, 2022; and Planning Commission from September 15, 2022. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

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

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Bo Snyder (1342 Lama Road, Kalamazoo) spoke regarding Proposal 2 in the upcoming November General Election.

Carolyn Peshek (6745 Shoreham Street) noted the upcoming October 25 ISAAC meeting and invited the members of the Portage City Council to attend. City Manager McGinnis inquired about the topics planned for the meeting. Ms. Peshek responded that the Gun Violence, Racism, and Housing Task Forces of ISAAC would be posing individual questions.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Tentative Plan and Rezoning Application #22/23-4 - 8150 Creekside Drive: Mayor Randall opened the public hearing at 7:21 p.m. and asked City Manager McGinnis to summarize the proposal. Applicant Jim DuRussel spoke regarding the proposed development. Mayor Randall inquired about the size of the current StoryPoint facility on West Milham Road as compared to the new proposal. Mr. DuRussel noted the proposal will match the current facility in size. Councilmember Urban asked about the potential for light pollution in the adjacent residential area. Mr. DuRussel noted the light fixtures are a shoebox style to direct illumination downward and not shine outward to adjacent properties. Terry Clark, the architect for the project, noted the lighting plan was not fully designed at this stage but would follow any ordinance requirements and direct illumination inward. There was additional discussion regarding site plan situating and landscape berm placement. Motion by Burns, seconded by Ledbetter, to close the public hearing. Upon roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0. Seeing no further discussion, motion by Brayton, seconded by Burns, to approve the Tentative Plan and Rezoning Application #22/23-4 to rezone 8150 Creekside Drive from OS-1 Office Service District and R-1C One-Family Residential District to PD Planned Development for a senior housing facility. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA:

Human Services Board Vacancies: At the invitation of the Mayor, applicants Justin Phan and Ludim Torres were interviewed for the vacant positions on the Human Services Board. They both noted their unique multicultural backgrounds and modest childhoods, which inspired them to apply for

the Board. Mayor Randall thanked both Mr. Phan and Ms. Torres for their interest and Councilmember Urban thanked the applicants for relaying their personal stories. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Burns, to appoint Justin Phan and Ludim Torres to fill the two remaining vacancies on the Human Services Board with terms ending October 1, 2023. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Brayton provided an update regarding the Kalamazoo County Environmental Health Advisory Committee (EHAC). She noted the District Director for the Michigan State University Extension Program was present and provided a presentation on the provision of unbiased education on the statewide ballot proposals.

Councilmember Burns provided an update regarding the Central County Transportation Authority (CCTA) alongside Mayor Pro Tem Pearson. Councilmember Burns relayed that the CCTA renewed its support services agreement with the City of Kalamazoo, as well as filed an OPEB Underfunding Waiver to the State of Michigan.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: None.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Brayton honored Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety Officer Christian Taylor Smith who had recently passed away, praising his family and community. She then spoke regarding the recent shooting of 14 officers and the dangerous work of public safety personnel. Councilmember Brayton closed with a reminder of the upcoming Monster Mash event, encouraging everyone to visit and be safe.

Councilmember Burns also highlighted Monster Mash, noting he had visited as a child and would now be taking a new generation to the event. He then commended the Human Service Board applicants for applying. Councilmember Burns closed with a reminder regarding the upcoming election and encouraged everyone to do their research and vote.

Councilmember Ledbetter expressed appreciation for the youth readers of the Red Ribbon Proclamation. He also thanked the applicants for the Human Services Board.

Councilmember Urban recognized the upcoming election, the City Clerk's Office, and the election workers who conduct the election. He then noted the expenditure of \$1.8 million on a new aerial fire truck under the Consent Agenda, providing the history of the equipment, state funding support, and the magnitude of the purchase.

City Manager McGinnis provided a brief update regarding the ongoing Winters Drive traffic safety matter. He then relayed the City Clerk's Office efforts to register new voters at the two Portage Public High Schools. Mr. McGinnis closed with a mention of the state funding assistance for the aerial fire truck and thanked the State delegation for their support.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson spoke regarding the November General Election and encouraged voters to research the various proposals.

Mayor Randall highlighted the upcoming election, noting the new pre-processing legislation. She then spoke regarding the upcoming Monster Mash event and the Halloween holiday. Mayor Randall then noted the state funding support for the new aerial fire truck and appreciated the assistance of the local representatives. Mayor Randall closed by thanking the City Council for their earlier participation in the Committee of the Whole meeting for the updated Brownfield Policy.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 07:56 PM.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk