

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 15, 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, Jim Pearson, Patricia Randall, 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 supporting local businesses, the local economy, and local jobs.

Following the moment of silence, the City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance with the assistance of Cub Scout Troop #235

PROCLAMATIONS:

Small Business Saturday 2022: John Paver of Paver Pet Supply read the proclamation for Small Business Saturday 2022.

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 Urban, seconded by Brayton, to approve Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Urban, seconded by Brayton, to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 1, 2022. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Accounts Payable Register: Motion by Urban, seconded by Brayton, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of November 15, 2022, as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Vehicle Purchases - Cooperative Purchasing: Motion by Urban, seconded by Brayton, to approve the purchase of eleven vehicles and upfitting of one Ford F-550 at a total cost of \$620,701 using the State of Michigan MiDEAL Extended Purchasing Program and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to these purchases on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Health Insurance Contract Renewals: Motion by Urban, seconded by Brayton, to approve a one-year contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan at a cost of \$209,535.39, and a one-year contract with Blue Care Network at a cost of \$2,127,062 for employee health insurance; maintain current employer/employee cost-sharing practices by taking action to exempt the city from requirements of P.A. 152 for the 2023 medical benefits plan year, and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract renewals on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Design and Construction Engineering Services for Romence Road Parkway - Proposal Tabulation: Motion by Urban, seconded by Brayton, to award a contract to Prein&Newhof of Grand Rapids, Michigan in the amount not to exceed \$191,300 for design and construction engineering services for the Romence Road Parkway Reconstruction Project 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.

Amend the General Appropriations Act (budget): Motion by Urban, seconded by Brayton, to amend the General Appropriations Act (budget) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Board & Commission Interviews: Motion by Urban, seconded by Brayton, to set a Special Meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 2023, beginning at 5:45 p.m., to interview Board and Commission applicants. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

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

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Alan Loveridge (23965 88th Street, Marcellus) spoke regarding online dating scam concerns.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Burns provided a CCTA update including Board restructuring for sub-committees to consolidate topics for operations and director reviews. Councilmember Brayton gave a Discover Kalamazoo Committee update with a focus on vacant storefronts in downtown Kalamazoo to be used for attractions and event advertising. Motion by Ledbetter, seconded by Urban, to receive the Council Committee Reports as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

NEW BUSINESS:

"I Love Portage" Essay Contest - Council Volunteers: Mayor Randall provided a history of the program and asked for volunteers from the City Council. Councilmembers Brayton, Burns, and Urban volunteered. Mayor Randall asked the City Manager's Office to coordinate the provision of the student essays. Councilmember Ledbetter offered to fill in as needed.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: None.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Brayton congratulated two recently hired police officers, as well as two recent firefighter hires, with whom she was able to do a ride along and was impressed by the level of care provided. She then wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, including the first responders working during the holidays.

Councilmember Burns provided an additional update on the Kalamazoo Transit organization with a review of the master plan, scheduled for both December 12 and December 13. He noted the Executive Director has been in negotiations with the operator of the Crossroads Mall to improve the paved surfaces. Councilmember Burns also wished a Happy Thanksgiving to everyone and noted the Council Goal Setting Session scheduled for the end of the week.

Councilmember Ledbetter thanked the City Clerk's Office for their efforts with the November 8th election.

Councilmember Urban spoke regarding the recent meetings with Cub Scout Troop 235 and his enjoyment of talking with them, highlighting youth-centered installments with the city like the skate park. One Scout asked for a pizza vending machine.

City Manager McGinnis provided a reminder regarding the City Council Annual Goal Retreat scheduled for Friday at the Zhang Portage Community Senior Center. He then noted the launch of the Master Plan, including a review with the Youth Advisory Committee. Mr. McGinnis closed with congratulations to the entire Clerk's Office.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and safe travels.

Mayor Randall congratulated the Clerk's Office on a successful November election, noting the record voter turnouts in the city. She then highlighted Veteran's Day events from the prior week. Mayor Randall also referenced a recent recognition event for former Parks Director, Bill Deming, and the new Public Safety Department hires' pinning event. She stated that the Salvation Army's annual bell-ringing campaign kicks off this week and closed by wishing everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 07:29 PM.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk