

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 4, 2023

Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson called the Regular Meeting to order at 07:04 PM in the Council Chambers at Portage City Hall.

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

ABSENT: Mayor Patricia Randall was absent.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Pat McGinnis, City Attorney Catherine Kaufman, Deputy City Manager Adam Herringa, and Deputy City Clerk Tammy Durian.

At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Pearson, the audience observed a moment of silence to reflect on the recent devastating tornados in the United States. Following the moment of silence, the City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PROCLAMATIONS:

National Arbor Day: At Mayor Pro Tem Pearson's request, Deputy Director of Streets and Parks, Ray Waurio, read the National Arbor Day Proclamation.

FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Community Rating System Award: City Manager McGinnis presented the award, recognized the City Administration for their hard work, and explained the community rating system incentive program. The program recognizes community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program. The CRS assigns municipalities to one of ten classes and each class corresponds to a percentage discount on National Flood Insurance policy premiums within the municipality. The City of Portage improved from a Class 8 to a Class 7 resulting in a 15 percent discount.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Pro Tem Pearson shared where the public can access the meeting agenda and asked if councilmembers or anyone in the audience would like an item removed from the Consent Agenda. Motion by Ledbetter, seconded by Knapp, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Ledbetter, seconded by Knapp, to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 21, 2023. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Accounts Payable Register: Motion by Ledbetter, seconded by Knapp, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of April 4, 2023, as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Adopt the Resolution Accepting Newly Constructed Platted Street as Public Streets: Motion by Ledbetter, seconded by Knapp, to adopt the Resolution Accepting Newly Constructed Platted Street as Public Streets. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Adopt the Notice of Intent Resolution to fund construction of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 capital improvement projects, in the amount not to exceed \$6,000,000: Motion by Ledbetter, seconded by Knapp, to adopt the Notice of Intent Resolution to fund construction of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 capital improvement projects, in the amount not to exceed \$6,000,000. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Rescind the October 18, 2022, approval of the purchase of five (5) 2023 Ford Interceptor AWD vehicles from Gorno Ford in the amount of \$257,830, approve the purchase of twelve (12) Chevrolet Tahoe Police Pursuit vehicles from Berger Chevrolet in the amount of \$479,796, and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents pertaining to this matter: Motion by Ledbetter, seconded by Knapp, to rescind the October 18, 2022, approval of the purchase of five (5) 2023 Ford Interceptor AWD vehicles from Gorno Ford in the amount of \$257,830, approve the purchase of twelve (12) Chevrolet Tahoe Police Pursuit vehicles from Berger Chevrolet in the amount of \$479,796, and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents pertaining to this matter. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Accept the low bid in the amount of \$308,815 from Michigan Paving & Materials, Inc. to provide repairs to the Portage Creek Bicentennial Park (PCBP) Multi-use Trail and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the contract on behalf of the city: Motion by Ledbetter, seconded by Knapp, to accept the low bid in the amount of \$308,815 from Michigan Paving & Materials, Inc. to provide repairs to the Portage Creek Bicentennial Park (PCBP) Multi-use Trail 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.

Minutes of Boards & Commissions: Motion by Ledbetter, seconded by Knapp, to receive the Minutes of the Planning Commission of March 2, 2023. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Calendar of Meetings: Motion by Ledbetter, 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: None.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA:

Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2023 - 2024 Proposed Budget: At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Pearson, City Manager McGinnis presented the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget. Mr. McGinnis expressed appreciation for a balanced budget and concluded by providing the upcoming City Council Budget Review Session date(s). Motion by Knapp, seconded by Ledbetter, to receive the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Budget. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

Approve the Proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Human/Public Service Funding Allocation Recommendations as Noted: Councilmember Urban asked if Kalamazoo Youth for Christ applied for funding this year. Tina Perry, liaison for the Human Services Board, explained that they did not reapply. Motion by Brayton, seconded by Burns, to approve the proposed Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Human/Public Service Funding Allocation recommendation as noted. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Adopt the Amendment to Chapter 66 of the Code of Ordinances (Streets, Sidewalks, & Other Public Places) Include Sec. 66-7. "Block Parties": Mayor Pro Tem Pearson explained that currently the City of Portage does not have an ordinance for block parties. Motion by Burns, seconded by Brayton, to adopt the amendment to Chapter 66 of the Code of Ordinances (Streets, Sidewalks, and Other Public Places) to include Sec. 66-7 "Block Parties". Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Brayton reported that she, Mayor Randall, City Manager McGinnis, and Deputy City Manager Herringa attended the National League of Cities Congressional City Conference. While there, they attended educational classes, visited various officials,

and met Portage area senators and congressmen in hopes of getting federal dollars back to Portage. Motion by Urban, seconded by Brayton, to receive the Council Committee Reports as presented. Upon a voice vote, the motion carried 6 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: None.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Urban reported that the City Council was afforded the opportunity to visit the City of Portage Public Safety Department to experience the Apex Officer Virtual Reality Training System. He attended the training and encouraged other Councilmembers to attend. Councilmember Urban said the system is a realistic Virtual Reality (VR) training simulator, and it allows for VR weapon training and various scenarios. He also mentioned that other municipalities and public safety departments have visited the City of Portage to view the system.

Councilmember Ledbetter noted that the day marked 55 years since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King JR. He also acknowledged that April is Sexual Assault Awareness month and National Child Abuse Awareness month. After doing research, he learned that some states recognize Confederate Heritage Month, as well as a Confederate Memorial Day in April. Lastly, he commented on a resolution passed in Mississippi, and thanked the City of Portage for going above and beyond to make sure the community feels respected.

Councilmember Knapp had no comment.

Councilmember Brayton thanked the City of Portage Public Safety Department for working this Easter holiday and wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Councilmember Burns thanked city staff for cost-saving efforts as illustrated by several Consent Agenda items and expressed his gratitude for helping the Council as stewards of fiscal resources of the city.

City Manager McGinnis also recognized the staff's fiscal responsibility. He mentioned the Arbor Day tree planting celebration that will be held on Friday, April 28, 2023, and shared the importance of continuing to repopulate both streetscapes and urban forests in the City of Portage.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson mentioned the 2023-2024 Proposed Budget is online and the budget meeting will be a 3-hour workshop on April 18th at 3:00 p.m. Additionally, he shared that city staff worked hard to reduce the City of Portage debt. Lastly, he commented on the repair to Bicentennial Park trails and the paving extension of the trail.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Pro Tem Pearson adjourned the meeting at 07:35 PM.

Tammy K. Durian, Deputy Clerk