

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM JULY 25, 2023

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, Terry Urban, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson, and Mayor Patricia Randall were present.

ABSENT: Councilmembers Chris Burns, Lori Knapp, Victor Ledbetter.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Pat McGinnis, Chief Development Officer Peter Dame, 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 gathering together to do the work of the city recognizing everyone is united in the love of the community. Following the moment of silence, the City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 Urban, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 4 to 0.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Urban, to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 11, 2023. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 4 to 0.

Accounts Payable Register: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Urban, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of July 25, 2023 as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 4 to 0.

Local Officers Compensation Commission Report: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Urban, to receive the report from the Local Officers Compensation Commission. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 4 to 0.

Calendar of Meetings: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Urban, to receive the Calendar of Meetings as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 4 to 0.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Prior to beginning the Statements of Citizens session, Mayor Randall provided a prepared statement regarding an update on the Lake Center District Housing Task Force efforts and its recent meeting.

Mayor Randall then noted she had received a letter earlier in the day from the Zylman Ventures manager, Dale H. Kraker, withdrawing his applications regarding the Austin Landings project. Mayor Randall noted that a portion of the Task Force still pertains to another neighborhood development and the future of the Task Force remained open-ended.

1. Michael Cartier (1127 Lakeview Drive) spoke regarding the efforts of the Task Force to date and the discussions at the recent meeting. He asked about the availability of an online platform or portal for the public to use for question submittal and open responses.
2. Tom Space (1909 Winters Drive) spoke regarding the traffic concerns on Winters Drive and Bennett Street, including recent traffic patrols conducted by Chief Wayland with the issuance of 22 tickets on a single day in September during the school year.
3. Terri Hertzell (317 Crocket Avenue) spoke on behalf of herself and several neighbors regarding property maintenance issues at 309 Crocket Avenue. She noted that the resident is physically unable to maintain his property, but asked for help with addressing the issue, as well as a better understanding of the city's code enforcement.
4. Ken Ackert (9702 East Shore Drive) spoke regarding the recent Lake Center Task Force meeting and the issue of the public not being able to attend. He noted that making the public wait outside was a rude

gesture given many were in attendance to support the elected officials and Task Force members, and implored the Council to do better in the future.

5. Mary Wieloploski (8836 East Shore Drive) thanked the Council for their efforts regarding the proposed Austin Landings development, noting her prepared statements were no longer relevant considering the D. Kraker letter. She asked that the developer's letter be made publicly available for reading.
6. Tobi Hanna-Davies (City of Kalamazoo resident) spoke regarding the effects of home values adjacent to low-income housing and the myths of negatively-affected property values. She cited her prior residence in the city of Ann Arbor located near a similar development and current community work in the Kalamazoo area.
7. James Bedouin (8645 Balmoral Street) asked about the status of the Austin Landings development, the scope of the project, and the adjacent city trail plans.
8. Howard Misner (10425 Hammock Circle) spoke via phone to express concerns regarding the opening of a gun store next to an existing liquor store in the city.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Woodlands at Austin Lake (4301 Branch Avenue) - Tentative Plan Amendment: Mayor Randall opened the public hearing at 7:31 p.m. At the Mayor's request, City Manager McGinnis provided a summary of the proposed project. As there were no public comments, motion by Urban, seconded by Brayton, to close the public hearing. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 4 to 0. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Urban, to approve the Tentative Plan Amendment to modify the previously approved Tentative Plan for the Woodlands at Austin Lake Condominiums at 4301 Branch Avenue. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 4 to 0.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: None.

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

Councilmember Brayton relayed her attendance at several recent events, including two veterans' events and two ribbon-cutting events. Councilmember Brayton also acknowledged a recognition event for the donation of two K9 protective vests.

City Manager McGinnis issued a reminder of the Zhang Portage Senior Center's upcoming Centenarian Luncheon slated for August 4th, as well as the weekly Friday at the Flats event followed by the outdoor movie.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson noted a change to his closing comments in light of the recent letter received from developer Dale Kraker and thanked Mayor Randall for her leadership.

Mayor Randall thanked Dale Kraker for his willingness to work with the city. She then acknowledged the Kalamazoo Neighborhood Housing single-family home recently completed on the corner of Oakland Drive and West Centre Avenue resulting from the passage of the countywide Senior Millage. She was happy to be able to keep Portage taxpayer dollars contributed to the countywide millage within the city. Mayor Randall then mentioned a second housing development that would be on the Kalamazoo area Parade of Homes and encouraged citizens to tour the property. She closed with a mention of the Centenarian Luncheon at the Zhang Portage Senior Center and thanked the residents in attendance.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 07:39 PM.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk