

CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM AUGUST 27, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Patricia Randall called the Regular Meeting to order at 06:00 PM in the Council Chambers at Portage City Hall.

ROLL CALL: Councilmembers Chris Burns, Victor Ledbetter, Nicole Miller, Terry Urban (6:03 PM), Jihan Young, Mayor Pro Tem Jim Pearson, and Mayor Patricia Randall were present.

ABSENT: None.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager Pat McGinnis, Chief Operating Officer Adam Herringa, 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 the upcoming Labor Day holiday and the economic achievements of the American worker. Following the moment of silence, the City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS:

1. Alan Loveridge (23965 88th Avenue, Marcellus) expressed concerns with the ability of citizens to relay potential improvement ideas to those in upper management or leadership at all levels of government and business.
2. Jessica Swartz (2115 Waite Avenue, Kalamazoo) announced her 4th District Congressional Representative campaign.

CONSENT AGENDA: Mayor Randall shared where the public can access the meeting agenda and asked if any would like an item removed from the Consent Agenda. Motion by Young, seconded by Burns, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Young, seconded by Burns, to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 13, 2024. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

Accounts Payable Register: Motion by Young, seconded by Burns, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of August 27, 2024, as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PCES for Meredith Street Reconstruction Project - Tabulation of Proposals: Motion by Young, seconded by Burns, to award a contract to perform engineering services for the Meredith Street Reconstruction Project to Williams & Works, Walker, Michigan in the amount not to exceed \$306,377 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 7 to 0.

Board & Commission Interviews: Motion by Young, seconded by Burns, to set a Special Meeting at 4:30 p.m. on October 8, 2024, to review Board and Commission appointments. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

Minutes of Boards & Commissions: Motion by Young, seconded by Burns, to approve the Zoning Board of Appeals minutes of July 8, 2024. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

Calendar of Meetings: Motion by Young, seconded by Burns, to receive the Calendar of Meetings as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA:

Closed Session to Discuss a Matter of Property Acquisition: Motion by Pearson, seconded by Burns, to go into closed session. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. The City Council entered a closed session following the Statements of City Council and City Manager.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance to adopt the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code: Mayor Randall introduced the item and asked the members of the Council whether there were any additional questions or concerns. Seeing none, motion by Burns, seconded by Young, to approve the ordinance to adopt the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

Mayor Randall encouraged the City Manager and staff to begin exploring usage of the new code with recent property maintenance concerns.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS: Councilmember Miller provided an update regarding the Discover Kalamazoo Advisory Council's recent meeting and efforts.

Councilmember Young relayed the activity of the Small Business Committee and encouraged local businesses to sign up for the Portage Business Directory available on the city website.

Motion by Burns, seconded by Ledbetter, to receive the Council Committee Reports as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER: Councilmember Young spoke regarding the start of the school year and city park usage.

Councilmember Burns wished everyone a Happy Labor Day and expressed appreciation for American workers.

Councilmember Urban and Councilmember Ledbetter had no comment.

Councilmember Miller provided information regarding several of the upcoming Senior Center classes, including Aqua Yoga in collaboration with the Aqua Tots Swim School.

City Manager McGinnis noted the new "Bingocize" class at the Senior Center.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson had no comment.

Mayor Randall began by wishing everyone a Happy Labor Day holiday. She then highlighted several upcoming events, including the annual Portage Art Award ceremony on September 5th, the Kalamazoo County Judge Charles A. Pratt Justice Center grand opening on September 7th, and the Kalamazoo Valley Museum Black History exhibit opening on September 5th. Mayor Randall closed with an advisement of the construction of the new City Hall parking lot.

RECESSED INTO CLOSED SESSION: 6:18 p.m.

RESUMED REGULAR MEETING: 8:32 p.m.

Business from Closed Session Discussion: Motion by Burns, seconded by Young, to set a Special Meeting at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10th under MCL 15.268 Sec.8(d). Upon a roll call vote, motion passed 7 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 8:33 PM.

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk