

**MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
OF OCTOBER 31, 2016**

Mayor Pro Tem Nasim Ansari called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following were present: Councilmember Patricia M. Randall and Mayor Pro Tem Nasim Ansari. Councilmember Jim Pearson via the conference phone line. Councilmembers Claudette Reid, Richard Ford and Terry Urban were absent with notice and excuse. Mayor Peter Strazdas called in via the conference phone line at 9:05 a.m. Also in attendance were City Manager Larry Shaffer, Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis and City Clerk James Hudson.

Mayor Pro Tem Ansari asked if there were any questions for the Administration regarding items on the Agenda.

Under F.3, Reports from the Administration, Councilmember Pearson asked if the Administration is recommending the established vendor or was there a bidding process. City Manager Larry Shaffer responded that the City is recommending the established vendor. Councilmember Randall asked how many renewals have been awarded to this vendor; which years did this take place; was it always a unanimous vote; and, was it ever debated. She also asked for cost comparisons with other cities our size, and Mr. Shaffer responded that he had looked at a couple of cities with Veolia Water, but one was in New Jersey and one was in Connecticut; plus, most have their own waste water treatment facilities, and the size and costs differ, so they are not really comparable. With that, Councilmember Randall indicated it would be great to have cities in Michigan, Ohio or Indiana, even if they come from Suez Environmental Services, Incorporated, or if it is a city one-half the size of Portage which could then be doubled.

With regard to Items F.4, F.5, and F.6, Councilmember Pearson asked if there was any feedback, and Mr. Shaffer indicated that there were no protests, even though the surveys that were conducted were not unanimous.

Mayor Strazdas arrived via the conference phone line at 9:05 a.m. and said he was late because he received a phone call from the Democratic National Committee and announced that former Democratic Candidate for president Bernie Sanders would be at Miller Auditorium on Wednesday, November 2, 2016, at 11 a.m. He said that no tickets are required and parking is free. Mayor Strazdas was briefed on the questions asked thus far. Mayor Strazdas asked for assurances that staff would be ready to make a detailed presentation, recognized that staff has exercised a lot of due diligence, and asked that this be reflected in detail as information for the public.

Under F.8, Mayor Strazdas asked whether the thematic playground equipment planned for Central Park and Westlake Park were in compliance with the American Disabilities Act.

At the request of Mayor Pro Tem Ansari, motion by Randall, seconded by Pearson, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 4 to 0 at 9:12 a.m.

James Hudson, City Clerk