CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 1, 2016

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Mayor Strazdas at 7:30 p.m.

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, Pastor Adam Davidson of the Portage Free Methodist Church gave the invocation and City Council and Boy Scout Webelos Den Pack 255 led the audience in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, the City Clerk called the roll with the following members present: Councilmembers Richard Ford, Jim Pearson, Patricia M. Randall, Claudette Reid and Terry Urban, Mayor Pro Tem Nasim Ansari and Mayor Peter Strazdas. Also in attendance were City Manager Larry Shaffer, City Attorney Randy Brown and City Clerk James R. Hudson.

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Strazdas issued a National American Diabetes Month Proclamation which was received by Tom Hewitt. Discussion followed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2016, as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 6 to 0 with mayor Strazdas abstaining.

Motion by Randall, seconded by Ansari, to approve the Pre-Council Meeting Notes of October 31, 2016, as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 4 to 3 with Councilmembers Reid, Ford and Urban abstaining.

* **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Strazdas asked Councilmember Ford to read the Consent Agenda. Councilmember Reid asked that Item F.1, Sale of City Property – westerly portion of 5800 and 5710 Lovers Lane, be removed from the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Ansari asked that Item F.3, Utility Management and Operations Services, be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Ford, seconded by Ansari, to approve the Consent Agenda motions as amended. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF NOVEMBER 1, 2016:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Ansari, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of November 1, 2016. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARING:

MEDICAL MARIHUANA: Mayor Strazdas did not recuse himself from this item because the conflict of interest he expressed six months ago regarding this matter no longer exists. He deferred to City Manager Larry Shaffer, who noted that on May 10, 2016, City Council passed an ordinance that imposed a Temporary Moratorium on the Use of Property and Structures for Dispensing and Cultivating Marihuana that expires November 2016. He cited a new State Law enacted September 21, 2016, regarding the five segments of the marihuana business: cultivation, processing, testing, transportation and sales. He indicated that LARA (Michigan Licensing and Regulatory Agency) would have 360 days to promulgate the rules required for applicants to follow before the licenses for each stage could be issued. He noted, however, that there can be no licensing before the rules are established.

City Attorney Randy Brown answered Councilmember Reid's concern by indicating that the five segments address five different facilities which are intertwined; one cannot act without the other; and a facility needs an authorizing ordinance which has to be in place before a license can be issued. He also indicated that the bottom line is that the moratorium supports and codifies what the law is anyway, lets the public know the direction of Council on the matter, and provides Council flexibility. Discussion followed. Mr. Brown indicated that the Act requires rules for all five before an ordinance can be considered passed and a dispensary can sell product. Councilmember Reid indicated her preference that all of the rules be promulgated by LARA before enacting an ordinance. Discussion followed.

Mr. Brown also indicated that it is not the rule adoption that expires the moratorium; it is the application, so LARA has to begin accepting applications. Mayor Strazdas opened the public hearing to the audience, and Susan Deshot praised Mayor Strazdas and Councilmember Randall for standing up for what they believe in. She expressed her frustration with the progress in this matter, and complained that there seems to be a lot of time and money wasted. She cited examples to back her up and thanked Council for their time.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Randall, to close the public hearing. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Mayor Strazdas summed up and indicated when Council decides to take action, it can decide on one or all five segments leading to a license, and the timing will be based upon the State, and spoke in favor of the proposed ordinance. Discussion followed.

Motion by Randall, seconded by Ansari, to approve an Ordinances to amend the Code of Ordinances of the City of Portage by adding Article 10, Temporary Moratorium Regarding Facilities Dispensing, Selling, Transferring and Cultivating Medical Marihuana of Chapter 2, Administration. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 1. Ayes: Councilmembers Urban, Ford, Pearson and Randall, Mayor Pro Tem Ansari and Mayor Strazdas. No: Councilmember Reid. Discussion followed. Ordinance recorded on page 387 of City of Portage Ordinance Book No. 12.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

SALE OF CITY PROPERTY - WESTERLY PORTION OF 5800 AND 5710 LOVERS LANE: Mayor Strazdas deferred to Councilmember Reid, who noted that with the bike path already in place, she wanted to know how close the path is to the property line of the westerly portion of city-owned property addressed as 5800 and 5710 Lovers Lane, and how is that going to work since not everyone always stays on the bike path. Also, she asked what kind of buffer was there between the industrial property and the bike path. At the request of Mayor Strazdas, Mr. Shaffer emphasized that the bike path was not on the land that is the subject of the Resolution to Sell. He pointed out that the original bike path was on the American Village Builders (AVB) land and is now located adjacent to the land that is the subject of the Resolution to Sell. He explained that AVB granted the easement to the City to construct the path which becomes extinguished upon relocation of the path off of AVB land. He discussed the buffer zone in general as being approximately 50 feet and asked for a drawing of the path from Community Development Director Vicki Georgeau and an explanation. Using the drawing, Transportation & Utilities Director Chris Barnes provided a detailed history of the bike path, the widening of Lovers Lane and the plans for properties surrounding the trail at this juncture. He assured Councilmember Reid that the trail was built further east than what is depicted on the diagram resulting in a buffer that is 35 to 40 feet at its lowest point and explained.

Motion by Reid, seconded by Ford, to adopt Resolution No. 1 to Sell the westerly portion of city-owned property addressed as 5800 and 5710 Lovers Lane, place the Resolution on file with the Office of the City Clerk for 28 days, and take final action on December 6, 2016. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 215 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 46.

***** **RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION SIDEWALK AND STREET TREE EXTENSIONS:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Ansari, to grant two-year extensions through November 1, 2018 for the completion of sidewalk and street tree installation for Austin Shores Condominium Subdivision, Holiday Village East No. 3, and Oakland Farms North. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 1. Ayes: Councilmembers Urban, Ford, Pearson, Randall and Reid and Mayor Strazdas. No: Councilmember Mayor Pro Tem Ansari. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

UTILITY MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION SERVICES – CONTRACT RENEWAL: Mayor Strazdas deferred to Mayor Pro Tem Ansari as the Councilmember who asked that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Ansari asserted up front that he is not questioning the performance of Suez Environmental Services, Incorporated (Suez), and recognized that they have done an excellent job for Portage. He stated that he is having a hard time approving the contract without going through the bidding process, especially with this proposal where the City would hand over the responsibility for chemicals, sludge disposal, water meters, streets, sewage disposal, maintenance issues, etc., plus with an increased cost of over 11% to the City. He also stated that it is prudent management that a public organization periodically bid contracts to ensure that the citizens are getting the best possible contract at a competitive price, and made the point that the City is going to spend over $11 million within five years with no bid process.

Mayor Strazdas recognized that this is the largest contract ever for the City, deferred to City Manager Shaffer for a careful response to the concerns of Mayor Pro Tem Ansari, and stressed the need for due diligence and a presentation/discussion of the matter. Mr. Shaffer recognized the importance of the concerns of Mayor Pro Tem Ansari and the value of bidding in the classic sense. He indicated that after looking at the prospect of bidding in this instance, the conclusion was that an extension of the contract for the next five years and a continuation of the relationship with Suez for 19 years goes beyond the provision of economy and speaks more to the need to ensure the safety and the quality of the water provided to the citizens of our community. He cited the revelations from the experience in Flint, Michigan, when cost becomes a principle concern for municipalities versus when it comes to providing quality water and where a tragedy could result. He cited the high quality of water and service received from Suez for nearly 20 years and listed some of the many services Suez provides. Because the Administration originally considered requesting proposals, Mr. Shaffer said that the City did seek statements of interest from entities that might be interested and offered the "long list" of the respondents. He emphasized the Administration had the concern of jeopardizing the continuity, the institutional memory and the quality of the service the citizens of Portage have enjoyed from Suez. He recognized the negotiation efforts of Deputy City Manager Rob Boulis and Mr. Barnes with regard to this contract to make sure the cost issues are taken care of and indicated that the increase in the contract amount is 1.2% per year or a 6.7% over a five year period.

Mr. Shaffer then announced that Chris Barnes would be retiring next year, which is further concern to have an established organization that can lead these most important operations. With that, he indicated that there was a unanimous decision by the Administration to waive the purchasing requirements and extend the contract with Suez for another five-year period beginning March 1, 2017, and the dollar amount would be $2,013,305 to be increased by the lesser of 2% each year or the Consumers Price Index (CPI). He also indicated that Mayor Pro Tem Ansari is correct that the City has now taken over a number of activities previously incorporated in this contract: the chemical acquisition, the water meters and the sludge removal from the water treatment plant. He introduced Mr. Barnes and Utilities Engineer Kendra Gwin for further discussion.

Mr. Barnes provided a snapshot of the history of the contract and its origins with only two companies that presented bids in 1996. He said he looked at the two companies that were interested the last time the City put the contract out for bid; however, he discovered that the other company had been sold and is no longer in the business. He noted that the City did contact a number of other firms who sent statements of interest back, but those companies were small and did not have operations in the Midwest; so, it became a decision of who was responsive and who would be a responsible bidder for this program and whether they would have the qualifications to assume this position. He said the consensus was that it was a very short list and explained. He explained why the cost is reasonable, the requirements and expertise necessary for the full operation of the water treatment plant, the special relationship between Suez and the City, the Consumers Confidence Report, and the need for a Certified Water Operator owing to this being a public health situation. Discussion followed and he indicated that to change the contract operator would not be in the best interests of the City. Discussion followed.

Mr. Shaffer provided introductions of the committed representatives from Suez who were present: Abby Monroe, Administration; David Carter, Regional Manager; Bob Miller, Project Manager and the Certified Water Operator; Operator Specialist Dan Corradini; and Operator Specialist Tom Devisser.

Mayor Strazdas reiterated his preference for the bidding process, that bidding tests value, and that professional services contracts are unique since we are not buying a commodity. He reflected on the initial contract 20 years ago where the City outsourced this operation and realized an estimated $20 million in savings over 20 years. He explained that he is satisfied with the value over the years, the professional service element, Suez Environmental and the water quality. He did not support a change of a company at this time owing to the current sensitivity towards the quality of water and the questions that could be raised owing to the Flint debacle of: why did you change; was it the cost: and is my water still of high quality. He summed up and expressed his support for the five-year extension.

Councilmember Ford thanked the Suez employees who attended the meeting. He asked Chris or Kendra to speak to the operational costs and whether the $2 million is high or low. Discussion followed. Mr. Barnes indicated that when the City went into this in 1996, the City was on the forefront of privatization, but over the years some things worked out and some did not. He used the example of originally, the operator (Suez) would buy the meters and install them, but the City would then own them, and Suez would lose money on the deal. To further show how the contract has changed over the years, he gave the example that there are many meters on the market, so a business with a five-year contract would decide to procure a meter that only lasted five years instead of twenty years. On the contrary, he said that the City would want the best meter that was going to be the most accurate with the longest life so as not to have to replace it right away, so it makes sense for the City to buy those meters up front. He stated the street sweeping operation is another example where some cities perform that operation with the streets department, but Portage has Suez perform this service. Discussion followed and he concluded that the way the other companies save money is by paying their employees less which means they have fewer certifications. He then asked Utilities Engineer Kendra Gwin to address the Council.

Ms. Gwin indicated certifications are necessary for Suez employees; that they are encouraged to obtain certifications; and that the employees get paid more once they receive their certifications which also acts as an incentive for them. She emphasized that Suez employees are well-rounded and are active in the community of Portage as a coach, as a volunteer firefighter, as a Vision 2025 volunteer, for example, and they all want the best for our community. She spoke of the exceptional customer service, both external and internal, received from Suez, which is negotiated on a daily basis with great success. In compliance with the goal of the Finance Department, she cited the example of the approximate 1,000 Portage homes north of I-94 where meters are now read by Suez every quarter instead of once per year as was the case with the City of Kalamazoo. Discussion followed. In answer to Councilmember Ford, Ms. Gwin explained that the savings using Suez has tracked at $1 million per year for twenty years and is still tracking at $1 million per year.

Councilmember Reid expressed her appreciation to Mayor Pro Tem Ansari for asking that this item be removed from the Consent Agenda in order to have the chance to question it. She emphasized her respect for the Transportation & Utilities staff and their interpretation of how Suez has worked with the City. She noted that since the contract numbers have already been published, there is no real chance for a fair bidding process in this case owing to this disclosure. She suggested that in the future, City Council should determine whether or not the bid process should proceed with or without this information in order to ensure fairness.

Mayor Pro Tem Ansari asked for assurances from Transportation & Utilities staff that there will be no increase in the water rates in January 2017, or when will the savings of $1 million per year be passed on to the citizen taxpayers. At the request of Mayor Strazdas, City Manager Shaffer revealed that there are unknowns in this area at this time, that he works closely with staff and expressed his opinion that any rate increase would be modest. Moreover, he mentioned that there are a lot of large projects forthcoming in this area, including: a $6 million water tower; there is pressure from the Department of Environmental Quality to put a one day supply of water "in the air" which is currently not the case and will cost the City; and the Garden Lane water treatment plant is presently operating at about 50% capacity and will soon be operating at 100% capacity, or 4 million gallons per day, which will also cost extra. Discussion followed. Mr. Barnes concurred that the reserves in the fund are back and listed other expenses associated with providing water quality in Portage that are not a part of the Suez contract such as electricity costs and the almost $3.5 million provided to the City of Kalamazoo for sewer treatment. Mayor Pro Tem Ansari suggested that Portage renegotiate the sewer treatment contract with the City of Kalamazoo. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Urban expressed his concern that because there is a contract proposal currently before the Council, it makes it very difficult to have a fair bidding process. If Council did bid this contract out and change operators, he expressed a concern not because of the dollars and cents, but for the complex relationship necessary for the operation. He expressed surprise that the City does not employ a Certified Water Operator and questioned how the City can oversee the contract owing to the reliance on the contractor for such a key position. He also asked Mr. Barnes to explain why the City does not employ a Certified Water Operator. Mr. Barnes explained that certifications of varying degrees are necessary in both water and sewer, and that a City employee oversees the 125-150 service indicators. He listed some of the service indicators, noted the monthly operating report signed by the Certified Water Operator, and explained how the report is verified by our professional staff. He stated that he and Kendra do not have Certified Water Operator licenses because there is a requirement that Certified Water Operators work for the utility and perform the activities as a Certified Water Operator. However, he did indicate that the City has a dedicated very professional, very thorough water engineer from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) who oversees the system and visits the operation frequently. He also mentioned that another person from the DEQ has oversight responsibilities of just the sampling procedures, and he admitted that the operation would be better if the City employed a Certified Water Operator, albeit at a very high expense. Discussion followed.

Motion by Randall, seconded by Reid, to approve a five-year contract renewal with Suez Environmental Services, Incorporated, for the provision of utility management and operation services for the period of March 1, 2017, through February 28, 2022, and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to the action on behalf of the city. Councilmember Ford thanked Kendra for her information that the contract is still tracking $1 million in savings each year, and that it is locked at an increase by the lesser of 2% each year or the Consumers Price Index (CPI). Discussion followed. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 1. Ayes: Councilmembers Urban, Ford, Pearson, Randall and Reid, and Mayor Strazdas. No: Mayor Pro Tem Ansari. Discussion followed.

* **CLIFFWOOD AVENUE AND ARCHWOOD DRIVE WATER MAIN PROJECT #316-W:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Ansari, to adopt Resolution No. 1, accept the City Manager Report and request preparation of Resolution No. 2 for Cliffwood Avenue and Archwood Drive Water Main Project #316-W. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 219 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 46.

* **CLIFFWOOD AVENUE AND ARCHWOOD DRIVE SANITARY SEWER PROJECT #418-S:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Ansari, to adopt Resolution No. 1, accept the City Manager Report and request preparation of Resolution No. 2 for Cliffwood Avenue and Archwood Drive Sanitary Sewer Project #418-S. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 221 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 46.

* **ANGLING ROAD SANITARY SEWER PROJECT #417-S:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Ansari, to adopt Resolution No. 1, accept the City Manager Report and request preparation of Resolution No. 2 for Angling Road Sanitary Sewer Project #417-S. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 223 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 46.

* **CHOPIN AVENUE AND MOZART STREET WATER MAIN PROJECT #317-W:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Ansari, to adopt Resolution No. 1, accept the City Manager Report and request preparation of Resolution No. 2 for Chopin Avenue and Mozart Street Water Main Project #317-W. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolution recorded on page 225 of City of Portage Resolution Book No. 46.

* **WEST LAKE NATURE PRESERVE AND CENTRAL PARK PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Ansari, to award a contract to Sinclair Recreation, of Holland, Michigan, in the amount of $80,000 for playground improvements at West Lake Nature

Preserve and Central Park and authorize the City Manager to execute all documents related to this action on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

COMMUNICATIONS:

CLOSED SESSION: After a discussion regarding the need to go into closed session, motion by Reid, seconded by Ansari, to hold a closed session immediately following the regularly scheduled City Council Meeting of Tuesday, November 1, 2016, to discuss a personnel matter. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0 at 9:26 p.m.

Mayor Strazdas reconvened the meeting at 9:49 p.m. He explained that the purpose for the Closed Session was to discuss a personnel matter, the annual appraisal of the performance of the City Manager. He indicated that there was a recommendation from the City Manager Salary Review/Evaluation Committee that consisted of Councilmember Randal, Councilmember Pearson and himself, and asked that Councilmember Pearson, as Chair of the Committee, provide the Committee recommendation to the full Council and for public information.

Councilmember Pearson indicated that the individual scoring and the summary rated the City Manager as *far exceeds expectations* and *exceeds expectations*, and based on that, the Committee had four recommendations: First, it is recommended that the City Manager receive a 2% increase in base salary effective November 19, 2016, which is in line with the increase received by most of the City employees for 2016-2017; he said that this brings his salary from $132,867 to $135,525. Secondly, in recognition of his past and present performance, it is recommended that he receive a one-time meritorious bonus of $5,000. Thirdly, it is recommended that the City contribution to the assigned pension plan be increased from 10% to 16.5%, exactly as with the previous City Manager, plus a retroactive contribution of $17,069 to make up the difference in Mr. Shaffer's November 14 start date. Lastly, because of his high scores, that he be offered a two-year contract extension based on the Council rating. Motion by Pearson, seconded by Randall, to award the four recommendations as read by Councilmember Pearson.

Councilmember Urban spoke in opposition to the motion and pointed out that the City had a contract with Mr. Shaffer, and it is inappropriate to renegotiate that deal two years later, plus ask for a retroactive contribution, especially since Mr. Shaffer has announced his retirement at least once.

Councilmember Pearson responded that all employees (City Department Heads) received 16.5% which was changed to 10% for newly appointed employees (City Department Heads) in July 2012. He noted that the City Manager is the only employee of the City Council; that City Managers throughout the country do not always have a long tenure because they serve at the pleasure of the majority of Council; and, the Committee members did not realize the contribution had been changed from 16.5% to 10%. He affirmed that Mr. Shaffer has done an excellent job and said he requested the same benefits as the last City Manager. He pointed out that 16.5% is far, far less than a school superintendent, and the Committee was unanimous on the retroactive contribution based upon his performance.

Councilmember Reid interjected that when former City Manager Maurice Evans started with the City, his contribution was 10%, and it was not raised to 16.5% until his last year or two with Portage. Based on that, she indicated she has no problem increasing the contribution percentage, but does not agree with the retroactive contribution as that was what was negotiated and it is what was consistent with Mr. Evans.

Councilmember Randall spoke in favor of the retroactive contribution since it is fair and just and mentioned that she was not aware of the lowering of the percentage by 6.5%. She indicated that the ability to attract quality people really depends on setting people up with a strong benefits package as well. Also, she said when Mr. Shaffer was hired two years ago, she felt Mayor Strazdas put a lot of pressure on Council to really unify and support this decision, even though she was not sure he felt that way or not. Nevertheless, she did not feel good about the many concessions that were made in lowering Mr. Shaffer's contract from what was in the former City Manager's contract because she felt he brought just as much experience as Mr. Evans. She said she went along with it in the heart and spirit that the contract would be approved by everyone, and it was not. She remembered walking away and thinking she made concessions that if she had known it was not going to be a unanimous vote, she would not have "budged" on those concessions. She indicated that as a result, if Council is now making the contract fairer now than it was two years ago, then it should have been a better contract two years ago.

Councilmember Urban indicated he wishes he got to think he could go back and redo his vote from two years ago, but he does not enjoy that fantasy.

Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 5 to 2. Ayes: Councilmembers Ford, Pearson and Randall, Mayor Pro Tem Ansari and Mayor Strazdas. No: Councilmembers Urban and Reid. Discussion followed.

* **MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETINGS:** City Council received the minutes of Portage Public Schools Regular and Special of September 26, 2016, and Portage Public Schools Committee of the Whole of October 10, 2016.

OTHER CITY MATTERS:

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL: Councilmember Ford wished the best of luck to the City Clerk at next Tuesday's election and encouraged all citizens to exercise their right to vote.

Councilmember Pearson referred to exercise in the physical sense and mentioned that he and his wife walked the newly paved Eliason Trail located on Osterhout just west of Schrier Park. He said it was a beautiful walk, the trees were turning colors, and there were no mosquitoes as was the case with the ribbon-cutting ceremonies. He indicated that there were plenty of families walking, riding bikes and enjoying this new trail, and thanked City staff for the parks and this new treasure in Portage.

Councilmember Urban mentioned that he and his two daughters attended a Halloween Celebration, Monster Mash, at Schrier Park put on by the Park Department and sponsored by Jack's Pizza. He said it was reminiscent of Apple Fest with a Halloween theme with trick or treating and hayrides. He commented that the event was really nice and that there were a huge number of people in attendance and many parked cars. He said they also went to a trunk or treat event at his church that night which was also well-attended. He referred to the American Diabetes Proclamation read by Dick Hewitt earlier as it reminded him of his Father, who had four of the symptoms mentioned. He advised all potential victims of the disease to take the recommendations to heart to ensure a better life.

Councilmember Reid encouraged citizens to research and get information on candidates down the ballot and mentioned *www.minigan.gov\vote* to print off the ballot, and she advocated going to the League of Women Voters as a good research option.

City Manager Shaffer thanked Mayor and Council for all of their kind words and generosity as part of the City Manager Evaluation process. He acknowledged the great team who works with him and helps him. He said if he has any achievements whatsoever, it is because of their hard work and their contributions.

Mayor Pro Tem Ansari mentioned he picked up his medication from the pharmacy only to find out that he had someone else's prescription. He advised everyone to check their prescriptions closely before taking the medicine.

Mayor Strazdas commented that he was in South Africa for a couple of weeks, presented at a conference, and visited a few Universities. He mentioned that it is a beautiful country; however, all of the campuses in the country have been closed for several weeks because there is a lot of violence and the campuses have all been surrounded by barbed wire and walls. He compared his experiences there with Portage, Michigan, and the United States, and said it is very gratifying to get back.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 10:08 p.m.

James R. Hudson, City Clerk

***Indicates items included on the Consent Agenda.**