CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY 28, 2017

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

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, Pastor David Moffett-Moore of the Portage United Church of Christ gave an invocation and the City Council and two Boy Scouts from Troop 284 led the City Council and the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

PROCLAMATION: Mayor Strazdas issued a Proclamation Celebrating 50 Years of Portage Rotary Club received by Jim Martin, 4340 Bronson Blvd, Kalamazoo.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion by Reid, seconded by Randall, to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 14, 2017, as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ansari, to approve the Pre-Council Meeting Minutes of February 27, 2017, as presented. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 5 to 0 with Councilmembers Ford and Urban abstaining.

* **CONSENT AGENDA:** Mayor Strazdas asked Councilmember Ford to read the Consent Agenda. Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to approve the Consent Agenda Motions as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE REGISTER OF FEBRUARY 28, 2017:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of February 28, 2017, as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

INDUSTRIAL TAX ABATEMENT APPLICATION: STRYKER INSTUMENTS (6520 PORTAGE ROAD): Mayor Strazdas reviewed the request, explained the public hearing process, and asked City Manager Shaffer for his input regarding the Facilities Exemption Certificate for real and personal property investments in the estimated amount of $154.6 million with the creation of Industrial Development District No. 92. Mr. Shaffer noted that the two actions before Council are to create the District and to set a public hearing on the Tax Exemption Certificate. He outlined the project that includes a 485,000 facility located off Portage Road, and the development of approximately 75 out of the 288 acres available. He noted that this will result in the creation of 90 plus jobs and the preservation of well over 950 jobs. He expressed his excitement over the project, introduced Community Development Director Vicki Georgeau to fill in some of the details and asked Council to consider the two Resolutions before them with favor.

Ms. Georgeau showed a couple of maps of the project, outlined the purposes of the two Resolutions, described the process with the approval to be in effect in 2019 as requested by the applicant, and explained the location and concept of the project. She referred to the report in the Council Agenda Packet and summarized the details of the request, including the investment of $225 million, the Environmental Impact Analysis, eligibility of Brownfield status, the long term financial impact analysis, and the tax impact on local taxing units if there was no tax abatement award. She indicated that whenever the percentage of the Industrial Facilities Tax roll exceeds five percent of the total tax base, the City council must find that approving the tax abatement will not have the effect of substantially impeding the operation of the local governmental unit or impair the financial soundness of the taxing unit; with this Industrial Tax Abatement (IFT) approved in 2017, the percentage of the total city tax base, or State Equalized Valuation (SEV), would equal 7.08%; however, the tax abatement would not go into effect until 2019. Since Portage is expecting a 5% increase in property tax revenue which will be finalized after the March 2017 Board of Review, she said the IFT roll as a percent of the total tax base is estimated at 6.02%. She also anticipated continued growth in 2018 which would bring their SEV down to 6%; and, in 2019 there are four other IFT's that will go on to the Ad Valorem tax roll, so the anticipated percent of the total tax base which will further reduce the IFT roll as a percent of total tax base and could be much closer to the 5 %. Discussion followed. City Manager Shaffer explained that 5% of the over $2 billion dollar tax base, the largest in the County, is not as significant as it would be for some of the smaller jurisdictions in the County with a very low tax base of one fifth or one fourth the size of the City of Portage.

In answer to Councilmember Pearson, Ms. Georgeau indicated that construction would start in Spring 2017, so the reason the applicant is asking for 2019 is that there is a significant amount of site clearing and preparation initially, so the value added would not be that much by the end of the tax year. She also said that in 2018 the applicant expects that the building will be more substantially complete, so by 2019 a substantial value of the facility will be realized since it is projected to be ready for operation by Summer 2019.

Mayor Strazdas opened the public hearing for input from the audience. There being none, he asked the representative of the applicant to come forward and share any comments. Vice President of Quality and Facilities for Stryker Instruments, Brent Lalomia, 7551 Dunros Drive, expressed his appreciation to City Council and staff for their partnership on a great journey through the process. He recognized the efforts of Jill Bland from Southwest Michigan First, who is traveling and could not be here, Pete Mitchell from Rockford Construction, Dean Uminski with Crow Financial, and Project Manager Jill VanDyken from Stryker Corporation. He mentioned that his meeting with the State earlier in the day went very well and expressed his excitement over the project, future growth and mentioned that the facility would house 300 employees. He thanked Mr. Shaffer for fostering a great relationship between Stryker Corporation and the City of Portage and discussion followed.

With the understanding that this facility could have been built anywhere in the world, Mayor Strazdas asked Mr. Lalomia, "Why Portage?" Mr. Lalomia responded Stryker sells in over 100 countries worldwide and when Stryker looked at Portage, along with the State, it proved to be very attractive owing to the rich tradition. He mentioned that Stryker has a lot of employees and their families here and wants to continue that. He also said because Mr. Shaffer and his team were so easy to work with, there is the desire to continue that relationship; and Stryker feels very fortunate to be a part of the great things happening in the community at the present time and explained. Discussion followed

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Reid, to close the public hearing. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Discussion followed.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Randall, to adopt Resolution No. 2-17 creating Industrial Development District No. 92 for 6520 Portage Road, and adopt Resolution No. 3-17 setting a public hearing on March 14, 2017, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as may be heard, for an Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate for real and personal property investments in the estimated amount of $154.6 million within IDD No. 92. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Resolutions recorded on pages 329 and 335 of City of Portage Book No. 46.

ANGLING ROAD SANITARY SEWER PROJECT #417-S: Mayor Strazdas introduced the item and deferred to City Manager Shaffer, who mentioned that City Council has had the opportunity to review this matter on four other occasions and, with the permission of Mayor Strazdas, invited Director of Transportation and Utilities Chris Barnes to provide Council with an update.

Mr. Barnes explained that Resolution No. 5, the approval of the Special Assessment Roll for the Angling Road Sanitary Sewer Project #417-S, is before City Council for consideration and confirmation at this public hearing. He then provided a detailed overview of the process thus far. He cited January 10, 2017, as the date City Council adopted Resolution No. 3, which found that the sanitary sewer was a necessity for the 48 properties in the District, and he outlined the location of the sewer along Angling Road in West Portage. He stated that there is no mandatory hook-up until and unless the Kalamazoo County Health Department mandates it. He explained the two charges: the sanitary sewer main line in the street at $43.77 per front footage on the property with an 80 foot cap, and the 6" hook-up service lateral charge at $1,536.67 which provides the individual home connections from the street to the property line. He mentioned that the numbers in the Resolution provided to Council are the preliminary numbers, and referred Council to the breakdown he provided for them on the dais. He indicated that there is no change in the project cost, but he cited a change in the breakdown: Special Assessments total $241,618, or 18.3%; the City Waste Water Utility will be charged $779,382, or 59%; Municipal Street Fund will be charged $165,000, or 12.5%; and the Federal Transportation Fund administered through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will fund $134,000, or 10.2% of the total project cost. He noted that the total project cost is estimated at $1,320,000. Discussion followed and he indicated that the project would be scheduled for bidding in Spring 2017 with the project start date in late Spring 2017 and will continue through the Summer 2017. Discussion followed.

In answer to Mayor Strazdas, City Assessor Ed VanderVries indicated that the property values would go up slightly as a result of the project after looking at the historical sales of properties; so, the impact will not be discernible until there is a series of sales that show the property values have increased. He noted that relying on past history where this has happened, he finds that typically the values do go up, and he responded to Councilmember Pearson that the benefit to the property owner is supposed to be equal to the assessment. City Attorney Brown interjected that it does not have to be exact, just close. Discussion followed.

In answer to Councilmember Randall, Mr. VanderVries indicated that the tax burden for the current owner of the property would stay under the cap formula, even though the assessed values went up owing to the other properties on the road increased. Discussion followed and Mr. VanderVries indicated that it would go up only if there was room within the cap value.

In answer to Councilmember Ansari, Mr. Barnes explained that Extension Districts is a term used in Portage where plats with wells were joined by adjoining water districts back in the 1960's; moreover, because the water main passed by properties that did not have service, they were not assessed and became known as extension districts because the water was extended past them. Mr. Barnes prefers to call them deferred districts because once the property receives a benefit, the property must pay the deferred assessment at the time of connection and explained the payment requirements. Mayor Pro Tem Ansari attempted to make the case for an Extension District to be formed for the Angling Road Project. Mr. Barnes explained the downside of an Extension District. Mayor Pro Tem Ansari responded in favor of an amendment to the motion to establish an Extension District for the Angling Road properties.

Councilmember Reid emphasized that even though the assessment of the properties probably would not go up, there are additional costs to the property owner such as the line to the 6" lateral from the building and the monthly bill for the service thereafter. Mr. Barnes acknowledged plumbing fees, a plumbing permit and the sewer use fees. Discussion followed regarding how to create an Extension District once this Special Assessment District is finalized.

Mayor Strazdas opened the public hearing for input from the audience and explained the parameters for presentation by the public.

Gary Taylor, 7642 Angling Road, asked all of the Angling Road residents to stand and be recognized, expressed appreciation to Mayor Pro Tem Ansari for his efforts on their behalf, and thanked Mr. Barnes for providing a trailer kiosk on Angling Road to let motorists know how fast they are traveling. He spoke in favor of a Deferred District and Mayor Strazdas stressed that the discussion at this time should focus on the accuracy of the Special Assessment Roll as presented.

Joshua Jordon, 7139 Angling Road, introduced his son, Josh, asked what extra steps are required with the septic system after the hook-up to contain the nitrates, etc. He also asked if the Deferred Assessment and the prevailing rate is the same thing (18%) and will the deferred rate be higher or lower, and Councilmember Randall indicated that it will be higher. In the definition of the reconstruction of the road, the City included lamp posts and sidewalks, so he asked if the City is going to install these or just widen the road for a bike trail. He also questioned if he will have to pay $250 a month on top of the Special Assessment amount. Discussion followed.

Mr. Shaffer responded that there are a number of reconstruction costs in the project that are in addition to the sewer line which is only 18.3% of the project; the City Waste Water Utility will be charged $779,382, or 59%; Municipal Street Fund will be charged $165,000, or 12.5%; and the Federal Transportation Grant administered through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) will fund $134,000, or 10.2% of the total project cost.

Mr. Barnes restated that usually the percent breakdown is 1/3 each for the property owners on both sides of the street and the City at large; however, the amount in this Special Assessment for the property owner is only 18.3% for various reasons. He said historically the construction cost rate has gone up by 4 to 4 ½% per year based upon the national construction index for increased costs, so owing to compound interest, the rate would double over about 12 to 18 years or so. He reiterated that there is no mandatory hook-up if the septic system is working properly, unless the Kalamazoo County Health Department mandates it. Regarding the septic tank, Mr. Barnes indicated that the standard practice is "crush and fill" which usually happens when the plumber connects to the house, he or she takes the top off of the septic tank, fills it with pea gravel, crushes it and removes the top which eliminates the release of nitrates in the yard. He outlined the road reconstruction as consisting of the reconstruction of the pavement, a uniform shoulder, a bike lane, a storm sewer for drainage improvement, a curb section in some areas, and the restoration of driveways and yards. He said there is no sidewalk proposed for this project and there was no consensus with regard to streetlights; some people wanted additional streetlights and some did not; and, there is no sidewalk or trail system anticipated. Discussion followed.

In answer to Mayor Pro Tem Ansari, City Attorney Randy Brown indicated that there can be no amendment to the Special Assessment Resolution to include an Extension District or a Deferred Assessment as it cannot be appropriate in the context of the adoption of Resolution No. 5, the subject of this public hearing, and the approval of the Special Assessment Roll. He said if Council desires to look into this Extension District idea, he recommended tabling Resolution No. 5 to allow him to work with staff to determine what an extension is and how it can be used, if at all, and come back with the information while the Resolution remains pending. Mayor Pro Tem Ansari advocated a Deferred Assessment, and Mr. Brown restated that he simply cannot see how such a motion could be a part of a Resolution No. 5. Mayor Strazdas emphasized that the accuracy and amount of the Special Assessment Roll does not change and deferring payment until it is twice as much, for example, is a separate topic and has no bearing on the accuracy of the Roll which is before Council at this time. Mr. Brown concurred with Mayor Strazdas that it is totally separate and explained it might be added "down the road." Discussion followed.

Councilmember Ford offered an opinion that Paragraph 3 of Resolution No.5 could be re-written to accommodate Mayor Pro Tem Ansari and his request. He asked Mr. Barnes that if the deferred assessment were to work, would it all still be in equal installments for the residents.
Mr. Barnes said the first payment on an Extension District "just happens." He defined an Extension District, replied that there is no process to establish an Extension District, so there are no specific properties, no specific cost and it does not carry the finality of a Special Assessment District. He explained that it is just deferred, hence some of the ambiguity because it is not established by City Council, so they become very difficult to track and maintain. Mr. Brown stressed that an Extension District is a misnomer because it is not a "district" at all since it is just an idea of putting in utilities and deferring payment on a case by case basis; secondly, he answered Councilmember Ford by saying that the payment schedule in Paragraph 3 of Resolution No.5 is mandated by ordinance, so it cannot be changed. Discussion followed.

Mayor Strazdas pointed out that no one spoke out against the accuracy of the Special Assessment Roll which is the focus of the public hearing; the side bar issue that surfaced was to delay payment which is a totally different topic; that Paragraph 3 of Resolution No.5 is in the Code of Ordinances, and explained Council does not change Ordinances "on the fly" in one evening because there is a process that Council has to follow; further, he indicated that he is interested in having the discussion, but it is not appropriate here "on the fly" in one evening.

Motion by Urban, seconded by Reid, to close the public hearing.

Joshua Jordon spoke in opposition to the Special Assessment Roll and the assessment fee.

Gary Taylor, 7642 Angling Road, pointed out that the residents who signed against this item, signed against the Special Assessment Roll of 18.3% that equals approximately $5,032 per homeowner which does not include hooking up to the home which is approximately another $4-5,000. He cited a letter about this meeting tonight from Mr. Shaffer that did not go to every resident.

Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Discussion followed.

Councilmember Urban reviewed the process as conducted by City Council thus far. Because there were no objections to the accuracy of the Special Assessment Roll, motion by Urban, seconded by Ford, to adopt Resolution No. 5 for the Angling Road Sanitary Sewer Project #417-S, confirming the Special Assessment Roll, including the corrected final project funding numbers as supplied by City Engineer Chris Barnes on the dais this evening.

Councilmember Pearson expressed his appreciation to the residents for coming and being diligent to address all five resolutions, and that he had not thought about deferred assessments. He thanked Mayor Pro Tem Ansari for speaking to the residents and expressed a need to discuss this matter further. In response to Councilmember Pearson, Mr. Barnes pointed out that if the matter was tabled or delayed, there would be a loss of Federal funding because, with a question on the project, he would feel obligated to pull the project from the MDOT bid process, and the project would not be built this year. Secondly, he indicated that Council would not go back to Resolution No. 1 because there would simply be deferred assessment, so Portage would lose the bidding schedule with MDOT and the $134,000 would go somewhere else. Discussion followed.

In answer to Councilmember Reid, he indicated that the Waste Water Utility would have to pay for the loss of the $134,000. He confirmed for her that the Paser Rating on Angling Road is a 3 which is poor, and he would recommend a patch if the contract did not go through, but it is hard to predict how bad it will get, but he knows that roads tend to depreciate fast and they tend to go ½ of a point per year. Discussion followed.

Mayor Strazdas called for the question. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0. Discussion followed. Resolution recorded on page 337 of City of Portage Book No. 46.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION:

* **COMPREHENSIVE LIABILITY, PROPERTY AND AUTO FLEET INSURANCE:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to approve a one-year agreement for comprehensive liability, property and auto fleet insurance through the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) at a total cost not to exceed $495,476 for the period of March 1, 2017, to March 1, 2018, 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.

* **KALAMAZOO COUNTY CONSOLIDATED DISPATCH AUTHORITY SURCHARGE REVENUES:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to authorize the City Manager to enter into the *First Amendment to Agreement for the Distribution of County 911 Surcharge Revenues*. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

KALAMAZOO COUNTY IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM: Mayor Strazdas introduced the item, invited the spokesperson for the group to come forward and explained the process.

Launda Wheatley, 5671 North Westnedge Avenue, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Kalamazoo County ID Task Force efforts to assist individuals in the County who do not have a form of identification. She reviewed cost, ID card design, the reality of not having an ID, security features, administration of the service, the variety of reasons for not having an ID, other communities that have successfully implemented such a program, local support agencies such as Public Safety and a sample Resolution of Support. Discussion followed.

The following individuals spoke in support of the ID Program: Dr. Francisco Vegas, 1504 Sherry Drive, Kalamazoo; Father Ken Schmidt, St. Catherine of Siena Church, 1150 Centre Avenue; Pastor Barry Petrucci, Chapel Hill United Methodist Church, 7028 Oakland Drive; and Sally Fuentes, 5440 Parkview Avenue, Kalamazoo.

Mayor Strazdas asked City Manager Shaffer if he had any comment at this time, and he pointed out that this matter is before City Council in part because of City staff participation on the Kalamazoo County ID Task Force; Chief Richard White had assigned Deputy Chief Dan Mills to participate and both crafted a draft letter which is contained in the Council Agenda Packet. He pointed out that traditionally City Council has not weighed in on topics that are outside its own direct authority, but Council can indeed do that, so he included the Resolution of Support from the City of Kalamazoo for consideration, also. He cited a couple of issues: does Council wish to break with its tradition of having a position of not supporting any activity that falls outside its direct authority; and what are the merits of this issue and what is your disposition towards supporting the merits of this issue.

Mayor Strazdas said that this is an excellent program; that City Council has a long standing past practice of not creating Resolutions asking other unit of governments to hire staff or how to spend money; nor has Council had other units of government come and say hire staff, or spend your money this way. He said it would be good for the citizens of Portage and Council to advocate as you individually think; Council will not vote; and there are County Commissioners who represent Portage. He advocated all 47,000 residents of Portage tell the two Commissioner how you would like them to vote; and even have the County Commission have a town hall meeting in Portage to discuss this matter and explained.

Mayor Pro Tem Ansari concurred that as individuals, we all have the choice to support it. He shared his experience with Michigan Works and the need for ID Cards with that effort. He said he would approach the County Commissioners with his support, and mentioned the local United Way effort (to get fee waivers from Kalamazoo County to enable access to vital records by those who cannot afford it for State ID's, and successful efforts in Calhoun County).

Councilmember Randall challenged City Council to do more than give their personal support and opinion. She pointed out that Council is not dictating how to spend tax dollars, only saying that we believe that this is the humanitarian issue that we find affects citizens within our city. She indicated that law enforcement and Fire support the effort, and asked that Council be unified in the message to the County Commission. She commended the Chief of Police for writing the letter, and noted it is now a part of the public record. She listed school ID's to protect students, work ID's, City employee ID's when they go out to people's homes, and explained.

Councilmember Reid thanked those who came out and presented. She cited prisoners without ID's who cannot get an ID from the State. She advocated the State ID, that Chief White send the letter, and that Department Heads to do the same. She encouraged citizens to speak with their County Commissioners and State Representatives on this matter and indicated Council may be limited owing to the legal aspects of the matter.

City Attorney Randy Brown interjected that his opinion on this issue deals with ballot questions and elections and, even though Council has never adopted a Resolution regarding a ballot question and election, Council could do so legally as long as public resources are not used. He noted that when it comes to other matters, such as matters pending before other agencies, those are not included in that prohibition; so, Council can discuss it individually or Council can adopt a Resolution in favor or against, unless it is so far afield of the interests of the City. Discussion followed.

Mayor Strazdas encouraged the group to pursue the State ID card because these people are still underprivileged when compared to the rest of the community when it comes to services because of not having the State ID card. Discussion followed.

Motion by Randall, seconded by Reid, to adopt a Resolution from the Portage City Council simply expressing support for the Kalamazoo County Identification Program. City Attorney Brown asked in terms of the Resolution which would have to be drafted, is it the intent to copy the wording of the Resolution that Kalamazoo City passed? Councilmember Randall answered in the affirmative. Councilmember Ford expressed his opinion earlier that it is not appropriate to tell other units of government how they should be spending their money or how they should be acting. He advocated focusing on issues of Portage citizens, some of whom are still trying to speak tonight; he said he thinks this is a County issue and the concerns should be expressed to their County Commissioner.

Councilmember Reid suggested that the Resolution not be the Resolution that Kalamazoo City passed, but one in support of this effort, so there is no directive for the Kalamazoo Commission to act one way or the other. Councilmember Randall concurred with the proposed Amendment. Mayor Strazdas concurred.

Councilmember Pearson objected to adopting a Resolution "on the fly." He noted that he is only now finding out about this, does not know anything beyond what he knew Friday, so he concurred with Councilmember Ford.

Councilmember Urban offered a suggestion for a motion that the minutes reflect that this Council is in full support of the creation of a County Identification Program and that a copy of those minutes be sent to the County Commission. He expressed his support and cited his experience with the ID requirements at the Chapel Hill United Methodist Food Pantry. He recommended the Task Force expend their efforts on getting State ID's and explained. Discussion followed.

Mr. Brown concurred with Councilmember Urban that there needs to be some specific words attached to the motion since the Resolution that Kalamazoo City passed will not be used. Discussion followed.

Motion by Randall, seconded by Reid, that the Portage City Council expresses support for the Kalamazoo County Identification Card Program. At the suggestion of Mayor Strazdas, the motion maker included the word," humanitarian" in the motion:

Motion by Randall, seconded by Reid, that the Portage City Council expresses humanitarian support for the Kalamazoo County Identification Card Program. Mayor Strazdas asked that the minutes reflect that the Portage City Council is not directing or suggesting that another unit of government hire people for a program or spend their money a certain way. Discussion followed.

Motion by Pearson, seconded by Ford, to substitute the motion with a motion to table. Upon a roll call vote, motion failed. No: Councilmembers Randall, Reid, Urban and Mayor Pro Tem Ansari. Yeas: Councilmembers Ford, Pearson and Mayor Strazdas. Discussion followed.

Mayor Strazdas called for the question and upon a roll call vote, motion carried 6 to 0 with Councilmember Pearson abstaining.

Motion by Urban, seconded by Pearson, to bring a prepared Resolution of Support for the Kalamazoo County Identification Card Program at the next City Council meeting. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **JANUARY 2017 ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY REPORT:** Motion by Reid, seconded by Randall, to receive the communication from the City Manager regarding the January 2017 Environmental Summary Report as information only. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

* **MINUTES OF BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** City Council received the minutes of the Portage Historic District Commission of December 7, 2016, and January 11, 2017.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT: Councilmember Reid indicated that Public Media Network Director Hap Haasch is leaving on June 30, 2017, and a search committee for a company to begin the process to find a replacement has been formed.

BID TABULATIONS:

* **PORTAGE SENIOR CENTER BUS TRIPS:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to approve the low bid for motor coach services from Gail Andrus Travel, LLC, for the period July 1, 2017, through December 31, 2017, in the amount of $22,659 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.

OTHER CITY MATTERS:

STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS: Christine Petersen, 2607 Chopin Avenue, expressed her dissatisfaction with the Special Assessment process as implemented for the Chopin Avenue and Mozart Street Water main Project #317W. Discussion followed.

STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCILAND CITY MANAGER: City Manager Shaffer thanked Deputy City Clerk Adam Herringa and the Youth Advisory Committee in connection with their work on the Diversity Event at the Fetzer Center, Western Michigan University and the Living the Dream Concert Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. He also thanked Mary Beth Block and Erica Eklov for their assistance with the Living the Dream Concert Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. Mayor Pro Tem Ansari concurred.

Mayor Strazdas indicated that he was pleased with the conversation on diversity at the Diversity Event as it was very civil, and he said that the Living the Dream Concert Tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr. was excellent. He couched it as a peaceful celebration and great for the County as it was nonviolent and respectful.

MATERIALS TRANSMITTED:

* **DEPARTMENTAL MONTHLY REPORTS:** Motion by Ford, seconded by Reid, to receive the Departmental Monthly Reports. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 10:35 p.m.

James R. Hudson, City Clerk

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