

## **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL STUDENT MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL FOR THE DAY OF MARCH 14, 2017**

Mayor Peter Strazdas called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in Council Chambers and provided a summary of the planned activities of the day. The following members of City Council were present: Councilmembers Richard Ford, Claudette Reid, Mayor Pro Tem Nasim Ansari and Mayor Peter Strazdas. Councilmember Terry Urban arrived at 8:10 a.m. Councilmembers Jim Pearson and Patricia M. Randall were absent with notice and excuse. Also in attendance were City Manager Laurence Shaffer and City Clerk James Hudson.

Present from Portage Northern High School were: Jessie Beadle, Scotty Fargo, Sarah Headapohl, Zachary Pierangeli and Francesca Riehl. Also present was Student Advisor Kelli Pittman.

Present from Portage Central High School were: Jenna Braford, Ella Hoffman, Devin Jaqua, Emma Kite, Minh Le, Colin Palmer and Cristina Postula.

Mayor Strazdas discussed the role of the City Council as policymakers and the various taxing entities in the County. At the request of Mayor Strazdas, City Manager Larry Shaffer reviewed the role of the City Manager. Each Councilmember and Mayor Strazdas provided a discussion of how he or she perceives his or her duties and responsibilities as members of Council and outside Board memberships. At the request of Mayor Strazdas, City Clerk Hudson discussed elections, voter registration and encouraged the students to consider helping citizens through a career in government. Discussion and a question and answer session followed.

At the request of Mayor Strazdas, City Manager Larry Shaffer reviewed the various Departments of the City and discussion followed.

RECESS: 9:30 a.m.

Mayor Strazdas, the City Councilmembers and the students went on a tour of the Portage City Hall.

RECONVENE: 9:50 a.m.

City Councilmembers and the students met in Council Chambers and Mayor Strazdas asked the students to tell everyone what they felt are the important issues for the community.

RECESS: 10:16 a.m.

City Councilmembers and the students went on a tour of the Portage Police Station and Portage Fire Station No. 1.

RECONVENE: 11:20 a.m.

After a discussion of the tour of the City of Portage Public Safety Department, Mayor Strazdas invited the student participants to eat lunch. He asked each student to campaign in

anticipation of the vote for Student Mayor and Student Councilmember for the Day and to disclose whether they could attend the City Council Meeting later at 7:30 p.m. Discussion followed.

Following the student speeches, City Clerk James Hudson and Deputy City Clerk Adam Herringa led the process for voting in the Mayor and City Councilmember for the Day Election.

The election for Student Mayor for the Day followed, and Ella Hoffman was declared the winner of the Student Mayor for the Day position. Discussion followed.

The election for Student Councilmembers for the Day followed. Discussion followed.

The following students were elected Student Councilmembers for the Day from Portage Northern High School: Scotty Fargo, Sarah Headapohl and Zachary Pierangeli as Student Councilmembers for the Day; and, from Portage Central High School: Devin Jaqua, Colin Palmer and Cristina Postula as Student Councilmembers for the Day. Discussion followed.

Mayor Strazdas thanked all of the students for participating and wished them success and asked each of them to give it their “all” each day so the community can get better and thanked City Council for participating.

**ADJOURN:** Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

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James R. Hudson, City Clerk