

## CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM APRIL 7, 2026

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, Kathleen Olmsted, 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 efforts for peace. Following the moment of silence, the City Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PROCLAMATIONS:**

**Portage Community Center 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Chris Buckley, Executive Director of the Portage Community Center, read the proclamation. Following the Mayor's invitation, Mr. Buckley provided the status of several current programs.

**Resolution of Respect for Coach Nancy Martin:** Read by Councilmember Young. Following the reading, Ms. Martin thanked the Council and community for her recognition.

### **PETITIONS AND STATEMENTS OF CITIZENS:**

- 1) Alan Loveridge (23965 88th Avenue, Marcellus) suggested alternatives to the Transportation Security Administration.
- 2) Richard Wieplowski (8836 East Shore Drive) spoke regarding the upcoming special election on May 5th, addressing the ordinance amendment proposal on the ballot. He highlighted two websites regarding the matter.
- 3) Terry Tessari (6047 Marlow) relayed concerns regarding battery energy storage sites and commended the Council for approving a moratorium.

**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 Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Young, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Young, to approve the City Council Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 24, 2026. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

**Accounts Payable Register:** Motion by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Young, to approve the Accounts Payable Register of April 7, 2026, as presented. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

**Portage Road 360 Construction Mitigation Plan:** Motion by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Young, to authorize the implementation of the Portage Road 360 Construction Mitigation Plan. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program FY2026-2030 Consolidated Plan and FY2026-2027 Annual Action Plan:** Motion by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Young, to approve the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program 2026-2030 Consolidated Plan and FY2026-2027 Annual Action Plan element of the Consolidated Plan to maintain compliance with program requirements and authorize the Mayor to submit the application to the Department of Housing and Urban Development on behalf of the city. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

**Minutes of Boards & Commissions:** Motion by Councilmember Miller, seconded by Councilmember Young, to receive the minutes of the Planning Commission of March 5, 2026. Upon a roll call vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

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

#### **REGULAR BUSINESS AGENDA:**

**Presentation of the Proposed FY2026-2027 Budget:** City Manager McGinnis commended the Finance Department for its efforts in creating a balanced budget and stated that the proposed FY 2026-2027 Budget was being posted for public inspection on the OpenGov website as he spoke. He noted that the Council would begin its detailed review of the proposed budget during a special meeting on April 21. The City Manager reiterated that the proposed budget is balanced, with projected General Fund revenue to equal the coming expenses. He then noted that the debt was proposed to increase by about \$1.3 million, and the upcoming Portage Road project would be about \$9.8 million. He closed by highlighting that the General Fund total should be \$37.9 million, up just over 4% from last year.

Mayor Randall also highlighted the two upcoming City Council Budget Review sessions on April 21 and May 12. Motion by Councilmember Young, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Pearson, to receive the presentation of the proposed FY 2026-27 Budget. Upon a voice vote, motion carried 7 to 0.

**STATEMENTS OF CITY COUNCIL AND CITY MANAGER:** Councilmember Young began by highlighting the recent national basketball championship win by the University of Michigan. She then noted her attendance at a roundtable discussion on Immigration and Customs Enforcement hosted by Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel where she asked about Flock cameras, noting citizen concerns. Attorney Nessel commended the City of Portage's Public Safety Department on its use of the camera system. WM extended the yard waste service sign-up deadline. She closed with a reminder for driver caution as the warmer weather sees increased outdoor recreation.

Councilmember Burns echoed Councilmember Young on the University of Michigan's championship win.

Councilmember Olmsted spoke regarding elections, noting the three scheduled elections for 2026. She encouraged people to sign up as an election inspector, noting her work as an inspector in the City of Kalamazoo. Councilmember Olmsted closed with information regarding absentee voting options.

Councilmember Ledbetter relayed his First Amendment rights on the single-hauler waste matter. He closed by noting the recent NASA Artemis II launch.

Councilmember Miller highlighted the Portage Road 360 Construction Mitigation Plan item approved with the Consent Agenda. She noted various incentives included in the program and the related Council Small Business Committee efforts to help ease the financial strain businesses might undergo because of the construction. Councilmember Miller closed with information regarding the area's ice sheets.

City Manager McGinnis highlighted the scheduled prescribed burn of 62 acres in the

Gourdneck Lake area. He then relayed his attendance at the opening of the “BJ Benjims” Big and Tall store under new ownership.

Mayor Pro Tem Pearson relayed his position regarding the single hauler waste topic and the May 5th Special Election ordinance proposal.

Mayor Randall noted her recent absence, as well as her continued focus on city meetings and attention to related matters while away.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mayor Randall adjourned the meeting at 06:42 PM.

---

Erica L. Eklov, City Clerk