

**MINUTES FROM THE SPECIAL PRE-MEETING
OF THE PORTAGE CITY COUNCIL
MAY 22, 2017**

Mayor Strazdas called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The following Councilmembers were present: Councilmembers Ford and Randall and Mayor Strazdas. Councilmembers Pearson and Reid joined the meeting via conference call. Mayor Pro Tem Ansari and Councilmember Urban were absent with excuse. Also present were City Manager Shaffer, Deputy City Manager Boulis and Deputy City Clerk Herringa.

Councilmember Pearson asked for an explanation as to what was included by way of pay and benefits in the wage and salary resolution of Item F.1. Deputy City Manager Boulis provided an explanation as to the potential wage and related benefit changes that may occur for city employees. For example, he stated that many non-union employees would receive an increase of approximately 3% though this is dependent on factors such as performance evaluations.

Councilmember Ford inquired about the roadwork to be conducted on Chasemoor Drive as indicated in Item F.4. Mr. Ford expressed support for planning out roadwork and asked why the change order to the contract was necessary. City Manager Shaffer explained that, in this circumstance, a citizen called to report that the road condition on Chasemoor was deteriorating. Following a review by staff, it was determined that a portion of Chasemoor was failing and that action needed to be taken. Councilmember Ford expressed his support for a proactive street repair program and Councilmember Randall asked when the street is scheduled for repaving and for the rating (PASER) of the street. City Manager Shaffer concurred with the need for a proactive street repair program and stated that he would research and respond to the questions of Councilmember Randall.

Regarding Item L.3, Councilmember Ford inquired if the City had done work with the low bidder which is based in East Grand Rapids. City Manager Shaffer responded that the City has had little experience working with the low bidder, MCSA Group, Inc. Councilmember Ford indicated that he was comfortable with not taking the low bid and that the rationale provided for going with the recommended bidder is sufficient in his opinion.

Councilmember Randall inquired if the topic of "fund balance" would come up at this City Council Meeting. Mayor Strazdas responded that the topic would occur at another meeting, most likely later in the calendar year. Councilmember Randall asked that City Council be made aware in advance when such a discussion would occur. Mayor Strazdas expressed support for a Committee of the Whole meeting on the topic once a better idea of the actual financial reserves are better known. Councilmember Ford commented that a reduction in the millage rate for an amount of \$250,000 out of a tax base of \$2 billion would likely result in an insignificant amount of savings for the taxpayer. Mayor Strazdas expressed support for holding a meeting to discuss the topic of cash reserves and fund balance approximately one month before a vote is taken.

ADJOURNMENT: Mayor Strazdas adjourned the meeting at 8:17 a.m.

Adam Herringa, Deputy City Clerk