

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GROSSE POINTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010.

Mayor Scrace called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call: Councilmembers Boettcher, Walsh, Weipert, Stempfle, Stevens, Parthum and Mayor Scrace were present.

Also present were Manager Dame, City Attorneys Fildew and Kennedy, Treasurer Johnson, Parks Director Hardenbrook, Public Safety Director Fox and Public Works Supervisors Schulte and Weitzel.

A.

Manager Dame reviewed his Memorandum to Council regarding the Parks and Recreation Department. He discussed proposed expenditure reductions and participation fee increases.

A question was asked and answered clarifying that Group Permits in Neff Park are for 50 or less guests.

Questions were asked about the operation and costs of the platform tennis facility and the ice rink operating hours. Concerns were expressed about the capital expenditures necessary to maintain the platform tennis facility.

Questions were asked about the nature and attendance at the Fall Harvest, Village concerts and the Family Fiesta.

Several Council Members suggested that financial support for the Village concerts should continue.

A statement was made by a councilmember that baby sitting training should pay for itself.

It was suggested that the City should pursue corporate sponsorships to support its recreational events.

The consensus of Council was:

1. Village concert funding should continue due to the public benefit.
2. The City should pursue private sponsorships.
3. The baby sitting class participation fee should be increased to recover the cost to the City.

B.

Manager Dame discussed the proposed fee schedule for recreational events as well as the proposed fee schedule for construction and inspection fees. Generally, construction and inspection fees are proposed to increase by 5%.

It was suggested that a fee be imposed for registration of household alarms and that a fee be imposed for “false alarm” public safety dispatches.

It was also suggested that a fee be imposed on the responsible party for public safety responses to accidents and for supervision of downed power lines.

Councilmember Stevens suggested that building inspection fees should be substantially raised. City staff commented that City fees are comparable to the other Grosse Pointes. It was also mentioned that State law requires that inspection fees cannot exceed the actual cost of the inspection.

Councilmember Parthum requested that there be an annual surface lot parking fee. The pros and cons of such a fee were discussed.

C.

Manager Dame discussed his memorandum concerning Public Safety operation and expenditures.

Sick time, vacation time, off site training and “comp” time were identified as the leading causes of overtime expenditures.

It was discussed that changes in overtime policies are subject to collective bargaining.

Automatic aid for fire protection is the Manager’s primary recommendation for reducing overtime.

Chief Fox expressed concern about the City having sufficient staffing levels to fight a fire with a three officer shift and was concerned that the City would take second priority under an automatic aid agreement.

Discussion occurred with regard to the consolidation of dispatch. A difficulty if consolidation occurred is how to house and observe prisoners.

Discussion occurred about complete consolidation with the Farms and Park for fire protection.

There was a consensus on Council to pursue the possibility of an automatic aid agreement with the Park and the Farms.

Council was particularly concerned about overtime costs and dispatch costs.

Motion by councilmember Weipert and second by Councilmember Stevens that Councilmember Walsh be appointed to the public safety committee along with the Mayor and Manager to discuss public safety issues with the other Grosse Pointes.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

D.

The Mayor called for public comment.

John Alcorn stated that overtime costs would be eliminated if the public safety department operated under 24 hour shifts. He asked to be allowed five minutes on the next Council agenda to present his arguments on this issue. The Manager stated that Mr. Alcorn should make any statement he wishes to make during public comment. The Mayor stated that he would not allow Mr. Alcorn's arguments as an agenda item on the next Council agenda.

A member of the citizen budget committee advocated that 24 shifts for public safety would save \$150,000 per year. He also advocated against the elimination of local dispatch because the dispatchers provide multiple services to the community.

E.

At 9:40 p.m., Councilmember Parthum, second Councilmember Stempfle, moved that the Council go into closed session to discuss collective bargaining.

All members responded affirmatively to a roll call vote and the motion was adopted unanimously.

The Council met in closed session from 9:52 p.m. to 10:20 p.m.

F.

The Council discussed budget presentation and the public hearing on the budget.

G.

Councilmember Weipert, second by Councilmember Stevens, moved that the meeting be adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

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Charles S. Kennedy III  
Secretary of the Meeting