

**MINUTES OF THE GROSSE POINTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 17145 MAUMEE AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN
ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Scrace, Council Members Boettcher, Parthum, Stempfle, Walsh and Weipert

In Attendance: City Manager Dame, Attorneys Fildew and Kennedy, City Clerk Arthurs, Public Service Director Weitzel, Public Safety Director Fox, Parks and Recreation Director Hardenbrook and City Planner Jackson.

Motion by Council Member Stempfle supported by Council Member Parthum to excuse Council Member Stevens from the meeting for personal reasons.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

SETTING AGENDA

City Manager Dame requested that a Resolution opposing State of Michigan House Bills 5558 and 5559 relating to recycling and landfill surcharges be added to the consent agenda. Mayor Scrace added the resolution to the consent agenda.

RECEIVED AND FILED.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Weipert second by Council Member Parthum to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following:

1. Minutes of the regular City Council meeting held on January 11, 2010
2. Invoices
 - a) Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, Inc.
 - Mack Avenue Water Main – Cadieux to Washington, \$13,065
 - St. Clair Resurfacing – Waterloo to Mack, \$6,660
 - St. Clair Resurfacing – Jefferson to Kercheval, \$21,540.34
 - b) City of Grosse Pointe Farms - Purchase of Water, October-December, 2009, \$66,033.18
 - c) City of Detroit, Board of Water Commissioners - Sewage Disposal Services, \$87,481.27
 - d) Degenhardt & Sons, Inc. - Neff Road Pump Station, \$86,791.50
 - e) Grosse Pointes-Clinton Refuse Disposal - Refuse Disposal, November, 2009, \$6,461.41
 - f) Rizzo Services - Curbside Recycling Collection, \$5,616
3. Approval and authorization of Operating Agreement with the Lake St. Clair Direct Drainage Subwatershed Group.
4. Approval and adoption of Resolution of Opposition to State of Michigan House Bills 5558 and 5559.

CONSENT AGENDA UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

SITE PLAN REVIEW – DRUMMY DOGS – 371 FISHER ROAD

Mayor Scrace announced the Council will consider the request of Drummy Dogs for site plan approval for signage at 371 Fisher Road.

City Planner Jackson reviewed his report. Mr. Jackson stated that the applicant is proposing to install one 8 sq. ft. wall sign made of plywood with no lighting. The proposed wall sign meets the maximum area permitted.

The applicant and the sign fabricator have worked closely with the planner to develop a sign design that fits the architectural character of the building. The City Planner recommended site plan approval. Discussion took place regarding the improvements made to the building and the lighting of the sign. Mr. Drummy, the business owner, indicated that he would like to add lighting to the sign. Mayor Scrace stated that the plan before the Council did not include lighting but Mr. Drummy should contact the Building Inspector and the City Planner to work out lighting details. It was noted that preferred lighting would be a gooseneck fixture.

Motion by Council Member Weipert supported by Council Member Parthum to approve the site plan for signage for Drummy Dogs, 371 Fisher Road, as submitted.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PRESENTATION OF REPORT AND FINDINGS – AD HOC CITIZEN BUDGET COMMITTEE

City Manager Dame introduced Frances Twiddy, member of the Ad Hoc Citizen Budget Committee, who gave an overview of the committee's meetings and procedures. Ms. Twiddy stated that the committee began meeting in early December to learn about city departmental functions. Department Heads made a presentation about their department, personnel, and function. After gathering this information, the committee developed a citizen survey to obtain citizen input regarding service priorities, potential service reductions, intergovernmental cooperation and potential revenue options. The committee reviewed the survey results and developed an analysis of the results with no pre-conceived notions. The report and recommendation presented to the Council is the result of this process.

City Manager Dame introduced Gary Bresnehan, member of the Ad Hoc Citizen Budget Committee who described and summarized the committee's findings and recommendations. Mr. Bresnehan stated that the committee believes that the City must make expenditure reductions, reprioritize programs and seek cost savings through intergovernmental efforts to reduce overhead, inefficiencies and overlap. The Committee favors a multi-pronged approach to bring City costs and revenues in balance over the long term. Mr. Bresnehan discussed the proposed short term options of eliminating several full time vacant positions, reduction in special events expenditures, stricter model of cost recovery from Parks and Recreation programs, seek reductions in current and future employee and retiree costs, the City's health care benefits package should be examined for savings and increased cost sharing by employees, retaining the City's unique status and identity as a municipality but seriously endeavor to increase efficiencies through intergovernmental cooperation with an emphasis on cooperation in the public safety department and municipal court, recover the cost of specialized programs, services, licenses, permits, that the levy for paying the bonds and interest on the pool construction be adjusted annually to ensure that the cost of this improvement are covered as authorized and approved by a past referendum of the citizens, that the solid waste programs become self-sustaining and cover their costs, that no major building projects be undertaken during the next several years, and if no new source of funding to replenish the Capital Projects Fund is found, in future years a local levy dedicated to street reconstruction may be necessary. The Committee acknowledges that each department significantly reduced its budget during the current fiscal year to address the shortfall in revenues and the committee recommends this vigilant and creative approach continue throughout the City.

The Committee does not support increasing the amount of property taxes collected over what will be generated this year. In order to deal with the continued assessment declines and state shared revenue reductions, the service changes recommended by the committee are not only needed but they will also be felt by both citizens and employees alike. Such expenditure changes are needed to ensure that all prudent avenues are explored before the City turns to the voters to request that the General Levy Tax rate be changed. Mr. Bresnehan reviewed the summary and short-term options chart noted in the report. It was concluded that all Grosse Pointe City stakeholders including residents, business owners and city employees will have to make sacrifices to ensure the City continues as a desirable place to live and work.

Various committee members in attendance made comments about the report and thanked City Manager Dame for his leadership of the committee. It was noted that many cuts have already been made which demonstrates the quality of management under which the City operates. The Committee appreciates all the efforts of the Manager and city employees for taking a proactive approach in facing this significant financial challenge.

A business owner in the Village inquired if a separate survey of business owners in the City would be developed and distributed. It was noted that this option be reviewed and considered by City staff.

Mr. Bresnehan and Ms. Twiddy answered Council questions about the committee's recommendations. The Council thanked the committee for their extensive commitment of time and expertise in developing their report and expressed hope that members would continue to be involved in the ongoing budget process and help raise awareness about tough decisions that possibly may be made in the future.

RECEIVE AND FILE.

PURCHASE OF RECREATION SOFTWARE AND SUPPORT SERVER

Parks and Recreation Director Hardenbrook gave the following report:

In a continued effort of building quality management to provide effective and efficient services, the Department of Parks and Recreation is proposing purchase of Recreation Software and a Support Server. This automation will help avoid replacing the vacant full time Recreation Coordinator position. In order to streamline some of this position's responsibilities, a user friendly management software system is needed. Currently, the city does not have a software database to manage class scheduling, facility scheduling, registration processing, revenue tracking and recording. This is particularly important for swimming lesson registrations which are very staff intensive under the current system. Purchasing this setup will formally organize the city's resident database with class registration, scheduling and facility reservations. This system will also provide viewing of online facility and pool registrations as well as any other class availability. One of the citizen friendly features is that it also provides the convenience of online registration and facility rentals. Recreation Pro software provided by RC System is a proven park department software that many other cities use including Grosse Pointe Woods and Grosse Pointe Farms.

The Parks and Recreation Department solicited bids and has received three quotes for the purchase of Recreation Software along with three quotes for the purchase of a Support Server. Listed below are the quotes:

<u>Recreation Software</u>		<u>System Software File Server</u>	
Active Network (Rec. Ware)	\$30,000.00	Dell Online Store	\$3,577.00
Vermont Systems (Rec. Trac)	\$25,331.00	HP Online Store	\$3,566.00
RC Systems (Rec. Pro)	\$17,550.00	Tech Resources	\$3,427.90

Purchase of the Recreation Software and Support Server will be paid for from the savings of the unfilled Recreation Coordinator Position with an estimated total cost of \$20,977.90 in the current year budget. The annual maintenance fee for this software is \$4,250. Parks and Recreation Director Hardenbrook answered Council questions about using software of Grosse Pointe Woods and Farms, that all classes can be scheduled through this software and online registrations.

Motion by Council Member Weipert supported by Council Member Parthum to approve the purchase of recreation software from RC Systems along with the purchase of a support server from Tech Resources.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE – KROGER WINDOW TREATMENT OPTIONS

City Manager Dame made the following report:

In January 2010, the City Council approved a site plan for Kroger's new facility on Kercheval with the exception of the first floor window treatments. It is recommended that the City Council authorize the formation of a subcommittee of its members to review various options developed by Kroger and to allow the subcommittee to act on its behalf in authorizing Kroger Co. to proceed with a window treatment option.

It was noted that subcommittee members would include Mayor Scrace, Don Parthum and John Stevens.

Motion by Council Member Weipert supported by Council Member Stempfle to approve the formation of a subcommittee of its members to review and select from various options developed by Kroger Co. and to allow the subcommittee to act on its behalf in authorizing Kroger Co. to proceed with a preferred option for treatment of the first floor windows.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Anneliese Bajer asked about the proposal to widen the sidewalk along Notre Dame for the new Kroger Co. development. She stated this proposal would increase pedestrian visibility and safety in the area and encouraged the City to pursue this option with Kroger.

COUNCIL COMMENT

The City Council commented on the following topics:

- The Council thanked the Public Service Department for the excellent work during the recent snowstorm.
- Mayor Scrace distributed the 2010 Council Committee assignments.

On Motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Julie E. Arthurs, City Clerk
City of Grosse Pointe