

**MINUTES OF THE GROSSE POINTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 17145 MAUMEE AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009.**

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

ROLL CALL

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

In Attendance: City Manager Dame, Attorneys Fildew and Kennedy, City Clerk Arthurs, Assistant City Manager Fincham, Public Safety Director Fox, Public Works Supervisor Schulte, Water Superintendent Huvaere and City Planner Jackson.

Motion by Council Member Weipert second by Council Member Parthum to excuse Council Member Pfahler from the meeting for personal reasons.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2009 BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Mayor Scrace introduced Chair Derek Stratelak from the Grosse Pointe Beautification Commission. Chair Stratelak introduced the Beautification Commission members who attended. A brief explanation of the nomination process and the duties of the Beautification Commission were given. The 2009 Beautification Awards were announced and each winner was presented with an award certificate and Pewabic tile of the City logo.

The Council recessed at 7:20 p.m. and reconvened at 7:29 p.m.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a) Minutes from the regular City Council meeting held on August 17, 2009 and closed session minutes from August 17, 2009.
- b) Invoices
 - a) Arbor Pro Tree Service, Inc.
 - Tree Removal, \$7,566.00
 - Tree Removal, \$5,441.00
 - b) City of Detroit, Board of Water Commissioners - Sewage Disp. Services, 7/09 \$76,456.77
 - c) French Construction - Sidewalk Leveling, \$8,700
 - d) Inland Waters Pollution Control, Inc.
 - 2007 Sewer Cleaning & TV Inspection, S2 Program, Final Payment, \$5,449.00
 - e) Michigan Municipal League Worker's Compensation Fund - Quarterly Premium, \$22,261
 - f) Rizzo Services - Curbside Recycling, August, 2009, \$5,616
 - g) Michigan Department of Transportation - Cadieux Road Resurfacing, \$14,069.46
 - h) Bell Equipment Company - Purchase of (2) Leaf Pushers, \$14,000
- c) Approval of Resolution establishing a Receiving Board for the November 3, 2009 City General Election.
- d) Approval of public hearing date of October 19, 2009 for the proposed Village Zoning ordinance amendments.
- e) Approval of extension of agreement with Village Inn for six months.
- f) Approval of re-appointments of James V. Bellanca and John Bruce to Downtown Development Authority board with terms expiring in 2013 and an appointment of Daniel M. Lemanske to fill a vacancy with a term expiring in 2010.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

SITE PLAN REVIEW – POINTE FITNESS ELITE TRAINING FOR WOMEN – 17110 KERCHEVAL AVENUE

City Planner Jackson made the following report:

Pointe Fitness Elite Training for Women originally submitted a request for proposed signage along with Village Palm in July 2009. At that time, City Council approved the Pointe Fitness hanging sign, which exceeded ordinance standards, with the condition that the window sign is removed. The applicant has revised the signage proposal to include a wall sign instead of a hanging sign. The proposed wall sign has been designed to be compatible in shape with the approved Village Palm sign, which the Council requested the applicant consider. The City Planner noted that the landlord has allocated two-thirds of the permitted wall sign area to Village Palm and one-third to Pointe Fitness. After Council discussion, it was requested that the proposed signs be placed on the same band of eifis (decorative band) on the front of the building.

Motion by Council Member Parthum second by Council Member Weipert to approve the site plan for signage for Pointe Fitness Elite Training for Women, 17110 Kercheval subject to both the signs on the front of the building be installed evenly on the same decorative band.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

BID AWARD – FALL TREE PLANTING

Public Service Supervisor Schulte made the following report:

The City initiated and coordinated a project with Grosse Pointe Shores and Grosse Pointe Park to start a tree-planting project cooperative. The intent is to reduce prices on tree costs by jointly purchasing trees in bulk quantities. This year the bids were tabulated for the planting of 115 trees for the three Grosse Pointe communities, 50 of which are for the City of Grosse Pointe. The three cities save \$95 per tree over last year's costs. The City's individual savings is \$4,750 over last year. On August 31, on behalf of the three cities, the City received bids to furnish and plant replacement street trees and the tabulation of bids is listed below:

James Brothers Nursery	\$21,540
Arbor Pro	\$28,750
WH Canon Company	\$31,698
Marine City Nursery	\$33,000
Allemons Landscaping	No Bid
Marshall Landscaping	No Bid

Replacement tree locations are presently being determined for planting of new City right-of-way trees that were lost over the past year for various reasons. Tree varieties and planting location selections were discussed.

The low bidder, James Brothers, is the company which already supplies Grosse Pointe Woods with trees and the Woods is very satisfied with tree quality and performance from James Brothers. This joint bid will become effective upon approval of all three municipalities committing to their share of the project.

Motion by Council Member Parthum second by Council Member Stevens to award the joint bid to James Brothers Nursery for the 2009 street tree planting program, the City portion of which will not exceed \$9,000.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

RENEWAL OF MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL LIABILITY AND PROPERTY POOL COVERAGE

Assistant City Manager Fincham made the following report:

Each year the City of Grosse Pointe submits documentation to the Michigan Municipal Liability and Property Pool for a renewal quote. The City has been a member of the MML pool since 1985. It should be noted that the premium has decreased slightly over the last year and insurance and related services are being offered to the City of Grosse Pointe for an annual premium of \$110,972. The policy covers all City owned property including vehicles, contractor equipment, electronic data processing equipment, buildings and contents and liability coverage. Council discussion took place regarding the policy coverage.

Motion by Councilmember Stempfle second by Councilmember Stevens to approve the proposal from the Michigan Municipal Liability and Property Pool for the 2009-10 premium of \$110,972.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

AWARD OF CONTRACT – ADA ACCESSIBLE SIDEWALK RAMPS

Assistant City Manager Fincham made the following report:

The City received six bids for the 2009 ADA Accessible Sidewalk Ramp project for handicap detectible warning platform project on September 9. This project will allow the City to install tactile surfaces for people with visual disabilities at street intersections in conjunction with the project slated for this year. Listed below are the three lowest bids received for this CDBG project:

Zuniga Cement Construction Inc.	\$37,999
C & L Enterprises Inc.	\$42,847
Calandra & Sons	\$57,158

The City Engineer has reviewed the firms' qualifications and deems they are all qualified for this project. The City Council discussed the project and construction locations for this year.

Motion by Council Member Weipert second by Council Member Parthum to award the contract for the 2009 ADA Accessible Sidewalk Ramp project to Zuniga Cement Construction Inc. in the amount of \$37,999.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

AWARD OF CONTRACT – 2009 RESURFACING PROGRAM

Assistant City Manager Fincham made the following report:

The City received seven bids for this years resurfacing project on September 9. This project will allow the City to resurface small sections at the following locations:

Rivard Blvd. – north of Goethe	Lakeland – north of Charlevoix Ave.
University Pl. – north of Jefferson Ave.	Maumee Ave. – west of St. Clair

Unlike the grant funded Cadieux and St. Clair projects, this project consists of only 1 ½ mill with no curb work. Given the fiscal constraints of the City, this piecemeal work is the only street work funded by local funds this year and targets only the worst blocks identified in the annual street condition survey. The three lowest bids received are:

Asphalt Specialist, Inc.	\$94,386.75
ABC Paving Company	\$95,797.50
Al's Asphalt Paving Co.	\$97,204.45

The City Engineer has reviewed the firms' qualifications and deems they are all qualified for this project. The City Council discussed the project and construction map.

Motion by Council Member Weipert second by Council Member Stevens to award the contract for the 2009 Resurfacing Program for various City locations to Asphalt Specialist, Inc. in the amount of \$94,386.75.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

AWARD OF CONTRACT – WATER METER REPLACEMENT AND AUTOMATIC WATER METER READING SYSTEM

Assistant City Manager Fincham made the following report:

The City currently has 50% of the newer Neptune meters installed within the last 10 years. The newer meters have digital encoders that are wired to a probe box located on the exterior of homes. The remaining Neptune meters are over 30 years old which are also wired to a probe box. The majority of the meters are currently read with a handheld unit that plugs into the probe box. For the last two years, the City has been exploring replacing the reading system with more advanced equipment and replacing the remaining meters in the City with newer equipment that are more efficient.

In June 2009, the City posted a request for proposal for a water meter replacement and automatic water meter reading system. This program will install new encoders/transmitters on approximately 50% of the City's newer meters and install new meters, encoders and transmitters on the remaining locations. Also included in this program are vehicle based mobile reading collection system, software, documentation and appropriate training

of City employees. This new reading system will eliminate the need to go house to house with a handheld manual reader which is no longer supported by the manufacturer. On July 28, 2009, the City received five proposals/bids which are listed below:

S.L.C. Meter Service	\$234,411.35	Elster Amco	Itron
Badger Meter Inc.	\$274,007.65	Badger	Badger
National Field Services	\$281,389.30	Badger	Badger
Rio Supply Michigan Meter	\$369,819.00	Neptune	Neptune
United Systems & Software	\$111,708.50*	n/a	Itron

*Vendor quoted reading equipment only

The City Engineer and City staff have reviewed the firms and their qualifications for this project. Both the City Engineer and City staff make a recommendation based upon review of technical information from all the vendors and interviews conducted; that it is in the City's best interest to award the Water Meter Replacement and Automated Water Meter Reading System project to Rio Supply Michigan Meter for the following reasons:

- 1) The City currently uses Neptune meters and has since the early 1900's without major problems.
- 2) The meter, encoder, transmitter, handheld unit and software are all manufactured, warranted and supported by Neptune.
- 3) Neptune's transmitters transmit at a higher output power (100mW) than the other vendors' equipment (1mW) which will reduce the number of hard to read or no read areas within the City.
- 4) The Neptune meter is one of the quietest meters on the market.
- 5) Neptune has been manufacturing encoders longer than any of the competitors.
- 6) Neptune has the only "no lead" meter proposed. All other meters are low lead.
- 7) Using Neptune will maintain the same type of meter throughout the City as opposed to having approximately half Neptune meters and half of another manufacturer.
- 8) Rio Supply is the lowest fully responsive bid.

The City Council discussed the proposed water meter replacement project and concern was expressed about the large expenditure for the project. City Manager Dame answered various Council questions regarding quantities of meters for storage, how the radio read system works, and system efficiency. Discussion took place comparing the bids submitted. It was estimated that, with the new system and more accurate meter readings, the cost of the project could be recouped in 5-6 years. Further discussion took place regarding the proposal.

Motion by Council Member Weipert second by Council Member Parthum to award the Water Meter Replacement and Automated Water Meter Reading System Project to Rio Supply Michigan Meter in the amount of \$369,810 based on the aforementioned reasons.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Duncan MacEachern, 568 St. Clair, presented to Council photos of the lots on St. Clair owned by Sunrise Senior Living LLC. He expressed concern about the condition of the lots, including weeds and sinkholes that present a safety hazard. He asked if anything could be done to rectify the situation. Mayor Scrace referred the issue to the Code Enforcement Officer for review and follow up.

Mike Wilson, 593 St. Clair expressed concern about parking on St. Clair in front of the Sunrise lots. He indicated that cars are parked longer than the allowed time and drivers are using residential driveways to turn around to avoid driving onto Kercheval. Mayor Scrace referred the issue to Chief Fox for review of parking regulations in the area.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief Fox updated Council on the positive outcome of the Village Block Party. Water Superintendent Huvaere reported on the status of the new leaf equipment and efforts to educate citizens regarding the new process. City Clerk Arthurs advised that the candidate petition filing deadline had passed and that 1 incumbent is running for the office of Mayor and 2 incumbents and 1 new candidate are running for the City Council positions in the November election.

COUNCIL COMMENT

The City Council commented on the following topics:

- Appreciation was expressed for efforts to consolidate with other communities and create ways to save money.
- With that said, it is still encouraged that cutbacks be made in all areas of the budget as much as possible.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Council Member Stevens second by Council Member Stempfle that the Council goes into closed session for discussion of collective bargaining issues.

ROLL CALL

Aye: Parthum, Stempfle, Stevens, Walsh, Weipert, Mayor Scrace

Nay: None.

Absent: Pfaehler

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

The Council met in closed session from 8:18 p.m. to 9:12 p.m.

There being no further business conducted, the meeting was adjourned on Motion at 9:13 p.m.

Julie E. Arthurs, City Clerk
City of Grosse Pointe