

**MINUTES OF THE GROSSE POINTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
17145 MAUMEE AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2008.**

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

ROLL CALL

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

In Attendance: City Manager Dame, Attorneys Fildew and Kennedy, City Clerk Arthurs, Assistant City Manager Fincham, Public Service Director Weitzel, Finance Director Johnson, Public Safety Director Fox and City Planner Jackson.

Motion by Council Member Weipert second by Council Member Pfaehler to excuse Council Member Walsh from the meeting for personal reasons.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PRESENTATION OF THE 2008 BEAUTIFICATION AWARDS

Mayor Scrace introduced Vice-Chair Peggy Woodhouse from the Grosse Pointe Beautification Commission. Vice-Chair Woodhouse introduced the Beautification Commission members who attended. A brief explanation of the nomination process was given. The 2008 Beautification Awards were announced and each winner was presented with an award certificate and Pewabic tile of the City logo.

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 meeting of August 18, 2008 and minutes from the closed session of August 18, 2008.
- b. Invoices
 - a) Grosse Pointes-Clinton Refuse Disposal - Refuse Disposal, July, 2008, \$9,462.21
 - b) Tringali Sanitation - Curbside Recycling, July, 2008, \$6,360
 - c) Anderson, Eckstein and Westrick, Inc.
 - Professional Services, Cadieux Resurfacing, Jefferson to Kercheval, \$20,106
 - Professional Services, 2008 Resurfacing Program, \$12,170.20
 - Professional Services, 2008 Resurfacing Program, \$6,347.25
 - d) Florence Cement Company - 2008 Resurfacing Program, \$76,272.88
 - e) Arbor Pro Tree Service, Inc. - Tree Removal Services, \$5,045
 - f) Bell Equipment Company - Purchase of Recycling Toter Carts, \$105,600
- c. Authorize the acceptance and execution of an agreement for the State contract price of \$41.83 for the purchase of rock salt for the 2008-09 season.

CONSENT AGENDA UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

SITE PLAN REVIEW – LAJOLIE ROSE & HANNAH BEAR BOUTIQUES – 17027 KERCHEVAL AVENUE

City Planner Jackson made the following report:

Rose Marchese, owner of a new women's boutique and a new children's boutique has submitted renderings for blade signs to be installed at 17027 Kercheval. The Hannah Bear Boutique and LaJolie Rose Boutique share the same tenant space and are under the same ownership. The applicant is proposing to locate a blade sign with two sign faces along the front of the building and two plaque signs on the rear of the building at the common entry door. The signs are constructed of MDO wood material and are attached to the building wall with decorative aluminum brackets.

The proposed blade sign is five sq. ft. in size for each sign face. The maximum permitted blade sign size is five sq. ft. The tenant space is unique in that it contains two separate businesses. Due to the relatively small building frontage, two separate blade signs are not appropriate and the proposal is the best alternative to provide signage for both businesses. Discussion took place regarding the proposed blade signs and the plaque signs at the rear of the building. It was noted that the size of the plaque signs at the rear entrance meets requirements in Section 58-5(d) and are of high quality and are consistent with the Village design guidelines.

Motion by Council Member Weipert second by Council Member Stempfle to approve the site plan as submitted for LaJolie Rose Boutique and Hannah Bear Boutique, 17027 Kercheval Avenue.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

SITE PLAN REVIEW – PINK SALON AND BOUTIQUE – 17007 KERCHEVAL AVENUE

City Planner Jackson made the following report:

An application for proposed awning signs for an existing building at 17007 Kercheval was received and reviewed. The proposed awnings will consist of brown Sunbrella fabric with pink lettering. The barrel awning above the front entry door is to have three sign faces so passing vehicles can see the sign from all sides. It was noted that the existing second story Francesco's Salon awning sign on the rear of the building will be removed. The applicant is proposing to remove the existing second story awning on the front façade and replace it with two separate awnings that will be located over the windows only, consistent with ordinance requirements. No sign lighting is identified and gooseneck fixtures are encouraged. Discussion took place regarding the proposed awnings.

Motion by Council Member Weipert second by Council Member Parthum to approve the site plan as submitted for Pink Salon and Boutique, 17007 Kercheval Avenue.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

SITE PLAN REVIEW – SIGNAGE FOR TRADER JOE'S – 17028 KERCHEVAL AVENUE

City Planner Jackson made the following report:

The City held two meetings in the spring with Kercheval Place owner and architect were held to discuss options and concepts for improving the signage for Trader Joe's and the building to help customers locate the store. The building owner has been working with Trader Joe's to develop a sign package over the summer. It was noted that the sign plans were received last week and are submitted for Council review. The original wall signs are to be modified to a stone backing to provide more contrast and the blade signs at the corners changed from a black unlit plywood background to an externally illuminated brushed metal background consistent with other signs installed at Kercheval Place. Also, new blade signs matching the new design, to be located at the back corners of the Kercheval Place building will more clearly indicate Trader Joe's entrance area. The sign originally approved for above the Trader Joe's awning on the south side of the building above their store windows was never installed as it would not have been visible due to the pedestrian bridge. Signs along the south side of the building but visible from the street are proposed.

The applicant is proposing 5 projecting signs one on each corner of the building and one additional sign along the alley. This includes updating the material and colors as noted above. The proposed rectangular projecting signs will be the same size as the previously approved signs and the colors and materials appropriate for the scale of the building. The type of decorative lighting for the proposed signs should be identified. Further, the applicant is proposing to maintain the location of the existing wall sign on the west facade of the building. The applicant is requesting to move the wall sign on the east side of the building (St. Clair) to a lower position near the corner to indicate the entrance area. In order to increase the visibility of the wall signs, the applicant is proposing stone background behind both of the wall signs. The sign dimensions for both wall signs are the same as previously approved.

Discussion took place regarding the hanging sign proposed for the pedestrian bridge. It was noted that the proposed sign should be mounted either on the bridge or under the bridge and provide for adequate height clearance.

Motion by Council Member Weipert second by Council Member Parthum to approve the proposed signage for Trader Joe's, 17028 Kercheval based on the following:

1. Approve three blade signs on corners of building.
2. Allow the east wall sign to be relocated lower on the building and allow possible sign wording modification to include "entrance".
3. Authorize staff to review and approve the location and installation of the hanging sign on the pedestrian bridge.
4. All proposed signs will not exceed sign size submitted in plans dated 9/13/08.

ROLL CALL

Parthum – Aye	Stevens - Aye	
Pfaehler – Nay	Weipert – Aye	
Stempfle – Aye	Scrace – Aye	Walsh - Absent

Motion Carries 5 votes Aye to 1 vote Nay.

The Council now convened as the Planning Commission

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SIGN ORDINANCE – PORTABLE SIGNS

Mayor Scrace opened the public hearing on the proposed sign ordinance amendment.

City Planner Jackson made the following report:

At the request of the Village Association, the City has been working with the Village retailers on revising the portable sign ordinance requirements. As part of the overall sign ordinance adopted in 2005, portable outdoor signs are prohibited in commercial districts. An ordinance amendment was drafted to allow portable signs in City commercial districts as long as they are of high quality and appearance and meet conditions for safe locations and length of placement. The proposed ordinance requires a permit to be issued administratively along with a fee as long as the proposed sign meets the requirements. It is proposed that the City will purchase a sign compliant with the ordinance to allow businesses who may only wish to use a portable sign to advertise once in awhile and find it cost prohibitive to purchase their own. A lease fee will be charged for use of the City owned sign. Discussion took place regarding the proposed amendment.

Mayor Scrace asked for any comments regarding the proposed ordinance amendment:

Dino Ropotos of Lavish Salon, Fisher Road stated he felt the amendment was a good idea and would help businesses advertise.

After hearing no further comments, Mayor Scrace closed the public hearing.

Motion by Council Member Weipert second by Council Member Stempfle that the Planning Commission recommends that the City Council adopts the resolution to amend the sign ordinance to authorize certain portable signs and to adopt Ordinance No. 378 amending the sign ordinance.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

The Planning Commission reconvened as the City Council.

CITY COUNCIL ACTION ON PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION – SIGN ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – PORTABLE SIGNS

Motion by Council Member Pfaehler second by Council Member Stevens that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the city administration and members of Council have considered revision to portions of the sign ordinance affecting activities and business in the C-1 and C-2 business districts, and

1. The administration and individual members of the Council have had discussions and meetings with not only business owners and operators in the affected districts, but also with residents from elsewhere in the city;
2. There is a general feeling that business owners and operators in the affected districts should have a limited option to display certain portable signs outside their business premises, thereby employing a widely-used contemporary practice to enhance their businesses;
3. Enhancements such as the privilege of displaying portable signs in the business districts will also enhance pedestrian traffic and activity in those districts and, by adding to the attractiveness of those areas, will increase the pedestrian traffic in areas of the city adjacent to those districts;
4. The wider paved portion of sidewalks in the business districts should be able to accommodate any minor right-of-way encroachments occasioned by the businesses use of portable signs, and;

WHEREAS, the Council has found, and believes, that adoption of the proposed revisions is consistent with protection of the safety of pedestrians and motorists, that it will not adversely affect anyone's personal safety, and may have a beneficial effect on overall security in the business districts because of increased pedestrian traffic;

WHEREAS, the continued well-being of the commercial areas will contribute to safeguarding the City's heritage, preserving the City's history and attractiveness, improving property values, and fostering civic beauty; and

WHEREAS, the proposed revision and its anticipated effects are, and will be, consistent with the City's goals of pedestrian and property safety in an aesthetically pleasing community;

THEREFORE, I move that the following be adopted as Ordinance No. 378:

ORDINANCE ADOPTION

MOTION by Councilmember Pfaehler supported by Councilmember Stevens, that the following ordinance be adopted:

ORDINANCE NO. 378

An Ordinance amending the sign ordinance to regulate portable signs in Business Districts, Chapter 58, City of Grosse Pointe Code of Ordinances

(For complete text of Ordinance No. 378 - see Ordinance Book of the City of Grosse Pointe)

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

DESIGNATION OF VOTING DELEGATE – MML

City Manager Dame made the following report:

The annual meeting of the members of the Michigan Municipal League will be held on Mackinac Island, October 1-4, 2008. The business session is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 2 at the Grand Hotel. Each year the City Council designates a representative and an alternate to attend this business meeting. The notice from the MML requesting the designation was submitted. It was noted that the whole Council is planning to attend.

Motion by Council Member Stevens second by Council Member Weipert to appoint Dale Scrace as a delegate and Donald Parthum as an alternate delegate to attend the annual business meeting at the Michigan Municipal League Convention on Thursday, October 2, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

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 \$113,980. 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 Weipert second by Councilmember Parthum to approve the proposal from the Michigan Municipal Liability and Property Pool for the 2008-09 premium of \$135,980.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BYLAWS

City Manager Dame made the following report:

On September 8, the City of Grosse Pointe Downtown Development Authority convened for its first meeting. As part of its organizational responsibilities, the DDA reviewed, discussed and approved their bylaws. Under state statute, the DDA bylaws must also be approved by the City Council to become effective. The DDA bylaws establish an annual meeting in March of every year to approve a budget to be submitted to the Council for approval. The City Manager is named DDA director. The bylaws required that any action to be approved by a minimum of six votes and seven votes for a change to the bylaws. It was noted that Andrew Martin, citizen member, was elected Chair and John Bruce, representing non-profit institutions, was elected Vice-Chair.

Motion by Council Member Parthum second by Council Member Stempfle to approve the bylaws of the City of Grosse Pointe Downtown Development Authority.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PURCHASE OF PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLE

Chief Fox made the following report:

The Public Safety Department solicited and received three bids for a new 2008 Chevrolet Impala four-door vehicle. The new vehicle will have a small 6-cylinder engine and has improved fuel efficiency compared to the Ford Crown Victoria which the City previously used as administrative vehicles. The Impala also comes with the option of using the new flex fuel E-85. The vehicle, if approved, would be purchased from the following low bid:

Buff Whelan Chevrolet – Sterling Heights	\$20,953.63
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Other bid prices received were Moran Chevrolet, \$22,198.63 and Autotropolis Chevrolet, \$24,650. Discussion took place regarding the size of the vehicle, proposed vehicle options and other vehicle inventory.

Motion by Council Member Weipert second by Council Member Stevens to approve the purchase of a 2008 Chevrolet Impala four door through Buff Whelan Chevrolet of Sterling Heights in the amount of \$20,953.63.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT – HEALTH CARE BENEFITS ADVISOR

City Manager Dame made the following report:

The Grosse Pointe communities have for several years acted in concert to obtain the best possible arrangements for employee and retiree medical care from providers. The Coalition of Grosse Pointe municipalities has jointly used the same health care benefits advisor over this period of time to facilitate

discussions with providers and to advise on changes to benefit structures. The Coalition solicited proposal from health care benefits providers, attracting more than a dozen submissions. The Finance Directors from each of the communities met to review the proposals and recommended that the Grosse Pointe's retain Cornerstone Group. Cornerstone has been the organization that has assisted the Coalition since the inception of the joint effort. The Grosse Pointes have been very satisfied with the service and professionalism of Cornerstone Group. In addition, Cornerstone has agreed to lower its professional fees from the previous arrangement. Discussion took place regarding the coalition and its efforts.

Motion by Council Member Pfaehler second by Council Member Stevens to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with Cornerstone Group of Troy as the health care benefits advisor.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Beverly Leinweber asked about the schedule for renovations to the Kroger store. It was noted that Kroger has until December 31 to submit plans.

Jim Cassidy – 762 Loraine - addressed Council regarding the new recycling toter program. He asked why the large containers were mandated and asked what the economic benefit is for residents. He questioned why the cost savings from reduced landfill fees were not used to pay for the recycling toter.

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Dame provided a sample of the new meter tickets generated by the handheld parking meter devices now being used in the City.

COUNCIL COMMENT

The Council commented on the following topics:

- Questioned the safety and necessity of the phone booth at Kercheval and St. Clair.
- Grosse Pointe's Greatest Block Party struggled due to weather conditions.
- Reminder about upcoming MML Convention on Mackinac Island from Oct.1-4.

On Motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Julie E. Arthurs, City Clerk
City of Grosse Pointe