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

ROLL CALL
Present: Mayor Scrace, Council Members Boettcher, Parthum, Stempfle, Turnbull, and Weipert

In Attendance: City Manager Dame, Attorneys Fildew and Kennedy, City Clerk Arthurs, Public Service Director Huvaere, Finance Director Kleinow, Public Safety Director Poloni, Recreation Director Hardenbrook, and City Engineer Phelan.

Motion by Council Member Parthum second by Council Member Stempfle to excuse Council Member Walsh from the meeting for personal reasons.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2015-2016 BUDGET

Mayor Scrace announced that this was the time set for a public hearing by the City Council on the proposed budget and proposed property tax levy, for fiscal year July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

Finance Director Kleinow gave an overview of the budget. She reported that the proposed budget is balanced and the general operations levy of 11.8391 mills remains the same. Mrs. Kleinow reviewed a PowerPoint presentation that addressed an increase in property tax revenues and an increase in the average assessment by more than 8%. Further, State Revenue Sharing, which has been replaced with the EVIP payments, has decreased 42% since 2001 but is expected to slightly increase. It was noted that the overall budgeted revenues increased by 2.6%. The general fund expenses increased proportionately with revenue at 2.6%. It was also noted that a full year of retiree healthcare cost in the amount of $400,000 has been budgeted for 2015-16.

Discussion took place regarding property taxes and assessments, general fund revenues and expenditures, the capital projects fund, the general debt fund, water & sewer fund, solid waste fund, parking fund, highway fund, marina fund and the drug forfeiture fund. Four project areas for the Capital Project Fund were discussed. These project areas and are public safety and public service equipment, park equipment/projects and facility improvements. It was noted that the Downtown Development Budget has significantly decreased due to changes in the personal property tax but the DDA will continue funding events in The Village with funding from payments in lieu of taxes from the agreement with St. John.

City Council discussion took place regarding the budget. Concern was expressed regarding the Capital Projects Fund decreasing to zero and options for future funding were discussed. It was noted that the proposed budget offers the a high level of services in a fiscally responsible manner. The City Council thanked the City Manager, Finance Director and Department Heads for their hard work on preparing the budget.

Mayor Scrace opened the public comment portion of the public hearing. He asked for comments from those persons present. Hearing none, public comment was declared closed.

It was noted that the proposed 2015-16 budget and 2015 City tax rate will be acted on at the regular Council meeting on May 18, 2015.

RECEIVE AND FILE.

PRESENTATION - CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Patrick Phelan from Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, the City’s engineer, presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and proposed system improvements to streets, sidewalks and
sewers. Mr. Phelan reviewed street facts, the pavement condition survey and its results, and estimated street repair needs. Options for future road funding that might benefit the program were discussed.

Mr. Phelan discussed the proposed facility improvements in the CIP. Planned improvements to City Hall, Public Safety, Public Service and Parks & Recreation facilities over a four year period were discussed. Mr. Phelan also discussed the part of the CIP which discusses water mains and sanitary/combined sewers. He reviewed water system components, the benefits of a water and sewer CIP and projects completed. City Council discussion took place regarding the report.

RECEIVE AND FILE.

On Motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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Julie E. Arthurs, City Clerk
City of Grosse Pointe