

**MINUTES OF THE GROSSE POINTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBERS, 17145 MAUMEE AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN ON
MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2016.**

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

ROLL CALL

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

In Attendance: City Manager Dame, Attorneys Fildew and Kennedy, Finance Director Kleinow, Lt. Gwyn, Public Service Director Huvaere and Parks and Recreation Director Hardenbrook.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Minutes from the regular Council Meeting held on March 21, 2016.
2. Invoices
 - a. Rizzo
 - Recycling, March 2016, \$5,768.00
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 - b. Great Lakes Water Authority
 - Sewage Disposal, March 2016, \$70,700.00
3. Approval of National Arbor Day Resolution as submitted.
4. Resolution. Be it resolved, that a public hearing on the proposed City of Grosse Pointe 2016 2017 Budget is set for Monday, May 9, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers.

CONSENT AGENDA UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PUBLIC HEARING – SINGLE LOT ASSESSMENTS

Mayor Scrace opened the Public Hearing regarding 2016 single lot assessments.

Finance Director Kleinow made the following report:

The City of Grosse Pointe provides for the collection of delinquent water and sewage charges in Section 48 of the Grosse Pointe City Charter. Section 1.15 of the Grosse Pointe City Code directs the City Assessor to prepare a Single Lot Assessment Roll of such delinquent charges and for any expenses incurred by the City in providing other services, together with a penalty of 10%. The unpaid charges and penalties are then considered a lien against the property and are placed on the 2016 City tax bill for collection. Informational notices were mailed on February 25, 2016 to all property owners with delinquent charges. A complete list of these unpaid charges is attached. A public hearing is required on the roll before it can be assessed.

Mayor Scrace asked for public comment.

Hearing no public comment, Mayor Scrace declared the public hearing closed.

Motion by Council Member Stempfle, second by Council Member Turnbull, to approve the Single Lot Assessment Roll as submitted.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

COMPUTER SERVERS

Finance Director Kleinow made the following report:

Quotes were received to purchase a new data server and exchange server. Replacement of these servers is part of the 2-year IT master plan recommended when the City switched IT firms last year. These new servers replace one combined data and exchange server that is deficient in memory, has random shutdowns, and is over taxed handling the City’s financial software and emails. Following are the quotes:

I.T. Right	\$10,021.54
Dell	\$10,707.84
HP	\$10,691.22

The City’s technology staff has reviewed the quotes and finds the low quote qualified. All quotes include I.T. Right performing the installation.

Council asked questions about how much storage capacity would be added and whether the City should move to a cloud based storage system. Manager Dame stated a cloud based system was not recommended for local governments due to confidentiality concerns, Questions regarding “back up” procedures were asked and discussed. The City has two “back up” systems in place.

Motion by Council Member Weipert, second by Council Member Turnbull, to approve the purchase of two new servers from I.T. Right in the amount of \$10,021.54.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

NEFF PARK BLOCK WALL REPAIR

Parks and Recreation Director Hardenbrook made the following report:

A 45 foot section of cinder block wall at the City of Grosse Pointe Neff Park that divides park property and neighboring residents along Rathbone requires replacement. The wall is leaning severely towards the Neff Park side due to being pushed over by the root base of a tree in the neighbor’s yard. This presents a major safety concern not knowing when this section of wall will collapse. After being surveyed by multiple masons, repair costs were estimated to exceed \$5,000 and demolition and replacement is recommended.

The scope of work that is proposed includes the complete demolition of the compromised section of wall and the rebuild to match existing sections including three support pillars on the neighbor’s side, foundation support rebar, filled solid with masonry topped with a solid block cap. To address the issue of tree roots, a metal bridge will be installed in order to lay the courses of block above the roots allowing for future growth. The City Attorney is examining whether the cost of the replacing the wall, which is believed to be the City’s wall and on City property, can be recovered from the adjacent property owner due to the damage incurred.

Listed below are the attached quotes that the city has received for said work:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Bid</u>
Madison Maintenance, LLC	\$11,500
Three C’s Landscaping	\$11,006
DSA Contractors, INC	\$ 8,400
Viktor & Sons Masonry	\$ 5,850

Council asked questions about whether the gate at the property could be removed and gate area blocked off with a solid wall. Staff was instructed to investigate this possibility.

Motion by Council Member Weipert, second by Council Member Stempfle, to award the wall repair contract to Viktor & Sons Masonry in the amount of \$5,850.00

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

SELECTION OF AUDITING FIRM

Finance Director Kleinow made the following report:

On March 4, 2016, the City of Grosse Pointe mailed a Request for Proposal for Auditing Services to six accounting firms in Michigan. The staff received six responses and conducted interviews with these firms on April 6-8, 2016. The firms were evaluated on their ability to conduct a quality audit and produce financial reports in a timely manner, on the experience and professionalism of the staff and proposal, the cost of services, and other issues such as value added services provided without additional cost.

Based upon the criteria listed above, it is the recommendation of the staff that Plante Moran continue to be engaged to perform the financial audit for the City of Grosse Pointe for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, 2017, and 2018. Plante Moran is a recognized leader in the field of public accounting in Michigan, the proposed team is highly skilled and very impressive, and Plante Moran has demonstrated it can complete a thorough audit of excellent quality according to the schedule required by the City.

Plante Moran has a depth of experience and knowledge of municipal auditing and financing unmatched by any firm in Michigan. Plante Moran's independence without question and internal review process is unquestionably the best of the proposals submitted. They conduct and propose the most thorough audit process. They assist their clients without additional charge throughout the year on any questions. They provide free training, assist clients with new governmental requirements without charge, and provide free financial and accounting assistance. For example, during the recession, they provided clients with a detailed reference guide of revenue raising and expense reduction options as well as the templates for compliance with Governor Snyder's EVIP dashboard requirements. They are now preparing cities for new Act 51 performance audits enacted by the legislature, as well as new GASB requirements. Since the Big Four accounting firms are not involved in public accounting in Michigan anymore, with Plante Moran, the City has access to the people in the state of Michigan most – including State officials -- recognize as the go-to experts in the field.

Council Member Weipert stated that there were problems with cost overruns with the previous accounting firm such that expected cost savings did not materialize.

Council Member Stempfle stated that he thinks Plante Moran is best qualified.

Council Member Turnbull inquired as to which accounting firms received RFPs. Manager Dame responded that RFPs were sent to all firms in South East Michigan that perform municipal audit work.

Council Member Parthum stated that he was concerned about Plante Moran's cost. He stated that a lower cost provider should be considered.

Council Member Walsh stated that Plante Moran is a full service firm at a full service price. He stated that it may be worth the additional cost to get the most qualified firm.

Council Member Boettcher asked about the creation of accounting data and the process by which the audit occurs, specifically the use of BSA software. He does not think the additional services provided by Plante Moran are worth the additional cost.

Discussion continued regarding hourly rates, proposed hours to complete the audit, and extra charges for additional services.

It was suggested that a Council committee may conduct interviews in the future.

Motion by Council Member Walsh, second by Council Member Stempfle, to authorize the City Manager to negotiate with and contract with Plante Moran for a three year contract, with an additional two years at the City's option, at the best price that can be negotiated.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

STAFF REPORTS

Lt. Gwyn reported on the Farms-City Little League parade scheduled for April 23, 2016. Lt. Gwyn also reported on the successful completion of the "Stations of the Cross" event.

Public Service Director Huvaere reported on the replacement of gas mains.

Parks and Recreation Director Hardenbrook reported on the preparations for the opening of Neff Park and the repair of sink holes in the main pier.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Council Member Boettcher stated there should be a finance committee to review significant budget items. He also stated that the agenda should be submitted further in advance of the meeting.

Mayor Scrace reminded everyone about the Mayor's Prayer Breakfast.

On Motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Charles S. Kennedy, III
Acting Secretary