

**MINUTES OF THE GROSSE POINTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,  
17145 MAUMEE AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2018.**

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Boettcher, Council Members Parthum, Stempfle, Tomkowiak, Turnbull, Walsh, Williams

In Attendance: City Manager Dame, Attorney Kennedy, City Clerk Arthurs, Finance Director Kleinow, Public Safety Director Poloni, Public Service Director Randazzo, and City Planner Jackson.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Minutes from the regular Council Meeting held on January 8, 2018, minutes from the special Council Meeting held on February 5, 2018 and minutes from the closed session Council Meeting held on February 5, 2018.
2. Invoices
  - a) City of Grosse Pointe Farms
    - Water Purchased, 10/1/17 – 12/31/17, \$73,598.04
    - Radio Maintenance, 7/1/17 – 12/31/17, \$19,771.18
  - b) Great Lakes Water Authority
    - Sewage Disposal, December 2017, \$75,800
    - Sewage Disposal, January 2018, \$75,800
  - c) Grosse Pointes-Clinton Refuse Disposal
    - Refuse Disposal, November – December 2017, \$9,804.56
  - d) City of Grosse Pointe Park - Dispatch Services, 10/1/17 – 12/31/17, \$27,221.88
  - e) I.T. Right - Annual Service Contract, 3/18/18 – 3/17/19, \$8,700
  - f) GFL - Recycling, January 2018, \$5,864
  - g) Indian Summer Recycling - Compost Disposal, December 2017, \$5,310.72
  - h) Michigan Municipal League - Workers Compensation, Installment 4, \$30,128
  - i) Plante Moran - Annual Audit, 6.30.2017, \$8,250
  - j) Oakland County - Clemis, Oct – Dec 2017, \$5,287.16
3. Approval of the Special Event Request for Stations in the Street to be held on March 30, 2018.

CONSENT AGENDA UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PUBLIC HEARING – CDBG 2018 FUND ALLOCATION

The Mayor declared the opening of the hearing for the CDBG 2018 fund allocation.

City Manager Dame reported as follows:

A public hearing is required to be held by Council to review the proposed 2018 Community Development Block Grant project allocation. An administrative hearing is required and was held on February 2, 2018, at City Hall. Final reprogramming amounts are subject to the approval of the Wayne County CDBG Program and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and may be lower or higher than estimated below and adjusted accordingly. The amounts are estimations and may be adjusted up or down in the categories listed depending on the final allocation. Following is a list of the project requests with estimated costs for CDBG consideration:

1. ADA Pedestrian Ramp Improvements \$34,200

Mayor Boettcher opened the hearing for public comment.

Richard Delisle, 699 Fisher Rd., asked about the types of tactile warning devices placed in ramps and if the type selected was in compliance with ADA. Mr. Delisle expressed concern regarding ice build up on, and durability of, the warning devices.

Hearing no further comments, public comment was closed.

Motion by Council Member Stempfle, second by Council Member Tomkowiak, to approve the CDBG projects and allocations for 2018 which will be submitted to Wayne County for authorization.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Public Safety Director Poloni presented his written 2017 Public Safety Report.

Serious crimes, known as Index crimes, increased by 17 reported crimes in 2017. The actual number of index crimes reported to the Department was 105, compared to 88 for the year 2016. Non-index crimes are the less serious category of offenses. Non-index crimes also saw an increase in 2017. The number of non-index crimes reported to the Department was 173 in 2017, as compared to 131 in 2016. The biggest increase in that category were due to identity theft/fraud reports, which increased by 50%. Total adult arrests for the year were 188, a 33% increase from 2016. There were also 27 juveniles detained or investigated for various offenses, which was a minimal increase from 2016. Our officers responded to 6,264 calls for service in 2017 involving criminal and non-criminal related runs, which reflects a 10% increase.

Chief Poloni discussed the investigative division, calls for service, firefighting operations, fire loss breakdown and S.A.L.E.(Seniors and Law Enforcement) program. Chief Poloni answered various Council questions regarding the report.

The Council thanked Director Poloni and the Public Safety Department for another good year of service to the community.

RECEIVE AND FILE.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

ANNUAL PLANNING REPORT

City Planner John Jackson presented a report outlining planning activities in 2017. The report summarized the activities and actions taken related to planning and development in the City last year. The City Council reviewed and discussed the report including details pertaining to Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification and the Master Plan review process.

5-YEAR FINANCIAL PROJECTION

Finance Director Kleinow presented a chart showing the 5-year financial projection of General Fund revenues, expenses and fund balance. Ms. Kleinow discussed the chart and stated it made assumptions of 2.1% about the projected increases in the Headlee inflation rate for taxable values. Council discussion took place regarding the chart and assumptions.

## COMMUNICATION AND EMAIL PLANS

### Communication and Audit Report

Council Member Tomkowiak reviewed the Communication and Audit Report dated February 2018. Council Member Tomkowiak discussed perception vs. reality as it relates to what is happening within City government and how information is made available. Ms. Tomkowiak described what the efforts should be to improve communication with citizens. It was noted that current communication channels are outdated. The City website and the newsletter publication should be updated with streamlined and concise information with better writing, editing and design. Strategies, recommendations and the conduct of a professional survey of residents to provide information about what is working and what could be improved, were discussed.

Council discussion took place regarding the report including the professional survey and the use of specialized questions. Projected costs for an updated website and professional survey were discussed. It was suggested that email blasts be utilized more frequently as reminders to citizens regarding due dates, meetings and informational updates which could be archived by individuals to reference at a later date. Council thanked Council Member Tomkowiak and City Manager Dame for their work on preparing the report.

### City Council Email Protocol

Council Member Tomkowiak reviewed the City Council Email Protocol report dated February 2018. The report outlines the current system for City Council email communication with residents and several options for alternate approaches for Council email. Council Member Tomkowiak discussed the pros and cons of the current system and offered several email options for Council to review in the report. Council discussed the options in the report.

## 2018-19 BUDGET PRIORITIES

City Manager Dame presented a memorandum seeking direction on priorities Council wishes to see addressed in the budget to the extent they are financially achievable. Mr. Dame discussed his memorandum and options to deal with City operational issues, projected increase in taxable values, and long-term financial considerations. Discussion took place regarding the largest unknown factor affecting the City's financial future which is the future cost of providing retiree health care to the City's existing retirees. It was noted that the cost has been increasing an average of 8.5% annually and is projected to cost the General Fund about \$300,000 next year.

Significant progress was made since last year in providing funding for long needed building replacements and repairs. In August 2017, voters approved a dedicated millage to pay back bonds to finance a new Public Safety building and improvements to the Public Works facilities. There is no dedicated source of funding for replacement of equipment like fire engines, police vehicles or garbage trucks.

The Communications and Planning reports outline several worthwhile initiatives worthy of consideration. These include: rezoning Mack Avenue per the Master Plan, taking a look at whether the Master Plan needs updating, replacing the City website, and conducting a community survey to assess satisfaction with City services. While these are largely one-time expenditures, each of these items are estimated to cost in the range of \$10,000 to \$20,000. It was suggested, and Council discussed, the importance of aligning city staff for enhanced communication, such as having a dedicated staff person with specific skills; such as an assistant city manager, to handle the new website, writing and editing the updated newsletter, and email blasts.

## 2018-19 COUNCIL GOALS

Council discussed the goals and priorities set forth in the memorandum and gave Mr. Dame feedback and direction on the goals. Mr. Dame answered various Council questions. It was noted that the updated Council goals for 2018-19 would be compiled for review at the March City Council meeting.

RESOLUTION – MARIE SCHOOL SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT

City Manager Dame made the following report:

For about two years, the City of Grosse Pointe has been working with a Maire School Safe Route to School Committee to come up with a plan to improve the safety of students and encourage children to walk and bike to school. The Committee included representatives of Maire School, residents from Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Park, the City of Grosse Pointe and the City of Grosse Pointe Park.

The plan consists largely of improved signage and crosswalks on the streets around the block on which Maire School is located. It would add an active speed limit awareness device on both sides of Cadieux on either side of Waterloo, the main school crossing. The plan also includes more bike racks at the school and relocating the sidewalk in front of Maire School on Cadieux away from the curb to promote safety (but still within the public ROW). Another component of the plan is educational, in which the Maire School administration increases the promotion of walking and biking by its students. The intent is to apply for a transportation grant from the State of Michigan to fund this project. The City has to apply for these funds as the Act 51 transportation agency for the area in which the school is located, and the City will act as the fiduciary for the grant and oversee its administration.

Motion by Council Member Walsh, second by Council Member Parthum, that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, the Safe Routes to School program is a federally funded program administered in Michigan by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT);

WHEREAS, the City of Grosse Pointe, in partnership with the Grosse Pointe Public School District, is applying for funds through MDOT from the Safe Routes to School program to construct certain infrastructure projects throughout the City, including crosswalks, traffic safety devices, signage, sidewalks, bike racks and to engage in education to enable and encourage children to safely walk and bike to school;

WHEREAS, MDOT requires a formal commitment from the public agency that will be receiving these funds and will be implementing and maintaining these infrastructure projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the City has authorized Peter Dame, City Manager, to act as agent on behalf of the City to request Safe Routes to School funding, to act as the applicant's agent during the project development, and to sign a project agreement upon receipt of a funding award;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the City attests to the existence of, and commits to, the funds necessary to carry out the project, including engineering for design and construction, permit fees, administration costs, and cost overruns;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the City commits to owning, operating, funding and implementing a maintenance program over the design life of the facilities constructed with Safe Routes to School funding.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eileen Wullschleger, Grosse Pointe Farms, stated she submitted a complaint with the Public Safety Director regarding an accident that occurred in Grosse Pointe Farms in 2013, the hostile police response when requesting information, intimidating behavior of certain officers and that no response was received from Council.

Andre Samson, a new resident, commented on the deportation of illegal immigrants living in this country and asked for consideration that the City of Grosse Pointe should become a sanctuary city.

Bettie Smith, 518 St. Clair, asked what the status was on the relocation of the Public Works facility to the Canyon site and why the approval from the Detroit Zoning Board was revoked.

Richard Delisle, 699 Fisher Rd., expressed concern regarding the August bond issue, how it was addressed and that Council authorized an illegal action by awarding a design build contract.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Public Service Director Randazzo reported on the recent snow event that occurred over several days. Public Safety Director reported that Department Awards will be presented at the March Council meeting.

#### COUNCIL COMMENT

The City Council commented on the following topics:

- Appreciation was expressed to the Public Service Director and all the Public Works Department employees for their long hours and excellent job during the recent snow event.
- Appreciation was expressed to Sheila Tomkowiak for the excellent job in preparing the Communication and Email reports.

On Motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

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Julie E. Arthurs, City Clerk  
City of Grosse Pointe