

MINUTES OF THE GROSSE POINTE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD CLUB, 17150 WATERLOO, GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN ON MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020.

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Mayor Tomkowiak, Council Members Parthum, Stempfle, Thomas, Walsh, Williams

In Attendance: City Manager Dame, City Attorney Kennedy, Finance Director Kleinow, Public Safety Director Poloni, Parks and Recreation Director Hardenbrook and City Planner Trexler.

The Mayor then led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Minutes from the regular Council Meeting held on December 17, 2019.
2. Invoices
 - a) City of Grosse Pointe Park - Dispatch Services, 10/1/19 – 12/31/19, \$28,291.10
 - b) All Traffic Solutions - Traffic Cloud, December 2019, \$7,068
 - c) Red Valve Company, Inc. - Sewer Pump, November 2019, \$10,465
 - d) American Home Fitness - Exercise Equipment, December 2019, \$22,194
 - e) GFL - Recycling, January 2020, \$9,251
 - f) Plante Moran - Annual Audit, Installment #2, \$6,000
3. Approval of DTE utility Easement for the new Public Safety building.
4. Approval of Rocket Fiber Metro Act Permit.
5. Approval of the purchase of security cameras for the new Public Safety building.

CONSENT AGENDA UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PRESENTATION BY GROSSE POINTE LIBRARY

Jessica Keyser, a library employee, and Megan Conrad, City of Grosse Pointe Library representative, presented a power point review of 2019 library activities.

Highlighted items were:

- a) Enhanced outreach to the community.
- b) Launch of Podcasts.
- c) Increased Summer reading program.
- d) Online library card.
- e) Operating with a financial surplus that will be dedicated to capital projects.

There were over 500,000 onsite visits to district libraries in the past year.

Council thanked the presenters for their efforts.

PRESENTATION - THE HELM

Peggy Hayes from the HELM made a presentation on 2019 activities. (The HELM was formerly known as Services for Older Citizens.)

2019 Highlights:

- a) There are more than 14,000 people over 60 years old in the Grosse Pointes.
- b) Meals on Wheels served 22,000 meals in 2019.
- c) 19,000 rides for seniors were provided by HELM volunteers.
- d) HELM provides Bus Services for Seniors.
- e) HELM has over 400 volunteers.
- f) HELM has a \$1,000,000 budget. 77% of revenue comes from annual donations.

HELM requested that they receive City CDBG funds.

Council thanked HELM for their presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNUAL PLANNING REPORT

Sarah Trexler from McKenna and Associates presented the Annual Report of Planning Commission activities.

A detailed written report dated January 10, 2020 was submitted and reviewed.

Highlights:

- a) Mack Avenue Corridor Improvement Study
- b) Redevelopment Ready Communities Certification
- c) Michigan Main Street Program

Council asked questions about the presentation and format. It was suggested that the Report should come from the Planning Commission, not McKenna.

There were further questions about the timing and cost of a Master Plan update.

PARK MOBILE

City Manager Dame made the following report:

In 2013, the City entered into an agreement with Parkmobile. Park Mobile has technology adopted in about a dozen Michigan downtowns, that allow payment electronically via a smart phone application. The Parkmobile app allows people to pay at parking meters and the pay stations in Lot 6 in the City, if they do not have coins. It also allows you to extend your time from the phone app, so you do not have to return to the meter, from your visit site, to avoid a parking ticket. There is a fee for this service applied on top of the regular parking fee.

Per the terms of the original agreement, users in the City pay a fee that combines a convenience fee to Parkmobile for providing this electronic service and also the credit card merchant fee. The City of Grosse Pointe is the only city in Michigan that requires the user to pay the credit card merchant fee. Everywhere else the municipality covers the credit card fee. The resulting disparity is that if you use Parkmobile in Grosse Pointe Park and other cities, the added fee is only 25 cents, but in Grosse Pointe the fee is 40 cents.

Such a high user fee has led parkers in Grosse Pointe to not widely use the friendly Parkmobile application. During the last fiscal year, only \$12,545.75 in parking charges were generated by people using the Parkmobile application in Grosse Pointe. It is recommended that the fee be eliminated to encourage more use of Parkmobile.

Council suggested that the City increase its efforts to publicize this service.

Motion by Council Member Williams, second by Council Member Parthum, to execute amended agreement and eliminate the credit card merchant fee to the end user.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Public Service Director Hardenbrook reported on Broom ball and other ice rink use at Neff Park. Winterfest is on January 25. Discussion of the new Web-Site sending out Park updates.

Manager Dame reported that two streets with back flow preventers had to be pumped out after heavy rain last week. The Street with the new check valve worked well with no flooding.

The public construction projects are moving forward. Flashing is being installed.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Public Safety building looks good. Council is impressed with the new Web-Site. Friday is the deadline for community survey questions.

CLOSED SESSION

Motion by Council Member Walsh, second by Council Member Thomas, to go into closed session to discuss pending litigation.

Roll Call:

Aye: Tomkowiak, Parthum, Stempfle, Thomas, Walsh, Williams

Nay: None

MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY.

The Council met in closed session from 8:00 p.m. to 8:08 p.m.

On Motion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Charles S. Kennedy, III
Acting Secretary of the Meeting

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