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

ROLL CALL
Present: Mayor Tomkowiak, Council Members Juip, Stempfle, Thomas, Walsh, Williams
All Council Members indicated their physical location as: Grosse Pointe, Michigan

In Attendance: City Manager Dame, Attorney Kennedy, City Clerk Arthurs, Public Safety Director Alcorn, Public Service Director Randazzo, Parks and Recreation Director Hardenbrook.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Juip, Stempfle, Thomas, Walsh, Williams, Mayor Tomkowiak
Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIES.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Council Member Williams, second by Council Member Thomas, to approve the Consent Agenda consisting of the following:

1. Minutes from the regular Council Meeting held on March 15, 2021.

2. Invoices
   a) I.T. Right - Annul Technology Contract, 4/1/21 – 3/31/22, $21,100
   b) The Helm Life Center, Inc. - CDBG Senior Services, 7/1/20 – 6/30/21, $14,000
   c) Oakland County - Clemis, Oct – Dec 2020, $5,150.75
   d) Great Lakes Water Authority - Sewage, March 2021, $75,400
   e) Anderson, Eckstein, & Westrick, Inc.
      - Loraine Sewer & Paving – Waterloo to Mack, 2/15/21 – 3/14/21, $6,656
      - 2021 Street Improvement Program, 2/15/21 – 3/14/21, $8,910.00
      - St. Clair Sewer Issue, 1/18/21 – 2/14/21, $18,675
   f) PAATS - CDBG Paratransit Services, 7/1/20 – 6/30/21, $6,000.00
   g) GFL - Recycling, April 2021, $8,250
   h) Toter - Solid Waste Containers, March 2021, $16,542.91

3. Approval and adoption of Resolution setting a public hearing date for the proposed 2021-22 budget for Monday, May 10, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

4. Approval and confirmation of Police Chief’s traffic order changing parking on Lakeland to the east side of the street only.

5. Approval of Resolution recognizing and observing April 30, 2021 as Arbor Day.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Juip, Stempfle, Thomas, Walsh, Williams, Mayor Tomkowiak
Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIES.
PRESENTATION – URBAN FORESTRY COMMISSION

Representatives from the Urban Forestry Commission provided a verbal update on their work evaluating and planting trees in the City and answered various Council questions. It was noted that the City of Grosse Pointe has been named a Sterling Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. This prestigious designation has been awarded to only seven communities in Michigan. An informational brochure relating to the commission was recently updated and will be made available to Council Members and posted on the City website. It was requested that a written report be submitted for the record.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2021 SINGLE LOT ASSESSMENTS

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 2021 City tax bill for collection.

Mayor Tomkowiak opened public comment. Hearing no additional comments, the Mayor closed public comment.

Motion by Council Member Williams, second by Council Member Thomas, to approve the 2021 Single Lot Assessment Roll, as submitted.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Ayes: Juip, Stempfle, Thomas, Walsh, Williams, Mayor Tomkowiak
Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIES.

RESOLUTION – NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK

Public Service Director Randazzo made the following report:

In honor of Public Works professionals across North America, the APWA, (America Public Works Association) is recognizing the week of May 16, 2021 – May 23, 2021 as National Public Works Week. To coincide with this, City staff would like to recognize the hard work displayed by our own Public Works Department and host an open house event at our new Public Works facility off of Maumee on Saturday, May 22, 2021. This will give residents an opportunity to view our state-of-the-art facility and the equipment it houses. The event will take place under current CDC guidelines for COVID-19. Additional details regarding the event will be finalized and publicized in the near future.

Motion by Council Member Williams, second by Council Member Stempfle, that the following resolution be adopted:

WHEREAS, public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and to the public health, high quality of life and well-being of the people of Grosse Pointe; and,

WHEREAS, these infrastructure, facilities and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, engineers, managers and employees at all levels of government and the private sector, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving and protecting our nation’s transportation, water supply, water treatment and solid waste systems, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens; and,
WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders and children in Grosse Pointe to gain knowledge of and to maintain a progressive interest and understanding of the importance of public works in their respective communities; and,

WHEREAS, the year 2021 marks the 61st annual National Public Works Week sponsored by the American Public Works Association,

Therefore, be it, Resolved, that the Mayor and City Council do hereby designate the week May 16 – 22, 2021 as National Public Works Week; all citizens are urged to join with representatives of the American Public Works Association/Canadian Public Works Association and government agencies in activities, events and ceremonies designed to pay tribute to our public works professionals, engineers, managers and employees and to recognize the substantial contributions they make to protecting our national health, safety, and quality of life.

ROLL CALL VOTE
  Ayes: Juip, Stempfle, Thomas, Walsh, Williams, Mayor Tomkowiak
  Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIES.

RESOLUTIONS – SUPPORTING MDOT GRANT APPLICATION FOR FISHER ROAD RESURFACING

City Manager Dame made the following report:

For the third year in a row, the City and Grosse Pointe Farms are proposing to work together on a grant application. One project would be from Charlevoix to Mack on Fisher Road, and a second project would be from Kercheval to Charlevoix on Fisher Road. With grant funding, the hope would be to move these projects ahead on the current six-year projected list for repair. Each City is responsible for one of these sections according to the State, but the practice has been to always split the costs of road work equally between both border cities regardless of the section.

Kercheval to Charlevoix

Motion by Council Member Williams, second by Council Member Thomas, to adopt the following two resolutions:

WHEREAS, the City of Grosse Ponte Farms is applying for $100,000 in funding through MDOT from the Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Program to construct the resurfacing of Fisher Road from Kercheval to Charlevoix.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the City attests to the existence of, and commits to, providing at least $75,000 toward the construction of the project, and equally sharing all costs for design, permit fees, administrative costs, and cost overruns with the City of Grosse Pointe Farms.

Charlevoix to Mack Avenue

WHEREAS, the City of Grosse Pointe is applying for $224,880 in funding through MDOT from the Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Program to construct the resurfacing of Fisher Road from Charlevoix to Mack Avenue.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City Council of the City of Grosse Pointe has authorized Peter J. Dame, City Manager, to act as agent on behalf of the City to request Transportation Economic
Development Fund Category B Program 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, providing at least $168,660 toward the construction of the project, and all costs for design, permit fees, administrative 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 Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B funding.

ROLL CALL VOTE
   Ayes:    Juip, Stempfle, Thomas, Walsh, Williams, Mayor Tomkowiak
   Nays:    None.

MOTION CARRIES.

MACK AVENUE ZONING UPDATES

The process of developing a unified approach to zoning on the entire stretch of Mack Avenue, in coordination with neighboring communities, began in 2019. The objective of the rezoning project would be to make the zoning rules consistent with the language adopted in the City’s current Master Plan. The Mack Avenue Corridor Plan and the zoning project included extensive public participation, and as a result, a draft outline of proposed Zoning Ordinance changes for Mack Avenue is now available. The major impact of these changes will be on six blocks of Mack Avenue that are currently only allowed to have office uses and will now be up zoned to allow the general business uses found on the other blocks of Mack. The general commercial district zoning uses are also proposed to be broadened, along with more flexible parking standards. This update will introduce design standards for Mack Avenue, similar to those found in the Fisher Neighborhood Business District and The Village. Council discussion took place regarding the proposed definitions, flexibility and conditions in the update.

Two public meetings starting in late 2020 were held to review potential zoning changes. The City Planner continues to work with the Mack Avenue Strategy Committee monthly to coordinate City updates with the Cities of Detroit, Grosse Pointe Farms, and Grosse Pointe Park. If the draft is acceptable, it was recommended that the Planning Commission set a public hearing on the proposed ordinance amendments for May 17, 2021.

Motion by Council Member Williams, second by Council Member Walsh, to set a public hearing for the proposed Mack Avenue Zoning changes, as submitted, for Monday, May 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL VOTE
   Ayes:    Juip, Stempfle, Thomas, Walsh, Williams, Mayor Tomkowiak
   Nays:    None.

MOTION CARRIES.

REDEVELOPMENT READY COMMUNITY ACTIONS

1. Council Discussion of Master Plan Update Options

City Planner Connochie reviewed her memorandum regarding Master Plan update options. The update is an action recommended in the 2021 Annual Work Plan as well as the Michigan Economic Development Corporation’s (MEDC) Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) assessment presented to the City on December 14, 2020. A review of the Master Plan was conducted and it was found that many aspects of the current Plan are still valid today. A summary of those findings was provided in the Planner’s report dated April
16, 2021. It was recommended that the City undertake a five-year update to the Plan rather than a comprehensive update. The scope of both approaches was discussed and provided in the report letter for the Council to review and determine a course of action. Ms. Connochie answered various Council questions regarding the update options, costs and estimated timeframes for the process.

Motion by Council Member Stempfle, second by Council Member Williams, to select a 5-year approach to updating the Master Plan, and to incorporate $25,000 in funding in the Capital Projects Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Juip, Stempfle, Thomas, Walsh, Williams, Mayor Tomkowiak
Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIES.

2. Public Participation Policy

The Council reviewed the draft Public Participation policy. It was noted that an adopted Public Participation process is one of the requirements of the Redevelopment Ready Communities process. It was noted and requested that the policy include an explanation that the City Council serves as the Planning Commission as set forth by City Charter. The draft policy provides policies and procedures for public involvement and outreach in the City’s planning and development process and approval processes.

Motion by Council Member Stempfle, second by Council Member Williams, to approve the Public Participation Plan for Planning and Development Projects.

ROLL CALL VOTE
Ayes: Juip, Stempfle, Thomas, Walsh, Williams, Mayor Tomkowiak
Nays: None.

MOTION CARRIES.

PUBLIC COMMENT
John Shook, City of Grosse Pointe Foundation president, stated that the Foundation Board is reviewing City suggestions for projects.

STAFF REPORTS
Public Safety Director Alcorn provided a departmental report.

COUNCIL COMMENT

The City Council commented on the following topics:

- Appreciation was expressed to the Grosse Pointe City Managers who jointly collaborated on the community COVID-19 vaccination event.
- Council is encouraged by work of Main Street Grosse Pointe.
- Council encouraged shopping local.

On Motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

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Julie E. Arthurs, City Clerk
City of Grosse Pointe