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

ROLL CALL
Present: Mayor Tomkowiak, Council Members Juip, Parthum, 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, Finance Director Kleinow, Public Safety Director Poloni, Public Service Director Randazzo, Parks and Recreation Director Hardenbrook and City Planner Connochie.

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 December 14, 2020.

2. Invoices
   a) McKenna - Planning Services, November 2020, $6,166.25
   b) Indian Summer - Compost Disposal, November 2020, $13,808.63
   c) JB Contractors, Inc. Elworthy Park Handicap Ramp Install, Estimate #1, $22,004.33
   d) GFL - Recycling, January 2021, $10,200
   e) Great Lakes Water Authority - Sewer Charges, December 2020, $74,500
   f) Plante Moran - Annual Audit, Final Bill, $5,800

3. Approval to continue to work through Wayne County CDBG program for another three years and approve execution of the agreement with Wayne County.

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

MOTION CARRIES.

EXTENSION OF E-R DISTRICT MORATORIUM

Out of concern for retaining the historic character of the neighborhoods in residential zoning district E-R, City Council approved a moratorium on issuance of demolition permits for primary dwellings and coach houses in that district. The resolution approved by Council also placed a moratorium to the issuance of new dwelling building permits. The moratorium was intended to allow the City to evaluate whether to establish an historic district as a means to preserve the large historic homes found in the E-R district and evaluate whether possible design standards should be adopted.

The City has undertaken a historic district review process and a resource survey has been completed; which will be presented to the newly established Historic District Study Committee. Given the importance of the City’s Master Plan stated goal of maintaining the historic character of the E-R district, an extension of the moratorium is proposed to temporarily preclude any of the historic estate homes from being torn down and from being replaced with new homes that are not in keeping with the traditional character of the district and continue to prevent any new homes from being built.
City Planner Connocche reviewed her report dated January 8, 2021 and answered Council questions regarding the moratorium extension. The Planner stated that pending and potential work will cause irreparable harm to resources located within the proposed historic district. The City Planner recommended the City Council extend the Estate Residential E-R moratorium for an additional six months.

It was noted that the historic resource survey has indicated that there are no historic buildings on Elmsleigh, Stratford or Wellington. Therefore, it is recommended that the moratorium be modified to lift restrictions of demolition and new construction permits on those specific streets. Discussion took place regarding the proposed moratorium extension; new findings of irreparable harm and that internal renovations and repairs are not affected by the moratorium.

Motion by Council Member Williams, second by Council Member Stempfle, to approve the following resolution extending the moratorium for the E-R District except on Elmsleigh, Stratford and Wellington Place:

WHEREAS, on July 20, 2020, the City of Grosse Pointe Council adopted a Resolution establishing a moratorium on demolition permits and building permits in the Estate Residential District (E-R) in connection with the City’s consideration of establishing historic district building regulations; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grosse Pointe City Council found it in the interest of the public welfare, the value of property, and the preservation of the quality of living in Grosse Pointe to adopt the moratorium as a means to preserve the historical integrity of the Estate Residential (E-R) District; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grosse Pointe continues to consider establishing an historic district in accordance with Act 169 of Michigan Public Acts of 1970; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grosse Pointe continues to consider other methods to encourage the preservation of the City’s historic assets within the E-R District including zoning and design standards; and

WHEREAS, pending and potential work will cause irreparable harm to resources located within the proposed historic district; and

WHEREAS, the City Council desires that no primary dwellings or coach houses currently within the E-R District be demolished prior to July 20, 2021, except that the City has determined that the dwellings and coach houses on Elmsleigh Lane, Stratford Place, and Wellington Place do not have historic value and should not be included in the historic district;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE AS FOLLOWS:

1. That the City of Grosse Pointe directs Peter J. Dame and the City Building Official to issue no demolition permits for primary dwellings and coach houses or building permits for new dwellings within the Estate Residential (E-R) district during the period of January 20, 2021 thru July 20, 2021; provided that demolition permits and building permits may be issued with respect to dwellings and coach houses located on Elmsleigh Lane, Stratford Place, and Wellington Place.

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

MOTION CARRIES.
ANNUAL PLANNING COMMISSION REPORT

City Planner Connochie made the following report:

The annual planning report to the City Council, which complies with the necessary statutory requirements, was submitted to Council. In addition, the proposed work plan for the coming year based on the Council’s previously stated strategic planning goals was reviewed. Details about the sign reviews, site plan review, special use requests, variance requests, mechanical relocation requests and ordinance amendments were reviewed. An overview of the Mack Avenue Corridor Improvement Plan, Historic District Study and Master Plan implementation were reviewed and discussed. Steps to create a “One-stop-shop” for Development Review Policies and Procedures and having an easy-to-understand, transparent development process were discussed. It is anticipated that the historic study committee report will be submitted to Council in April, which would be a good time to then determine which steps to take on the Master Plan update.

RECEIVE AND FILE.

MUTUAL AID TRAINING AGREEMENT

Public Safety Director Poloni made the following report:

With the opening of the new City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Department facility, featuring the addition of the Fire Training Tower and VirTra virtual training system, the City anticipates and plans on having increased training with the mutual aid partners. It is requested that Council approve a training agreement that will allow the City to recoup certain costs associated with that training, as well as ensure liability coverage for others when the mutual aid partners are training at City facilities. The mutual aid partners are Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Woods, Grosse Pointe Shores and Harper Woods.

This agreement has been reviewed by the City Attorney, as well as the mutual aid partners’ counsel. If approved by City Council, the agreement will then be sent for signatures from the other cities.

Motion by Council Member Parthum, second by Council Member Williams, to approve the Intergovernmental Mutual Aid Training Agreement, as presented.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

MOTION CARRIES.

RESOLUTION HONORING STEPHEN POLONI

Mayor Tomkowiak read aloud a resolution honoring Public Safety Director Stephen Poloni.

Motion by Council Member Parthum, second by Council Member Walsh, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Stephen Poloni began his tenure as Public Safety Director with the City of Grosse Pointe in 2011 after a 30-year career working for the City of Grosse Pointe Shores, including serving as their Public Safety Director from 2004-2011;

WHEREAS, Steve managed the City of Grosse Pointe Public Safety Department with efficiency and developed overall cost reductions for the department. His knowledge and experience helped create opportunities to enhance cooperation and training with neighboring communities and mutual aid partners. Steve also served a dual role as Public Safety Director for both the City of Grosse Pointe and Grosse Pointe Park; under the Director of Public Safety
Cost Sharing Agreement approved by both cities in 2015. This type of cooperation is a prime example of communities working together to provide the high level of service Grosse Pointe is known for.

WHEREAS, Steve continually displays the integrity and respect one looks for in a Public Safety Director. During his tenure with the City, Steve brought together a great team of officers and command staff, who now have the highest level of training in the Grosse Pointes; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor, City Council and the citizens of the City of Grosse Pointe do hereby extend their most grateful appreciation to Stephen Poloni for his ten years of dedicated public service to assure that the City of Grosse Pointe remains the safe and friendly community it is known to be; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor, City Council and City staff congratulate Steve on his new position and wish him continued success in the years to come.

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

MOTION CARRIES.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Hindelang, 235 Washington, asked about details of the Planner’s report relating to requests for partial demolitions and new building permits while the moratorium has been in effect. He suggested that the lot split at 250 Washington be reconsidered or rescinded.

STAFF REPORTS

City Manager Dame stated that Public Safety Director Poloni is a dedicated and trustworthy public servant and that although the City staff will miss him, Steve is wished the very best in the future.

COUNCIL COMMENT

The City Council commented on the following topics:

- Appreciation and gratitude were expressed to Stephen Poloni for his ten years of service to the City of Grosse Pointe as Public Safety Director.
- The Council encouraged all residents and neighbors to shop and buy local to support merchants in The Village.

On Motion, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

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Julie E. Arthurs, City Clerk
City of Grosse Pointe