

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD REMOTELY ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2021.

The Facilitator's statement was provided.

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

Roll Call*: Mayor Novitke
Council Members: Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy (Southfield, MI)
Absent: None
(*Unless specifically identified otherwise, Council Members attended remotely from Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.)

Also Present: City Administrator Smith
City Attorney Anderson
City Attorney Joppich
City Attorney Raiti
Treasurer/Comptroller Murphy
City Clerk Hathaway
Director of Public Safety Kosanke
Director of Public Services Schulte
City Assessor Cozza
Facilitator/Deputy City Clerk Antolin

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Koester, that all items on tonight's agenda be received, placed on file, and taken in order of appearance.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke
No: None
Absent: None

Motion by Gafa, seconded by Bryant, that the following minutes be approved as submitted:

1. City Council Minutes dated January 24, 2021.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke
No: None
Absent: None

The Director of Public Safety was asked for, and provided, an overview regarding **Agreement: Intergovernmental Public Safety Training for VirTra and Firefighter Training**. Attorney Anderson stated that she and Bob Bucko, the City's insurance agent, have no concerns regarding indemnifying the City.

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Gafa, regarding Agreement: Intergovernmental Public Safety Training for VirTra and Firefighter Training, that the City Council approve the Intergovernmental Public Safety Training Agreement for VirTra and Firefighter Tower Training and authorize the City Administrator to sign the Agreement.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes:	Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke
No:	None
Absent:	None

The City Assessor was asked to provide an overview regarding the **Resolution – Carry Forward of Poverty Exemptions** and **Resolution – Poverty Exemption Policy and Guidelines**.

Motion by Gafa, seconded by McConaghy, regarding Resolution – Carry Forward of Poverty Exemptions, that City Council adopt the resolution authorizing not to do the carry forward poverty exemptions as presented.

Motion by Gafa, seconded by McConaghy, to delete the previous motion and insert, *that City Council deny moving forward with carry forward of poverty exemptions*.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes:	Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke
No:	None
Absent:	None

Motion by Gafa, seconded by McConaghy, regarding **Resolution – Poverty Exemption Policy and Guidelines**, that the City Council adopt the Resolution Adopting Poverty Exemption Policy and Guidelines as presented.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes:	Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke
No:	None
Absent:	None

Motion by Granger, seconded by McConaghy, regarding **claims/accounts**, that the City Council approve payment of Items 7A – 7D as listed on the Council agenda and as identified in the pink sheet in the respective amounts and accounts listed, as follows:

A.	City Engineer – Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick 1. Invoice No. 0129185 01/04/21 - \$600.00; 2. Invoice No. 0129199 01/04/21 - \$4,600.75; 3. Invoice No. 0129336 01/07/21 - \$3,414.50; 4. Invoice No. 0129337 01/07/21 - \$9,501.54; 5. Invoice No. 0129572 01/15/21 - \$455.00; 6. Invoice No. 0129573 01/15/21 - \$83.50; 7. Invoice No. 0129574 01/15/21 - \$2,922.75; 8. Invoice No. 0129575 01/15/21 - \$1,685.50; 9. Invoice No. 0129576 01/15/21 - \$5,901.80; 10. Invoice No. 0129578 01/15/21 - \$10,724.40; 11. Invoice No. 0129579 01/15/21 - \$1,898.00; 12. Invoice No. 0129586 01/18/21 - \$43,274.40.
B.	Legal Services – Kitch Drutchas Wagner Valitutti & Sherbrook 1. Invoice No. 478411 08/31/20 - \$1,890.00; 2. Invoice No. 485693 11/30/20 - \$690.00; 3. Invoice No. 488711 01/15/21 - \$150.00; 4. Invoice No. 488715 01/15/21 - \$150.00.
C.	Labor Attorney 1. Keller Thoma Invoice No. 119714 01/01/21 - \$1,936.25.
D.	Final Bill – City Attorney 1. Charles T. Berschback 01/28/21 - \$4,456.25.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke
No: None
Absent: None

Hearing no objections, the following items were heard under New Business:

- Council Member McConaghy stated he reviewed the Clerk's memo and would like a Compensation & Evaluation Committee meeting scheduled to discuss the memo. Council Member Bryant, the Chair of the Committee, stated he will be setting a meeting.
- Council Member Granger requested, and was provided, an update on the availability of the COVID vaccines. Director Kosanke provided an overview.
- Council Member Granger discussed the difficulty senior residents are facing trying to schedule COVID vaccinations, and that the hospital systems require email to sign up. City administration was asked to find out if assistance is available through the HELM which could possibly provide access to a computer.

- Council Member McConaghy cautioned residents to be careful when signing up to be vaccinated through pharmacies such as Walgreens. There was conflicting information provided in particular to his relative who signed up in Michigan for the vaccination and was assigned to a pharmacy in Ohio. After verifying the vaccine could be received in Ohio while maintaining residency in Michigan, the trip was made to Ohio, and the individual was denied the vaccine.

The following individuals were heard under Public Comment:

- Melinda Billingsley

Motion by Koester, seconded by Gafa, that the City Council recess the regularly scheduled Council meeting at 7:27 p.m. and convene in Closed Executive Session, at which time the City Council may or may not reconvene in regular session to address additional items as necessary, these Closed Sessions being held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act 1976 PA 267 for the purpose of discussing the following items:

1. CONSIDERATION OF A CLOSED SESSION UNDER SECTION 8(H) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT TO CONSIDER A WRITTEN ATTORNEY LETTER EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER SECTION 13(1)(G) OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.
2. CONSIDERATION OF A CLOSED SESSION UNDER SECTION 8(E) OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT TO CONSULT WITH LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING TRIAL OR SETTLEMENT STRATEGY IN CONNECTION WITH PENDING LITIGATION IN WAYNE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 19-008405-NZ, MICHAEL FOX V CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS, ET AL, AS AN OPEN MEETING WOULD HAVE A DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE POSITION OF THE CITY.

Motion carried by the following roll call vote:

Gafa	Yes
Granger	Yes
Koester	Yes
McConaghy	Yes
Novitke	Yes
Bryant	Yes

The regular City Council Meeting reconvened at 8:36 p.m.

Motion by Gafa, seconded by Bryant, regarding **Michael Fox v City of Grosse Pointe Woods, et al, Wayne County Circuit Court Case No. 19-0008405-NZ**, that the City Council approve the settlement of this case on the terms discussed with legal counsel in closed session, and to authorize legal counsel and the Mayor to execute the settlement agreement.

Motion by Gafa, seconded by Bryant, to amend the previous motion by deleting, *Mayor*, and inserting, *City Administrator*.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke
No: None
Absent: None

Motion by Gafa, seconded by Koester, regarding **Provencal Annexation**, that the City Council authorize the City Administrator to proceed with the recommendation made in the written attorney letter as discussed in closed session.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke
No: None
Absent: None

Motion by Bryant, seconded by McConaghy, to adjourn tonight's meeting at 8:39 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk

Robert E. Novitke
Mayor