

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2011, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 20025 MACK AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

PRESENT: Mayor Novitke
Council Members Bryant, Granger, Howle, Ketels, McConaghy, Sucher

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: Treasurer/Comptroller Irby
City Attorney Chip Berschback
City Clerk Hathaway

(Secretary's Note: The meeting was moved from the Conference Room to the Council Chambers due to the number of people in attendance.)

Mayor Novitke called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

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

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Granger, Howle, Ketels, McConaghy, Novitke, Sucher

No: None

Absent: None

Discussion ensued regarding amending the City's **sign ordinance**. The Mayor asked Council to consider amending the Sign ordinance to allow for grandfathering the fifty-one businesses as identified in the Building Department's list from October 2010, and suggested that if the Committee decides to make a recommendation, that it be placed on the Council agenda on February 28, 2011, in an effort to regulate neon, not ban it, and to consider fairness to new businesses, and enforceability. The Mayor also stated that something needs to be done timely, a temporary solution is needed, and there is merit to grandfathering the businesses from the 2010 and 2002 lists to give the Committee-of-the-Whole an opportunity to review the Sign Ordinance.

The Committee discussed incorporating the list of twenty-nine businesses from October 24, 2002, checking to be sure other businesses that removed their signs are not excluded if they were granted permission, reinstating the original 2002 grandfathering clause, violation concerns, regulating size, further addressing the ordinance at a future Committee-of-the-Whole working with business owners and property owners, updating the Sign Committee's original 2002 study, regulating "Open" signs, and inquired about surrounding community sign ordinances.

The City Attorney explained the timeline, that if the ordinance amendment is published on February 24, 2011, and City Council takes action on February 28, 2010, the effective

date would be March 10, 2011. He further stated that the current ordinance violations have not, and will not, be enforced through March 10, 2010.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Bryant, regarding **Amendment to Sign Ordinance**, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend to the City Council to grandfather those businesses on the list from October 24, 2002, and October 26, 2010, with the Building Department, further that they would be removed on or before the first of the following to occur: any change in the occupancy of the premises where the sign exists; any subsequent alteration or replacement of any sign for any reason; or upon the filing of an application with the Planning Commission or Building Official for signage changes on the premises.

Substitute motion by Sucher, seconded by Howle, regarding Amendment to Sign Ordinance, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend to City Council to repeal the ban, or prohibition, on neon from the list of prohibited signs, Section 32-10(b)(11).

Substitute motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Howle, Ketels, McConaghy, Sucher
No: Granger, Novitke
Absent: None

Motion by Howle, seconded by Bryant, regarding the Proposed Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 32, Signs. Section 32-10(b)(11) of the City Code of the City of Grosse Pointe Woods of 2007, that such Ordinance be published in the Grosse Pointe News and placed on the agenda of the Council meeting scheduled for February 28, 2011, for adoption.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Granger, Howle, Ketels, McConaghy, Novitke, Sucher
No: None
Absent: None

Motion by Howle, seconded by Bryant, that tonight's Committee-of-the-Whole Minutes be immediately certified.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Granger, Howle, Ketels, McConaghy, Novitke, Sucher
No: None
Absent: None

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Granger, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 8:39 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk