

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 21, 2008, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 20025 MACK AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

PRESENT: Mayor Novitke
Council Members Bryant, Dickinson, Granger, Howle, Sucher
ABSENT: Waldmeir

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Wollenweber
City Attorney Chip Berschback
Comptroller/Treasurer Irby
Recording Clerk Hathaway
Building Inspector Tutag

Also in attendance at tonight's meeting were:

Mark Manquin, Cornerstone
Mike Fuller, Planning Commission

Mayor Novitke called the meeting to order at 8:27 p.m.

The City Administrator provided an overview regarding the City's current **healthcare**. Additionally, he outlined a new program, Medicare Advantage. Humana is willing to provide it to the Grosse Pointes, which would result in saving approximately \$71,000.00 per year for Grosse Pointe Woods' share. Mark Manquin added Medicare Advantage provides improved coverage in a number of areas. The City Administrator stated the majority of the Grosse Pointes will be going to this program. The Chair stated he is opposed to taking something away from current retirees, without making them whole somehow, possibly through a reimbursement program.

Mark Manquin stated Medicare is the primary insurer under the current plan. Medicare Advantage provides preventive coverage, which is not covered today. Office visits, general and specialist visits are \$10 office co-pays. Those with more office visits under the current program are worse off. Additionally, optical and dental are included. Currently there are 72 members, including spouses, who would be immediately affected. Administration is to determine the number of pre-retired employees who are eligible.

One concern that was raised was regarding whether this program affects any of the union contracts. The City Administrator confirmed it does not affect the contracts.

There was a general consensus of the Committee-of-the-Whole to:

- Implement the Medicare Advantage plan;
- Take advantage of saving \$71,000.00;
- Not cheapen the plan;
- Analyze a cost-effective reimbursement program.

The City Administrator briefly discussed BC/BS's VSP Program for optical, saving the City \$4,000.00 per year.

This item to be readdressed in a couple of weeks at which time administration is to provide options for a reimbursement program.

The Chair declared a recess at 9:14 p.m., and reconvened at 9:25 p.m.

The next item addressed was regarding an **ordinance to amend Section 32, Signs**. The Chair provided a brief overview on the history of neon signs. The City Attorney provided additional information and current violations of the existing ordinance. 44 businesses have grandfathered signs, 9 businesses have illegal signs. The Building Inspector was directed to provide an updated list of businesses with neon signs. The proposed ordinance provides that illegal signs be removed, and that the 44 grandfathered businesses have five years to remove them.

The Building Inspector stated that in recent conversations with businesses, they all wish that every business be treated the same. Neon has never been an approved sign.

The Chair recapped the consensus of the Committee-of-the-Whole, that being to adopt the ordinance prohibiting neon, only allow those that were grandfathered from 2002 (44 signs) with a requirement that the sign be removed within a given period of time.

Motion by Sucher, seconded by Dickinson, regarding an ordinance to amend Section 32, Signs, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend that City Council adopt the recommendation of the Planning Commission at their meeting on April 22, 2008, and to include changing the grandfathering length to two years from five years, and referring back to the 2002 ordinance.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Dickinson, Granger, Novitke, Sucher
No: Bryant, Howle
Absent: Waldmeir

There was committee consensus that this ordinance be presented to the City Council for consideration on August 18, 2008.

Motion by Howle, seconded by Dickinson, that this item be removed from the Committee-of-the-Whole agenda.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Dickinson, Granger, Howle, Novitke, Sucher
No: None
Absent: Waldmeir

Motion by Howle, seconded by Dickinson, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 10:19 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk