

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS, HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2006, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 20025 MACK PLAZA, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

PRESENT: Mayor Novitke
Council Members Dickinson, Granger, Howle, Reynolds, Spicher,
Waldmeir

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Wollenweber
City Attorney Charles Berschback
Director of Public Safety Makowski
City Comptroller Maison
Recording Clerk St. Peter

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Novitke at 7:31 p.m.

The Chair opened discussion regarding **Lakeshore Energy Gas**. The Committee-of-the-Whole is considering whether the City of Grosse Pointe Woods should switch from DTE and Consumers Power to Lakeshore Energy Gas to provide its natural gas needs.

Steve Long, representing Lakeshore Energy Gas, described Lakeshore Energy Gas as a privately held company in Clinton Township, Michigan. Mr. Long discussed Lakeshore's ability to give the City a contract for the purchase of its natural gas with a fixed rate of \$.88/ccf until March 2007. The utility companies charge a variable rate based on market price.

Once a contract is signed with Lakeshore, the City is obligated for the length of the contract. Either Lakeshore or the City must give 30 days notice if it does not want to renew the contract after it expires in March 2007. The City can then opt back in immediately with DTE (MichCon) and Consumers, or seek an alternate private supplier.

Mr. Long also discussed that in choosing Lakeshore, DTE and Consumers Power will still provide distribution and service to the City, as Lakeshore only provides the commodity (natural gas).

Consumers Power Representative Rudy Shaheen also spoke to the Committee-of-the-Whole. Mr. Shaheen noted that no profit is made from the sale of natural gas, but profits are made on distribution. Mr. Shaheen also noted that they are anticipating gas prices this winter to be the same or lower than last year, and that he believe that the rate for gas would be less than the October 2006 rate of .839/ccf. Mr. Shaheen also stated that there is a regulated ceiling price of \$.947/ccf and it cannot go above that price.

DTE Representatives Dave Fontanive and Joseph Cazeno spoke next. They explained that the price charged to the City is based on a tariff rate, which is regulated by MPSC. Mr. Cazeno indicated that DTE donates funds to the City as a reason why the City should remain a customer.

The Chair declared a recess at 8:32 p.m. and reconvened at 8:53 p.m.

The Committee-of-the-Whole requested the following information: Spreadsheet with current rates, projected rate and rate paid over the last 12 months, in the same unit of measure (ccf) from DTE, Consumers Power and Lakeshore, as well as other alternate private suppliers, including any fixed costs. Administration is also directed to provide information on what the City's energy bills and rates have been since January 2003; which neighboring communities are using alternate sources of natural gas; which alternate sources there are available.

The Chair also requested that representatives from DTE, Consumers Power and Lakeshore be present at the next Committee-of-the-Whole meeting of October 30, 2006.

The next agenda item discussed was **Noise Ordinance**. City officials have been asked to consider an ordinance that would make it a civil infraction for loud noise being expelled from motor vehicles. Public Safety Director Makowski stated that the current ordinances cover any noise violations or complaints that would be brought to Public Safety's attention. The City Attorney agreed that there was no need for a change to the ordinance.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Waldmeir, regarding Noise Ordinance, that this item be removed from the Committee-of-the-Whole agenda.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Dickinson, Granger, Howle, Novitke, Reynolds, Spicher, Waldmeir
No: None
Absent: None

The next agenda item discussed was **12 Hour Work Shifts**. City Administrator Wollenweber indicated that the 12-hour work shifts were implemented on a trial basis for public safety officers as part of their last contract. The work shifts have been working fine and there has been limited turnover. Public Safety Director Makowski stated that the 12-hour work shifts have been well received by the department, and command officers are also interested in similar shifts.

Motion by Spicher, seconded by Reynolds, regarding 12 Hour Work Shifts, that this item be removed from the Committee-of-the-Whole agenda.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Dickinson, Granger, Howle, Novitke, Reynolds, Spicher, Waldmeir
No: None
Absent: None

The next agenda item discussed was **Cook School**. Council Member Granger presented slides of the schoolhouse superimposed on aerial images of the three possible site locations. Site number two was recommended for approval by the Committee-of-the-Whole at their meeting of October 2, 2006. The costs for that site are \$19,318.30 plus any costs to run a gas line to the schoolhouse. Residents from Kenmore and members of the Historical Commission expressed their desire to locate the schoolhouse at site number one for the following reasons: close proximity to residents' homes, no visibility from Mack Avenue, and close proximity to the baseball diamond and possibility of damage to the schoolhouse and visitors' cars by baseballs.

Stuart Grigg, President of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, spoke on behalf of acquiring the schoolhouse and also volunteered the groups' efforts to help with fundraising, programs, etc.

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Motion by Howle, seconded by Reynolds, regarding Cook School, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend to the City Council that the Cook School be placed at site number one, without a parking lot.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, Motion FAILED by the following vote:

Yes: Spicher

No: Waldmeir

No: Dickinson

No: Granger

Yes: Howle

No: Novitke

Yes: Reynolds

Motion by Waldmeir, seconded Spicher, regarding Cook School, that this item be removed from the Committee-of-the-Whole agenda.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Dickinson, Granger, Howle, Novitke, Reynolds, Spicher, Waldmeir

No: None

Absent: None

Upon proper motion, meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.