

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS/COURT ROOM OF THE ROBERT E. NOVITKE MUNICIPAL CENTER, 20025 MACK AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

PRESENT: Mayor Bryant
Council Members Gafa, Granger, Koester, Vaughn
ABSENT: Brown, McConaghy

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Smith
Treasurer/Comptroller Murphy
City Attorney Anderson
City Clerk Hathaway
Director of Public Services Schulte
City Engineer Lockwood

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Motion by Vaughn, seconded by Granger, that Council Members Brown and McConaghy be excused from tonight's meeting, as each are attending to a personal matter.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, Vaughn
No: None
Absent: Brown, McConaghy

Motion by Granger, 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, Vaughn
No: None
Absent: Brown, McConaghy

The purpose of tonight's meeting was to continue discussing the 2021 Rain Event and flood action items as outlined in the City Administrator's memo dated July 22, 2021. The Mayor turned the meeting over to the City Engineer to commence discussions. He briefly recapped items previously discussed at the Town Hall Meeting on July 15, 2021, including prior actions taken by the City sewer construction over the years. He then provided an overview regarding new contracts being presented to City Council at their meeting on August 2, 2021, that were approved in the FY 2021/22 budget, previously sent out for bid, and included a \$50,000.00 contingency on each project. He stated Cured-In-Place-Pipe and Televising contractors are expected to begin work in

mid-August. Questions and answers ensued. The City Engineer stated that the City's sewer system was rated in accordance with the Pipe Assessment Certification Program (PACP). He also provided information regarding the open cut and pipe burst programs.

The Director of Public Services stated that residents could call the Department of Public Works to have their sewers televised for no cost. He confirmed communications would be sent out to the community regarding the free service for those who have incurred a flooded basement.

The City Engineer provided an overview of the region's sewer system including the pump stations and explained how they operate. He stated if the Fox Creek interceptor becomes too taxed on a wet weather event, Southeast Macomb Sanitary District (SEMSD) will close the diversion valve at Allard Road which will divert the flow from Harper Woods to the Torrey Road Pump station. The Torrey Road Pump station lifts the flow and sends it into the Milk River interceptor which flows by gravity into (SEMSD) Milk River Retention Basin and Pump Station. On the June 25th rain event, the valve was closed and flow was diverted to Torrey Road Pump station and then to Milk River Retention Basin and Pump Station. (SEMSD) then released into the Milk River to Lake St. Clair. The Milk River Retention Basin and Pump Station is a permitted facilities for control sewer overflow (CSO). In addition, he stated both facilities systems ran without any issues.

He recommended addressing the issue from a regional perspective rather than exclusively Grosse Pointe Woods including others such as the City of Harper Woods and Southeastern Macomb Sanitary District (SEMSD). He stated that Grosse Pointe Woods' system, as opposed to the other Grosse Pointes, has a combined system allowing for the overflow to be treated at the Milk River; it could be pumped there indefinitely if needed. If the Fox interceptor had been flowing correctly it may have been possible to divert some of Harper Woods flow.

To address the flooding issue, the City Engineer has been collecting data to help determine possible why certain areas flooded. It will help to have a lot more data from different locations from across the City. He will need level sensors and meter data from the other interceptor locations to conduct additional testing, which will require the cooperation of the weather to provide additional rain in order to collect additional data. He will be providing a report based on current, available data on hand to Administration for review. He stated during a rain event that footing drains contribute measurable amounts of flow into the sewers and downspouts must be disconnected. A brief discussion ensued regarding the redevelopment of Eastland Mall as well as addressing storm water improvements. The City Engineer will be looking at various alternatives.

Discussion then commenced regarding backflow preventers. The Director of Public Services had received a price of \$3,000.00 to install a backflow preventer in the lawn. He stated they require maintenance and cleaning by removing debris to ensure a proper seal. He also suggested a sump pump could be installed to prevent water from coming through the floor. The City Engineer stated that if there is an existing lead (line between the house and City sewer line) problem, a backflow preventer may not help.

Nobody wished to be heard under New Business.

The following individuals were heard under Public Comment:

- Lori Hauler
- Resident at 19886 Ida Lane
- Melinda Billingsley

Motion by Gafa, seconded by Granger, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 8:36 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk

Arthur W. Bryant
Mayor