

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF
GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD REMOTELY (ZOOM) ON MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021.

PRESENT*: Mayor Pro-Tem Bryant
Council Members Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy (Southfield,
MI)

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Smith
City Attorney Anderson
Treasurer/Comptroller Murphy
City Clerk Hathaway
Deputy City Clerk/Facilitator Antolin

(*Unless specifically identified otherwise, Council Members attended from Grosse Pointe Woods, MI.)

Also in attendance was City Engineer Scott Lockwood from Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick.

The Facilitator's Statement was read.

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

Motion by Granger, seconded by McConaghy, 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

No: None

Absent: None

The first item on tonight's agenda was regarding **sponsorship: Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce 2021 Community Public Art Project – Heartbeat of Grosse Pointe**. The Chair provided an overview and asked the Committee whether the City would like to participate in the foundation's fundraiser, and if yes, at what level of sponsorship. Following a brief discussion, there was a consensus to participate at the \$3,000.00 level.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Gafa, regarding sponsorship: Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce 2021 Community Public Art Project – Heartbeat of Grosse Pointe, that the City Council support the Grosse Pointe Chamber Foundation and participate in the Heartbeat project as a \$3,000.00 sponsor.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy

No: None

Absent: None

The next item discussed was regarding **2021-23 Engineering Hourly Rates**. The Chair stated the city engineers have not had an increase in rates for sixteen years. They are asking for 5% this year, and an incremental increase at 2.8% for the next two years. The Chair stated according to the Treasurer/Comptroller the cost for city engineering with Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick in 2020 totaled \$860,000.00. The increased cost for 2021 would amount to approximately \$43,000.00.

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Granger, regarding 2021-23 Engineering Rates – Anderson, Eckstein & Westrick, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend City Council approve the rate increases as presented, 5% increase for FY 2021/22; and 2.8% increase for Fiscal Years 2022/23 and 2023/24.

The Treasurer/Comptroller was asked to identify the engineering rate versus the amount of business over the last five years.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Discussion then ensued regarding **Vacancy – Office of the Mayor and Council**. The Chair provided an overview regarding the Inside Grosse Pointe Magazine, which covers and includes information on the Grosse Pointe area City Councils, provides a statement from each of the Mayors, includes information on the parks and amenities in each of the cities, as well as Board of Education information. He believes it is important to meet the publication deadline and provide complete up to date information, which has a tentative deadline of April 5, 2021. He suggested moving forward at this time to meet the deadline and to identify the Mayor and a full City Council. He requested the Committee provide proposals for Council to vote on including appointment of the Mayor and appointment of a Mayor Pro-Tem.

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Granger, regarding **Vacancy and Appointment – Mayor**, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend to City Council declaring a vacancy in the Office of the Mayor and to appoint Arthur W. Bryant to fill the vacancy until the next regular election on November 2, 2021.

The question was raised whether anyone else wished to be considered for the appointment of Mayor. Nobody voiced an interest.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Gafa, regarding **Appointment of Mayor Pro-Tem**, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend to City Council the nomination of Vicki

Granger to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem until the first Council meeting following the November 2, 2021, election.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The Chair stated that a Special City Council Meeting needs to be scheduled for Monday, March 29, 2021, to address the previous motions. Immediately following, a Committee-of-the-Whole will be scheduled to begin the process of discussing candidates.

The Chair provided an overview regarding the previous process followed by the Council to fill the vacancy created upon the resignation of Gabriella Boddy and filled by Kevin Ketels. Member Gafa inquired whether adding an additional seat to fill an additional vacancy is appropriate at this time. The City Attorney confirmed no specific process is in place and this is okay. As the deadline for candidates to apply expires March 25, 2021, at 4 p.m., the City Clerk will be distributing the applicant's information in Friday's City Council packets.

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Koester, that a Special City Council Meeting be scheduled for Monday, March 29, 2021, at 7 p.m. for the purpose of ratifying the votes from this evening for the appointments of Mayor and Mayor Pro-Tem.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Motion by Granger, seconded by Gafa, regarding **consideration of items to be removed from the Committee-of-the-Whole**, that the following items be removed from the Committee-of-the-Whole:

- A. Winterfest
- B. City Attorney Charles Berschback – Retirement
- C. Generator Ordinance
- D. Employee Handbook
- E. Medstar Update
- F. FOIA Procedures
- G. Honeywell Energy Savings
- H. Proposed Ghesquiere Improvements (Concession Stand)
- I. Road Projects: Beaufait and Oxford -Mack to West City Limit
- J. Public Safety Dispatch/Lockup Consolidation
- K. Fire Truck
- L. Elevator

- M. Residential Parking Permits – Overnight only
- N. Credit Card Policy

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

- The City Administrator provided an update regarding the **Milk River Drainage District** and return of \$150,000.00 held in escrow. He explained the work is complete and advised that following an inspection performed by the Director of Public Services, the funds held in escrow would be released and he would be signing the appropriate agreement.

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Gafa, regarding return of Milk River Drainage District escrow, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend City Council approve return of the escrow bond for the Milk River Drainage District project and authorize the City Administrator to sign the Agreement.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

- The City Administrator provided an overview regarding a new procedure with Tokio Marine when handling liability claims under Part C of the policy covering medical claims. He requested to be the City's authorized representative to approve Tokio Marine's handling claims under Part C-Medical Reimbursements, which caps at \$10,000.00 on each injury case. This will permit Tokio Marine to handle medical cost reimbursements and to obtain necessary signed releases. Formal approval is required with each claim, and rather than return to Council for each claim, he is requesting authorization to approve each case as it arises.

Motion by Gafa, seconded by McConaghy, regarding Tokio Marine-Part C Authorization, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend City Council authorize the City Administrator to approve claims to be applied under Part C-Medical Reimbursement of Costs as required by the City's liability insurance provider, Tokio Marine.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

- Scott Lockwood, City Engineer, thanked Council for the consideration of the rate increases recommended for approval by Council at tonight's meeting.

- The Chair mentioned the City Engineer rate increase will be effective July 2021.

Nobody wished to be heard under Public Comment.

Motion by Gafa, seconded by Koester, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 7:38 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk

Arthur W. Bryant
Mayor Pro-Tem