

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2020, IN THE COUNCIL-COURT ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 20025 MACK AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

PRESENT: Mayor Novitke  
Council Members Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, McMullen

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Smith  
Treasurer/Comptroller Behrens  
City Attorney Berschback  
Building Official Tutag  
Deputy City Clerk Antolin  
Director of Public Services Schulte

Also in attendance were Commissioners Ketels, Vaughn, and, Vitale of the Planning Commission.

Mayor Novitke called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Granger, 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, McMullen, Novitke

No: None

Absent: None

The first item was regarding **Proposed Ordinance Amendment – Colonial Theme**. Commissioner Vaughn of the Planning Commission provided an overview of the importance of having a theme on Mack Avenue, however, there is no reason to have a theme if it's not enforced. Some concerns for maintaining a Colonial theme are turning away potential new businesses. The Building Official stated that businesses inquiring about opening in Grosse Pointe Woods may have deterred them because of the required Colonial theme, especially national retail companies that already have a standardized theme. Changing the required Colonial theme to a preferred design allows flexibility for the reviewing body. The City Attorney has no objections to the review and possible changes to the ordinance. There was a consensus of the Council to direct the City Attorney to collaborate with the Planning Commission regarding proposed modifications to the ordinance to encourage a Colonial theme but providing the Planning Commission with suitable flexibility, for review and consideration by the Council.

The next item was the **Dispatch/Lock-Up Agreement**. The City Administrator provided an update of the Director of Public Safety's memo dated February 3, 2020. Transfer of liability and annual fees were addressed. The City Administrator and the City Attorney responded to questions from the Council regarding the proposed contract.

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Granger, regarding **Dispatch/Lock-Up Agreement**, that the City Council recommends approval of the agreement and to authorize the City Administrator to sign the said contract.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The next item was regarding **DTE Street Light Project Update**. The Director of Public Services provided an overview of his memo dated February 5, 2020. He stated that there will be a significant cost savings after the completion of the projects including the streetlights, City Hall parking lot lights, and Lake Front Park lights.

All street light projects are complete except for the City Hall parking lot and Lake Front Park, at a cost of \$594,000.00. The project's cost will break even in 5.2 years. This item to be placed on the next Council Meeting agenda.

The next item was **Administrative Clerk II – Finance Department**. The Treasurer/Comptroller provided an overview of her memo dated February 6, 2020, with references to the Committee-of-the-Whole excerpt dated October 14, 2019. Discussion ensued. There was a consensus of the Committee to move forward with this item and to place on the next Council Meeting agenda.

The next item discussed was regarding **Water Billing Payment Agreement Policy**. The Treasurer/Comptroller provided an overview of her memo dated February 5, 2020. She stated that there are utility customers that have entered into payment agreements that have been lingering as far back as 2015. The Treasurer/Comptroller has proposed a Payment Agreement Policy that will shortened the length of the agreements and balances will be paid off in a timely manner. This item is to be placed on the next Council Meeting agenda.

The next item was **Medstar Update**. Currently, Medstar provides ambulance service to residents and the City has paid for the balance of any portion not covered by the resident's insurance. Grosse Pointe Woods pays a significant amount more than the other Grosse Pointe communities and Grosse Pointe Woods is not obligated to pay Medstar for residents' balances not covered by insurance. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not to continue to pay Medstar for residents' balances not covered by insurance. There was a consensus of the Committee to discontinue paying for the residents' balances to Medstar. The Treasurer/Comptroller will notify Medstar.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Bryant, that the following **items be remove from the Committee-of-the-Whole**:

- A. FY 06/30/19 Audit
- B. GFL
- C. Budget Amendment: Grosse Gratiot Drain District (Milk River)
- D. Legacy Oaks Update

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Gafa, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, McMullen, Novitke

No: None

Absent: None

The Chair recessed at 8:55 p.m. and reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

Under New Business, no one wished to be heard.

Under Public Comment, the following individual was heard:

- Mary Rogers, The Avenue in the Woods

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Koester, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 9:12 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul P. Antolin  
Deputy City Clerk

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Robert E. Novitke  
Mayor