

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2017, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 20025 MACK AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

PRESENT: Mayor Novitke  
Council Members Bryant, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Shetler  
ABSENT: Ketels

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Smith  
City Attorney Chip Berschback  
Treasurer/Comptroller Behrens  
Deputy City Clerk Gerhart

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

Motion by Granger, seconded by Bryant, that all items on tonight's agenda be received, placed on file, taken in order of appearance.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke, Shetler  
No: None  
Absent: Ketels

The first item discussed at tonight's meeting was regarding **Employee Handbook Supplement – Non-Union Employees**. The Mayor stated that this item covers all non-union employees, except for appointed officials, which would be addressed at tonight's Council meeting. The agreement provides all Non-Union Employees with:

1. Effective July 1, 2017 all full-time employees will receive a service loyalty payment of \$500.00 and permanent part-time office/clerical staff may receive up to \$250.00, less appropriate payroll taxes.
2. There will be an across the board wage increase for full time employees and permanent part-time employees as follows:
  - Effective July 1, 2017 (2%) two percent
3. Continue five (5) unpaid furlough days through fiscal year 2017-2018.

*Furlough Days fiscal year 2017-2018:*

<i>July 3</i>	<i>Day before 4<sup>th</sup> of July;</i>
<i>September</i>	<i>Friday before Labor Day;</i>
<i>January</i>	<i>Martin Luther King;</i>
<i>April</i>	<i>Easter Monday;</i>
<i>May</i>	<i>Friday before Memorial Day.</i>

The Treasurer/Comptroller provided an update regarding **The Rivers** and the delinquent tax process in Wayne County. Using the Delinquent Tax Revolving Fund, Wayne County reimburses jurisdictions for delinquent taxes not collected in the prior

year and then collects the delinquent property taxes directly from the property owners. For the year 2016, the City of Grosse Pointe Woods failed to collect a total of \$817,201.65 in property taxes, of which \$478,391.49 is due from the Rivers. After a review of the property, the Wayne County Treasurer found no payments have been received by their office since the initial 2014 tax year transfer on March 1, 2015. As a result, tax years 2014 and 2015 are now in “forfeited” status and viewed as potentially uncollectable. For that reason the property is excluded from the Delinquent Tax Revolving Funding program. As a result of the nonpayment of 2014 taxes, the tax advance paid by Wayne County will be recovered from the City and other taxing units. The Wayne County Treasurer has the option of also recovering the 2015 taxes from the City this year but has indicated they will not be taking that action. The exclusion and recovery of unpaid taxes on this property has greatly reduced the Delinquent Tax Revolving Funding that the City of Grosse Pointe Woods will be receiving in 2017. As a result, the net distribution to the City will be \$75,750.56, instead of the potential \$817,201.65. Wayne County has started foreclosure be requiring payment from the Rivers for the 2014 and 2015 property taxes. The City will receive monthly payments as payments are made to the Wayne County Treasurer. Discussion ensued regarding ensuring that the other City obligations, including water payments and Certificates of Occupancy, are in order. The City Administrator stated that the property has been fully compliant with all other City regulations.

Under new business the following items were heard:

- The Great Lakes Water Authority informed the City that they would be decreasing sewer rates. Treasurer/Comptroller Behrens has calculated the decrease into the projections, and the cost saving to the average homeowner would amount to less than \$.32 per two-month billing cycle. It was the consensus of the Committee to leave the sewer rates the same and direct any excess revenue be applied toward capital improvement in the sewer system.
- The Treasurer/Comptroller informed the Committee that the Finance Department has hired a new Water Billing Manager to fill the pending retirement in the department.
- The FICA refunds for 2013, 2014, and 2015 have been approved and checks should be issued in the next couple of weeks.
- The Mayor stated the Grosse Pointe Woods Lifestyle video is currently not displaying properly on the City's website. He has spoken to the Information Technology Manager who is recommending that the City create a YouTube account that is configured to prevent comments. The City Administrator was directed to work with the Information Technology Manager to create the account.
- Council Member Granger has spoken to the Athletic Director at De La Salle who has offered to purchase a new three-meter diving board for Lake Front Park in return for usage of diving well during morning lap swim. The City Administrator was directed to look into the matter and report at a future Committee-of-the-Whole.
- Discussion was held regarding residential parking permits only being valid during the overnight hours. The issue is to be placed on a future Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Koester, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 7:51 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

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Stephen Gerhart  
Deputy City Clerk

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Robert E. Novitke  
Mayor