

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 25, 2016, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 20025 MACK AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

PRESENT: Mayor Novitke
Council Members Bryant, Ketels, Koester (arrived 8:02 p.m.),
McConaghy, Shetler
ABSENT: Granger

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Smith
Treasurer/Comptroller Irby
City Attorney Chip Berschback
City Clerk Hathaway
Building Official Tutag (8:21 p.m.)

Mayor Novitke called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by Ketels, seconded by Bryant, that Council Members Granger and Koester be excused from tonight's meeting.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Shetler, 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, Ketels, McConaghy, Novitke, Shetler
No: None
Absent: Granger, Koester

Discussion then ensued regarding **staffing**. The City Administrator stated that currently the Parks and Recreation Supervisor is responsible for 110 lifeguards and their training, running the Community Center, is on-call and/or works weekends and evenings, prepares payroll, hires and process staff in spring time, maintains the pool, does purchasing for and runs events. The City Administrator stated a part-time, permanent person is needed to assist the Recreation Supervisor with these duties. Part-time hours will not exceed 1,350 hours per year, wages range from \$15-18 or \$20,250-\$24,300 annually. Funds are available in the DPW budget from the vacant City Forester position. Discussion ensued regarding the Director of Public Services serving as the City Forester. The City Administrator and Treasurer/Comptroller are recommending approval of one part-time position for Parks and Recreation. Hearing no objections, Administration is to move forward with hiring the one part-time assistant.

The City Administrator stated Grosse Pointe Park's Recreation Director retired, and Ms. Byron has applied for the position. The starting pay is \$12,000.00 more per year than Grosse Pointe Woods. Following a brief discussion, no action was taken.

Next, the City Administrator discussed a recent incident at the water reservoir whereby retired Director of Public Services Ahee was called in to resolve an emergency. Administration recommended the City enter into a Consulting Agreement with Joe Ahee at \$50.00-55.00 per hour. The City Administrator and Treasurer/Comptroller both recommended an Agreement with Mr. Ahee at \$55.00 per hour as a 1099 contractor, and not subject to any benefits. The City Attorney recommended an Agreement be presented to the City Council, and also recommended a cap on hours. The Mayor suggested an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00. A discussion ensued regarding the necessity to cross-train Department of Public Works staff on all aspects of the department. There was a consensus of the Committee to move forward with an Agreement at \$55.00 per hour, at a cost is not to exceed \$2,000.00.

The next item discussed under New Business was regarding Tom Colombo, City Assessor, and his salary considering he no longer holds the title of City Administrator. The Treasurer/Comptroller suggested that while a Compensation and Evaluation Committee meeting is pending for Mr. Colombo, due to an approximate one-month leave from the City, she requested approval to pay Mr. Colombo the same rate as he was being paid previously as City Assessor and prior to adding on the responsibilities of the City Administrator. He will no longer be a 1099 contractor due to work being performed here at City offices, use of equipment, etc., which means costs will go up approximately 7.65%. He is not entitled to a pension as he is a part-time employee. There was a consensus of the Committee to pay Mr. Colombo the same City Assessor rate that he previously earned, until his future Compensation & Evaluation Committee meeting is completed.

Taken out of order, the following item was discussed under New Business:

- The Treasurer/Comptroller provided an overview regarding Lochmoor's water bill. Dry weather caused Lochmoor's reservoir to dry up, causing a high water bill estimated to be \$76,000.00. Lochmoor Club has requested the following: the bill be cut (reduced), the penalty be waived, and that the bill be placed on a payment plan. Past practice has permitted waiving penalty for the first month, however it appears the charter does not address waiving penalties. The City Attorney was asked to review the legalities of waiving penalties. The Treasurer/Comptroller stated that a one-time waiver was already permitted in the past. There was a majority consensus of the Committee to not waive the penalty as such has been done in the past, do not reduce the bill, and it is okay to work out a payment plan. This item to remain on the Committee-of-the-Whole pending the City Attorney's opinion regarding waiving of penalties.

The next item discussed was regarding the **fence ordinance**. The City Attorney stated he and the Building Official reviewed the fence ordinance. The Mayor stated he believed it to be unfair that an approval to a request for a 6' fence is dependent upon a neighbor

saying yes or no. The Mayor is opposed to a 6' solid fence unless on a corner lot. Discussion ensued regarding an alternative, possibly a 4' solid fence with lattice top. The Building Official stated most solid fence variance requests are due to dogs or children. Member Bryant suggested taking time to visit homes with solid and other fences to observe the effects of a 6' fence. The Building Official stated that 86 fence permits were pulled last year, and 115 fence permits were pulled for 2016, with approximately 5-6 variance requests. There was discussion of the Committee to authorize 4' solid fences for all properties. This item is to remain on the Committee-of-the-Whole, and be readdressed in 30 days.

The City Administrator provided a report regarding **lead service lines** after having spoken to the City Engineer. According to the City Engineer, 10% of the water meters may have lead lines. With respect to cost to replace lines, he stated the side of the street containing the water main is cheaper to repair because the line is shorter. The cost to replace lines from the house to the box is roughly \$1,000; from the box to the water line is \$1,700; to backfill/restore it is estimated at \$2,300. Boring may be more money. With 6,856 meters: 686 (10%) lead service lines x \$5,000 = \$3.4 million.

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Shetler, to remove lead service lines and staffing from the Committee-of-the-Whole.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Shetler, that the Committee recess the regularly scheduled Committee-of-the-Whole meeting at 9:08 p.m. and convene in Closed Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation at which time the Committee may or may not reconvene in regular session to address additional items as necessary, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act 1976 PA 267.

Motion carried by the following ROLL CALL vote:

Novitke	Yes
Shetler	Yes
Bryant	Yes
Granger	Absent
Ketels	Yes
Koester	Yes
McConaghy	Yes

The Committee-of-the-Whole reconvened in regular session at 9:24 p.m.

Under continuation of New Business, the following items were discussed:

- The Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation is requesting to promote fund raising at City events: Perch Derby, City Picnic, and Music on the Lawn events. There was a consensus of the Committee to not permit fund raising due to sponsorships for Music on the Lawn and Fall Fest. There was a consensus of the Committee to permit the Foundation to perform fund raising at the City picnic because there are no sponsorships for the City picnic and the type of event.
- Member Ketels discussed the batting cages at Ghesquiere Park and stated that they are locked by Little League and inaccessible to the residents. On October 1, 1990, the City Council voted to approve the installation of the Little League/Babe Ruth batting cages contingent upon the facility being locked when not in use; that resident use is allowed with proper supervision and equipment; that a \$1,000,000 insurance policy be provided the City by the Grosse Pointe Woods/Shores Little League; and that the City of Grosse Pointe Woods would be an additional insured. There was a consensus of the Committee to contact Dick Borland to attend a Committee-of-the-Whole meeting to discuss this matter.

Motion by Koester, seconded by Ketels, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 9:52 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk

Robert E. Novitke
Mayor