

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 21, 2014, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 20025 MACK AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

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

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Fincham  
Treasurer/Comptroller Irby  
City Attorney Chip Berschback  
City Clerk Hathaway

Mayor Novitke called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Granger, to excuse Council Member McConaghy from tonight's meeting.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

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, Ketels, Koester, Novitke, Shetler  
No: None  
Absent: McConaghy

The first item discussed was regarding the **Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce Banner Program – I 'heart' GP**. The Chair stated a number of items needed to be determined such as who will install the banners, how many banners, is Wayne County approval required, is DTE permission required, will there be any violations to consider if the City installs the banners.

The City Administrator met with Jennifer Boetcher from the Chamber of Commerce. There are 97 poles (cobra lights in median) and some are covered by trees. Administration asked for 26. The Chamber pays for the brackets, and Grosse Pointe Farms may be able to install them with their lift trucks. The grant from the Chamber will cover any cost for installation. Ms. Boetcher talked to DTE representatives, and they don't have any concerns. The City Attorney is comfortable. The banners measure 3' x 6' and will be seen on both sides of the poles on certain target locations. The terms of the

agreement include displaying the banners for three years. Banners cost \$45.00 each or 26 for \$1,170.00, and is covered by the Chamber's grant. 26 brackets are \$952 and labor approximately \$2,100.00. Concerns expressed included what would happen if the City needs to remove them and is there any liability. Administration was asked to check with Mr. Bucko regarding liability insurance. There was a consensus of the Committee to move forward and send to City Council.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Koester, to remove this item from the Committee-of-the-Whole agenda.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The next item was continued discussion regarding **Department of Public Works staffing**. The Director of Public Services provided additional information as requested by the Committee. He explained the salary to replace the full-time Operator II will be less than the current salary. He is requesting to make the current part-time mechanic a full-time position at an additional cost of over \$45,000.00. The Director explained the department had been without a second full-time mechanic for approximately 35 months. Vehicles requiring repair were sent out at a cost of \$134,758.00 with the cost of labor at \$61,000.00. During the past four months since hiring the part-time mechanic, due to the amount of work, vehicles continued to be sent out with labor costing \$10,180.00. The Director stated that with an aging fleet, it will not get any better. The Treasurer/Comptroller stated the cost would not exceed \$50,000.00 to change from part-time to full-time including step increases. The Treasurer/Comptroller and City Administrator recommended making the mechanic's position full-time. Currently 1.5 mechanics are on staff, and if this request is approved will make 2 full-time mechanics. There was a consensus of the Committee to make the mechanic position a full-time position.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Shetler, to remove the previous item from the Committee-of-the-Whole.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The Chair declared a recess at 7:25 p.m., and reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

The **Director of Public Safety vacancy** was then discussed. The City Administrator stated the current salary is \$75,000.00; previously it was \$85-90,000.00. He stated if the position is advertised, the salary will be considerably more. There may be someone interested in the appointment, which appointment is the prerogative of the City

Administrator with the concurrence of the City Council. In the interim, the City Administrator may also fulfill the function of Acting Director of Public Safety with an additional stipend of \$350.00 per week, or the position may need to be advertised. This item is to be placed on the August 4<sup>th</sup> City Council agenda, and to remain on the Committee-of-the-Whole agenda.

Under New Business:

- The City Administrator stated that Labor Attorney DuBay will attend the Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting on August 4, 2014, to discuss Command Officer Labor Negotiations. He also stated there is Public Safety old business to follow up on such as retirements of outgoing officers, hiring, golf cart, 12 hour shifts, and the need for an 8<sup>th</sup> Command Officer. He stated the Command union is voting on August 6, 2014, whether to stay on 12 hour shifts and requested approval to offer an 8<sup>th</sup> Command Officer position. There was a consensus of the Committee to authorize the 8<sup>th</sup> position (Sergeant).
- The Mayor discussed long-term parking meters, and a request that was received by him to reduce parking costs for Mack Avenue business' employees. The City Administrator and Director of Public Services met with Mr. Lahood today. Meter rate increases are costing employees substantially. Considerations included meters requiring reprogramming, cost and time to rent the unit to reprogram, and timeline for turnaround. The Director is obtaining additional information. The City Clerk was directed to place this on the August 4<sup>th</sup> Committee-of-the-Whole agenda. Administration was asked to look at using old meters as an alternative, less expensive way of changing meter rates.
- The Mayor stated that a group of individuals against the Metro Times is requesting to be heard at a future Council Meeting.

Under Public Comment, the following individual was heard:

- George McMullen stated that the Library Board representatives are also dealing with the matter regarding Metro Times.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Ketels, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 9:47 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kay Hathaway  
City Clerk