

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 14, 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, McConaghy, Shetler

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Fincham  
Treasurer/Comptroller Irby  
City Attorney Chip Berschback  
City Clerk Hathaway  
Director of Public Safety Pazuchowski  
Director of Public Works Ahee  
Building Official Tutag

Mayor Novitke called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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, Granger, Ketels, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke, Shetler

No: None

Absent: None

At this point, there was a consensus of the Committee that the meeting be moved into the Council Chambers to accommodate the number of people in attendance.

The first item on tonight's agenda was regarding **Liability and Property Insurance Renewal**. The Treasurer/Comptroller provided an overview. Administration was asked to obtain bids from providers. The City Administrator stated the other carriers were not interested in bidding. The current insurance expires in September. The City is currently paying \$108,760.00, and Stevenson Co. has offered to reduce the cost by more than \$1,000.00.

Bob Bucko with the Stevenson Co. and the City's current provider, was in attendance to address this item. The program quoted is provided by U.S. Speciality Insurance with a rating of A+, which contains separate limits for five major coverage parts with per occurrence limits. The quoted cost is less than last year at \$107,448.00 with the same endorsements, and no change in coverage.

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Granger, regarding Liability and Property Insurance, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend that City Council approve a contract with the Stevenson Co. to provide the City's liability and property insurance for a term of one year at a total cost of \$107,448.00, with no change in coverage.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Shetler, that the previous item be removed from the Committee-of-the-Whole.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The next item discussed was **staffing review for the Departments of Public Safety and Public Works.**

The Department of Public Safety was discussed first. The City Administrator provided an overview. An update was given regarding the current status of public safety staffing. The Director of Public Safety intends on offering two candidates employment to fill vacancies created by the retirements of Lt. Ross and PSO Raymond. He further stated that he has reassigned two Detectives to the road. One promotion to Sergeant will happen in late August/September if the Command union votes to stay on twelve hour shifts allowing for two supervisors and five patrolmen on each platoon. The two replacements will come in at a lower salary. There was a consensus of the Committee to authorize the replacement of the officers.

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

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The Director of Public Works provided an overview of his current staffing. The current part-time mechanic is interested in applying for the full-time Operator II position that is available. The Director suggested that because Public Works is operating with an aged fleet, he is requesting to make the Mechanic's position full-time, as well as to replace the full-time Operator II vacancy. He also stated that funds are available in the vehicle maintenance account to cover the Mechanic as a full-time position, which is at an additional cost of \$45-\$50,000.

The Mayor asked what the benefits and savings would be to the City by making the Mechanic's position full-time. The Director of Public Services was asked to provide the information to the Committee-of-the-Whole on July 21, 2014.

The Chair declared a recess at 7:28 p.m. and reconvened at 9:09 p.m.

The next item discussed was regarding the **Assessor's Position**. The resignation of City Assessor Scott Vandemergel has created a vacancy. The Chair stated Jerry Jackson, the part-time Deputy Assessor, is a Level 3, and not interested in a full-time position. Tom Columbo is Level 4 and is willing to work on a temporary basis at \$75 per hour as a contractual 1099 employee. Assessor Vandemergel's last day is Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, therefore the Treasurer/Comptroller recommended Council consider hiring Mr. Columbo for up to one year, up to four days per week. WCA did send a proposal and is willing to provide assessing services for \$99,000.00 per year for a 3-year contract with COLA increase, which is equivalent to the current Assessor's salary plus benefits. Hiring Mr. Columbo will realize a savings of \$50-60,000.00. The Treasurer/Comptroller and City Administrator stated nothing would be gained by publishing for the position for a new Assessor; there are few Level 4 Assessors who apply. The City Attorney stated he works well with Mr. Columbo with regard to Tax Tribunal cases. The City Clerk was asked to tickler this item for a Committee-of-the-Whole Meeting the on the first week in March. There was a unanimous consensus to place the Assessor's contract on July 21, 2014, City Council agenda.

The next item on the agenda was concerning **Fireworks**. After hearing the public comment at the City Council Meeting earlier this evening, there was a consensus of the Committee to not take action tonight. Administration and Public Safety was asked to come back to Council with alternatives for fireworks, as well as other events. Considerations are to include:

1. Cancel fireworks.
2. Suspend for one year, and readdress.
3. Move to different location (Lake Front Park)
4. Substitute fireworks for some other City event
5. Install a curfew.

The City Administrator reported he spoke to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Detroit Gang Squad, and Detroit Crime Commission. He was advised that the events that took place at the 2014 Fireworks were the work of organized, dangerous gangs, one of which was newly organized.

Under Public Comment, the following individuals were heard:

- A resident spoke concerning business sponsorship of the fireworks and financial impact of the fireworks event.
- Mr. McMullen, Board of Review Member, enjoyed working with Tom Columbo in the past.

- Dennis Hyduk was concerned about the impact upon values in the community resulting from the violence at the fireworks.
- A resident spoke and was concerned and feels there is a bigger sense of urgency than is being perceived.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Bryant, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 10:06 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kay Hathaway  
City Clerk