



*23925 Woodward Avenue  
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069*

**Regular City Commission Meeting  
March 10, 2015**

Having been duly publicized, Mayor Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Foreman, Krzysiak, Perry, Scott, Mayor Metzger.  
Also Present: City Manager Breuckman, City Attorney Need, City Clerk Drealan.  
Absent: None.

**Public Discussion**

Ms. Leslie Jones, 19 Fairwood, mentioned that Earth Friendly Landscape will have a presentation on Healthy Lawn Care for Watershed Protection on March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m., Community Center. The Environmental Committee as a new Facebook page thanks to the efforts of Commissioner Foreman. If anyone has any articles or links that can be recommended for the page, please contact Ms. Jones. Classes by Lillian Dean every Monday have been going well, which include 41 paid attendees and 10 class audits.

Mr. Ted Zachary, 68 Devonshire, reported that recycling tonnage for December was 28; January, 30; February, 20. The Environmental Committee recommends environmental saving ideas to the City Commission and City Manager, along with encouraging events with Lillian Dean. Next meeting is April 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 p.m., Community Center. Current interests of the committee are pesticides, watershed, education on energy use, and recycling. Earth Day is April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Zachary encourages the support of the Ridge Resale Boutique, and drop-off of items is the second Saturday of each month, 9:30a to Noon. Sharon Barrett is the contact person: [sharonbarrett812@aim.com](mailto:sharonbarrett812@aim.com). Mr. Zachary's goal is to create a booklet of "222 Ted's Tips," to share with everyone. He is requesting tip suggestions which can be emailed to [wprtv@yahoo.com](mailto:wprtv@yahoo.com).

Commissioner Perry inquired if plastic grocery bags are allowed to be placed in the regular recycle containers, and Mr. Zachary stated that they are not and only recyclable at a neighboring grocery store.

**Presentation by MML**

Mr. John LaMacchia gave a presentation on the May 5<sup>th</sup> Special Election ballot known as Proposal 15-1, which the Michigan Municipal League (MML) is supporting. Proposal 1 would provide funding needed to fix our roads and bridges for long-term. It would require that all state taxes paid on gas go to transportation. State lawmakers would no longer be able to shift these taxes we pay on gas somewhere else. In addition to helping fix our roads, Proposal 1 would generate much-needed additional dollars for our schools and communities.

The gas tax was last raised in 1997. In 2013, Governor Snyder asked the legislature to raise \$1.2 billion in new revenue by increasing gas taxes and registration fees; the Senate and House disagreed with this plan. In early 2014, Speaker Bolger released a House plan that would reallocate existing state resources because there was a concern that taxes at the pump were not all going to the roads. In June 2014, the Senate modified the Speaker's plan that would increase gas taxes but all failed. In the Lamé Duck session, the Senate revisited the plan and passed a gas tax increase. The House continued to shy away from raising taxes, and Speaker Bolger came up with another plan to shift existing dollars. Talks between the GOP and Democratic legislative leaders, along with the Governor continued until the final day of the session and a proposal passed with bipartisan support that is the "Proposal 1." Five principles established to reform and guide negotiations: New revenue for roads and bridges; protection for schools, communities, public transit, and rail; transportation taxes go to transportation; maintain competitive prices at the pump; and provide tax relief for lower-income Michiganders.

The details of the ballot Proposal 1 are to raise rate on sales and use tax to 7-percent; eliminate sales tax on fuel; remove higher education from School Aid Fund; and amend use tax distribution. The statutory changes are a structural change and increase to gas tax; changes to vehicle registrations; transportation related reforms; and restoration of Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The proposed ballot will increase sales tax to \$1.34 billion and eliminate sales tax on motor fuel (\$752 million). The statutory changes will bring in \$1.2 billion on the wholesale tax on motor fuel and registration fee changes will net \$95 million, and the Earned Income Tax Credit will be a general fund expense of \$260 million.

The net impact of the changes will be fully implemented in fiscal year 2017-18: The Michigan Transportation Fund would net \$1.25 billion, which would be an approximate 66-percent increase in monies allocated to cities and villages; the Comprehensive Transportation Fund will net \$106 million; the School Aid Fund will net \$394 million, which is an increase of \$200 per student; the Constitutional Revenue Sharing will net \$100 million; and the general fund will net \$36 million.

If Proposal 1 is passed, it will be effective 10/1/2015. There is no Plan B. The MML voted in favor of this proposal on January 23, 2015 and joined the "Safe Roads Yes" Coalition. Supporting resolutions by local government and letters to editors are encouraged.

Commissioner Krzysiak inquired which roads will be targeted for this expenditure. LaMacchia responded that all roads are included and the current formula will not change. Krzysiak also inquired about the fact there is no Plan B, and LaMacchia responded that if this proposal does not pass, it will not be good for some group, whether it be local government, schools, or the state overall.

Commissioner Foreman inquired as to the percentage breakdown of "transportation" revenues. LaMacchia responded that the Act 51 Funding Formula is the key component to transportation and having a viable transit network overall. Commissioner Foreman also inquired if the School Aid Fund recognizing \$200 per pupil is a reality, and LaMacchia responded that this factor is still subject to the appropriations process of the legislature, which it always has been.

Commission Scott inquired about Internet sales and how it factors in. LaMacchia responded that that is not tie-barred to this bill. The Internet sales tax could net \$6 million. Commissioner Scott

also asked for clarification on the gas tax versus tax on motor fuel. LaMacchia explained motor fuel tax is a variety of things and the gas tax is actually the fuel going into the vehicles.

Commissioner Perry inquired as to how the original gas tax turned into the proposal that includes a variety of things. LaMacchia explained that Michigan is one of the few states that had sales tax included in the gas tax, and this proposal will put Michigan more in line with the rest of the states.

Mayor Metzger inquired if there are training funds for MDOT to get people back to work. LaMacchia explained that MDOT does a lot of contracting and the contractors will be providing the training. Communities will be hopeful that jobs are created if the proposal passes. Mayor Metzger also inquired if any of the monies will be allocated for public transit. LaMacchia responded that the formula is very specific on how monies are allocated, and that hopefully the demand for transit will be provided.

Ms. Amy Butters, Ferndale Public Schools, indicted the support for Proposal 1, and added there is never a guarantee for school funding.

**Resolution in support of Proposal 15-1 for Safer Roads**  
**15-3160**

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, that the Resolution in support of Proposal 15-1 for Safer Roads be approved.

Adopted:                      Yeas: Commissioner Perry, Scott, Foreman, Krzysiak, Mayor Metzger  
   Nays: None.

Commissioner Krzysiak thanked Mr. LaMacchia for the presentation, but feels that the legislature has really but every citizen in a bind, especially with no Plan B. The approximate 60-percent to cities is a swaying factor and is in support.

Commissioner Foreman likes the fact that monies may be increased to cities and schools as his role as commissioner. As a resident, this is a forever sales tax. Foreman did thank LaMacchia for his presentation which was very informative.

Commissioner Perry indicated this Proposal 1 is a messy solution to funding road repairs and is the best solution at this point.

Commissioner Scott shares the same sentiment as Commissioner Foreman, and struggles to award bad behavior by the legislature.

Mayor Metzger added that Michigan is the lowest per capita for spending on roads, and the highest (tied with Ohio) for spending on repairs.

Adopted:                      Yeas: Commissioner Perry, Scott, Foreman, Krzysiak, Mayor Metzger  
   Nays: None.

## **Governmental Reports**

Ms. Barbara Winter, Community Liaison to Representative Robert Wittenberg, and reported that he is in support of Proposal 1. All residents and interested parties are invited to a coffee clutch with Representative Wittenberg, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 11am, at the County Boy Coney Island, Hazel Park; and March 31<sup>st</sup>, 7:00p, Berkley Public Library. Representative Wittenberg does have an “open door” policy in Lansing, and anyone with questions, concerns, comments may call, email, or visit the office in Hazel Park. Commissioner Krzysiak suggested that the Pleasant Ridge Community Center be considered for hosting the coffee clutch in the future.

Sgt. Robert Ried, Pleasant Ridge Police Department, had nothing to report, but inquired if anyone on the Commission had any questions or concerns; none reported.

Ms. Amy Butters, Ferndale Public Schools, and thanked Representative Wittenberg’s support of education. The Ferndale School Foundation Auction is being held Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, and one item to be auctioned is a day with the Representative. The auction is one of the main fundraisers. Raffle tickets are available for sale. The theme is “Night at the Oscars.” March 20<sup>th</sup>, Roosevelt School will be hosting “March is reading month,” and the community is invited to come into the school and read to the students. Please contact [carly.ulman@ferndaleschools.org](mailto:carly.ulman@ferndaleschools.org). March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Ferndale High School Robotics Team will be fundraising at various locations around the city. Please help the team who has been very successful this year. March 21<sup>st</sup> is opening night for “The Wizard of Oz” at Ferndale High School. Senior wrestler, Danny Collins, went to State Finals and placed 6<sup>th</sup>, and was also named and “All-State” wrestler. Restructuring has been going on throughout the District, and this Thursday, 5:30p, Harding School, an open study session will be held to review all plans. Voting will happen on the upcoming Monday. Any proposed changes will happen over the next few school years. Any comments can be emailed to [schoolboard@ferndaleschools.org](mailto:schoolboard@ferndaleschools.org). Commissioner Scott inquired if the robotics team needed any equipment, and Ms. Butters responded that corporate sponsorships are big part of the teams, along with mentors from the sponsorships.

## **City Commissioner Liaison Reports**

Commissioner Scott reported that the Historical Museum will be opened on March 21<sup>st</sup> (third Saturday of every month), 10:00a to 12:00p. The home and garden tour is being planned for June 6<sup>th</sup>, and homes are currently being solicited. Advertisements are available for the booklet also.

Commissioner Krzysiak reported that the Easter Egg Hunt and Brunch will take place on Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, Community Center. Brunch is from 10:00a-11:30a, with the egg hunt starting at 11:30a. Adults are \$3.00; children 5-12 are \$1.00; 4 and under free. March 11<sup>th</sup> is the last day for spring soccer registration. Many teams are full, so important to remember to register. Summer swim registration is taking place now, along with baseball registration. Community Center is accepting applications for certified lifeguards by mid-May.

Commissioner Foreman addressed the school restructuring process and reported the highlights as presented by the Superintendent. All early education programs will be offered at the Harding building due to its suitable location and layout. Administrative offices will be relocated to the third floor at Ferndale High School. Roosevelt and JFK will continue to be used as elementary schools as they are currently being used today, and Coolidge will not be used for elementary. Additional

proposals for the programs are to have Roosevelt and JFK as two separate K-thru-5 schools, which would include JFK as the open program and Roosevelt as the Cambridge International Program; or Roosevelt and JFK will be upper and lower elementary schools, with Roosevelt K-thru-2 and JFK 3-thru-5, allowing all elementary students to go through both schools. Pilot Montessori program is being reevaluated for its current fit with the overall restructuring plan. Sixth grade would become a middle school grade, and incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders would have an 8<sup>th</sup> grade mentor assigned to them to help them get acclimated. Wilson, Jefferson, and Taft Schools will be sold and developed as residential areas. Commissioner Foreman and his wife have attended all of the forums and are pleased with the process, and thanked the Superintendent and the School Board for listening to everyone who made contributions. The Schools Website does have information about the entire process. Commissioner Foreman also mentioned the Ferndale School Auction Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, with the theme being the Oscars. Attendees are encouraged to come dressed as their favorite movie character or red carpet best. Many items will be available for the silent and live auction, along with musical entertainment. Commissioner Foreman thanked the Mayor and fellow commissioners for supporting the event.

Commissioner Perry reported that the Planning Commission/DDA had a workshop in February in lieu of the regular meeting in order to brainstorm and prioritize ideas for the Planning Commission and DDA for the coming year. The DDA would like to focus on include the Woodward Main Street pilot project using barrels and paint as determined by the Woodward/I-696 study; the alley reconstruction; marketing and communications, i.e., directory for the DDA businesses; and business networking events. The group also recapped the Woodward/I-696 study and discussed the changes proposed for both MDOT and Pleasant Ridge streets which helped formulate several of the proposed DDA ideas. The next meeting is March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:00p. The Woodward Avenue Action Association has a position open for a community engagement intern. The right candidate has an interest in mass transit, safe roads for bikes and pedestrians, and preserving the heritage of the Woodward corridor. The position includes creating and implementing the daily social and traditional media strategy. Anyone interested email [wendy@woodwardavenue.org](mailto:wendy@woodwardavenue.org) for more information. Block Club Kickstarter will be March 24<sup>th</sup>.

## **Consent Agenda**

### **15-3161**

Commissioner Foreman requested that the appointment of Helen Baldwin to the Pleasant Ridge Board of Review be removed from the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Foreman, that the Consent Agenda, be approved, as listed and with the removal of 9[c].

Adopted:                      Yeas: Commissioner Perry, Foreman, Krzysiak, Scott, Mayor Metzger  
                                     Nays: None.

**Board of Review Appointment: Ms. Helen Baldwin**  
**15-3162**

Commissioner Foreman thanked Ms. Baldwin for her willingness to serve on the Board of Review, and thanked Mr. Treuter for his time spent on the board.

Motion by Commissioner Forman, second by Commissioner Foreman, to approve the appointment of Ms. Helen Baldwin to the Pleasant Ridge Board of Review, term to expire Dec. 31, 2017.

Adopted:                      Yeas: Commissioner Forman, Scott, Krzysiak, Perry, Mayor Metzger  
   Nays: None.

**Intent to establish a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program and PACE district within the City of Pleasant Ridge.**

**15-3163**

City Manager James Breuckman explained that this item is up to have a public hearing on creating a PACE district which is a financing vehicle for Clean Energy improvements for commercial non-single family residential properties. Creating this district will allow properties in the City to take advantage of the financing, and the City would partner with the Lean & Green program. Two ways to provide PACE funding is a local/county government can put up money and collect monies itself, or allows a city to have a PACE administrator or private investor.

Mr. Andrew Levin gave a brief overview of the Lean & Green program and the efforts being made to reduce fossil fuels, making businesses more efficient, and projects completed quicker.

Mayor Metzger opened the public hearing opened at 9:20 p.m.

With no comments or discussion, Mayor Metzger closed the public hearing closed at 9:21 p.m.

Commissioner Krzysiak inquired why this opportunity is not being offered to private homeowners. Mr. Levin explained that the legislature chose not to put it in Public Act 270 (2010), primarily because it was during the housing crisis when it was enacted. The program wants to make sure it works well with businesses first before it will make the efforts to expand it to residential homeowners.

Commissioner Foreman commented that he is excited about the start of a program like this in the City of Pleasant Ridge, and is looking forward to have it expanded to residential properties so that he can take advantage of the program himself.

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Perry, that the resolution approving the establishment of a Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE) and district be approved and that Lean & Green Michigan and Levin Energy Partners, LLC be designated as the PACE administrator for the City of Pleasant Ridge.

Adopted:                      Yeas: Commissioner Foreman, Perry, Krzysiak, Scott, Mayor Metzger  
   Nays: None.