



23925 Woodward Avenue  
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069

**Regular City Commission Meeting  
April 14, 2015**

Having been duly publicized, Mayor Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Foreman, Krzysiak, Perry, Mayor Metzger.  
Also Present: City Manager Breuckman, City Attorney Need, City Clerk Drealan.  
Absent: Commissioner Scott.

**Resolution recognizing the Retirement of Charles Y Cooper, City Attorney**

Mayor Metzger read a resolution honoring Charles Y. Cooper after 16 years of service as City Attorney.

**15-1369**

Motion by Commissioner Perry, seconded by Commissioner Krzysiak, that the Resolution recognizing the retirement of Mr. Charles Y. Cooper, City Attorney, be approved and a heartfelt thanks be extended to Mr. Cooper for his years of service to the City.

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

Commissioner Krzysiak commended Mr. Cooper for his genuine commitment and is grateful for his years of service to Pleasant Ridge, and also thanked the family for allowing Mr. Cooper to serve tirelessly.

Mr. Cooper thanked the City of Pleasant Ridge for the kind regards and notes, and that he enjoyed his years of service.

**Public Discussion**

Ms. Gail Gerdan, 54 Ridge Road, Environmental Committee, announced that the first educational class will be held Thursday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:30p, Community Center, Diane Gregory will speak on how to use natural mulches in your garden. Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> is the new resident reception and the Environmental Committee will have a table with information/flyers. April Earth Month activities include a tour of the recycling facility on April 19<sup>th</sup>, 12:00p – 3:00p; along with the Veg Fest and the Novi Suburban Collection, 10:30a to 5:00p. There are many events and celebrations on the actual Earth Day, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, and can be found by Googling “Earth Day”. The Environmental Committee recommends that you eat and shop locally. Ms. Gerdan mentioned the “Meatless Mondays” and the health benefits to going meat-free for a day, and also reduce the greenhouse gases and increase the water supply for the animals. Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, the Sierra Club is hosting a rain barrel event

on Rivard Plaza (Downtown Detroit) at 10:30a. The tip-of-the-month from the Environmental Committee is to stop using commercial weed killers and start using horticultural vinegar.

Mr. Ted Zachary, 68 Devonshire, reported that recycling tonnage for January 30; February, 20; March 22. In Oakland County, Huntington Woods leads the recycling pack at 35-percent, and Pleasant Ridge is in second at 25-percent. Royal Oak is at 15-percent and Ferndale is at 13-percent. The SOCRRA recycle bins are \$6.00. The Environmental Committee will be meeting on Monday, April 20, 6:30p, Community Center, to plan and prepare for the new residents reception. "Ted's Tip of the Month" is to cut out your address from junk mail and re-use it as a return address label when you're mailing out letters or tape to objects, such as your cell phone. This will help save ink in your printer.

Mr. Rick Cook, 69 Amherst, Community Garden, reported that approximately 10 people assisted in the community cleanup this past Saturday. Plots are available for purchase on Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, first come, first serve. Mayor Metzger thanked Mr. Cook for being a new resident and taking on this task.

Mr. Craig Covey, representative from the Oakland County Water Resources Commissioner Jim Nash, presented the City Commission with the 2014 report and information on storm water management practices.

### **Presentation by Ferndale Youth Assistance**

Mr. Craig Covey, Chairperson, Ferndale Youth Assistance, explained the non-profit program covers everyone in the Ferndale School District and is based at the high school. This past year 181 students were assisted. The semi-annual Legal Clinic will be held on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, is the student recognition program at Coolidge Intermediate School. Mr. Covey thanked the Mayor and Commission for their continued support.

### **2014-2015 Ferndale Youth Assistance Funding Request** **15-3170**

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Perry, that the request by Ferndale Youth Assistance (FYA) for the annual contribution of \$1,000.00 to its organization be approved, as recommended.

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

### **Governmental Reports**

Mr. Robert Wittenberg, State Representative, reported that March was Reading Month and that he had the opportunity to read to 755 students throughout the districts that he represents. Representative Wittenberg mentioned that he fought the proposed adoption legislation, and is presently introducing a security guard package of bills. The Pleasant Ridge Coffee Hour will be hosted on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 7:00p, Community Center, but everyone is welcomed to attend the get-togethers in the other communities as well. Representative Wittenberg is available by phone or email at any time. Representative Wittenberg encouraged residents to get out and vote for the

upcoming Proposal 1, and provided a brief overview to the Commission. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, there will be a community forum at the Oak Park Community Center, 6:00p-8:00p, on Proposal 1. Commissioner Krzysiak expressed the concern of most residents, family, and friends is that if Proposal 1 passes, will the monies actually be used for what it is stated it is to be used for. Representative Wittenberg assured that the way Proposal 1 is worded it is a guarantee as best it can be and was a bipartisan effort. Commissioner Krzysiak encouraged residents to attend the Coffee Hour on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Gary McGillivray, Oakland County Commissioner, reported that taxes were lowered on the county level slightly, and explained he voted against it because he would have liked to seen that money go for roads. The Public Services Committee of the Oakland County Commission formed a gun safety study group, and free gun locks will be passed out in June (date to be determined). On April 25<sup>th</sup>, Commissioner McGillivray is hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Cleanup at Red Oaks Nature Center, which includes lunch, 9:00a-2:00p, and is a family event.

Ms. Karen Twomey, Ferndale Public Schools, reported that the Robotics Team is going onto Nationals and is fundraising to help raise the \$20,000 to get to St. Louis for the event. The Ferndale Independent Percussion Team finished second in the world championship. The Roosevelt/Coolidge Talent Show is this Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, \$5.00, and the proceeds help to send the sixth grade students to camp. The Ferndale Rotary Club has a fundraising spaghetti dinner on April 16<sup>th</sup>, \$10.00, 6:00p, at Balloons. On April 21<sup>st</sup>, an informational night on the Cambridge Honors Program will be hosted at Ferndale Middle School. On April 25<sup>th</sup>, a family healthcare event will be held at the high school, 11:00a-3:00p, and is open to the general public that will include free health screenings and other information. Commissioner Foreman recommended that the Robotics Team website reflect that monies are needed for the team to go to Nationals and the amount.

Chief Kevin Sullivan, Ferndale Fire Department, reported that the fire department is going through a rebranding. Uniforms now have a new patch, and the emblem is going on letterhead and trucks. One of the firefighters who was laid off was recently brought back due to a retirement, and the same will happen in June with one more retirement and the last laid-off firefighter returning back.

Chief Kevin Nowak, Pleasant Ridge Police Department, reported that a new police car was purchased in January, and it has new graphics and a battery backup system. From March 2014-2015, crime is down 21-percent. Neighboring communities have been hit hard with larceny in vehicles, thus, Chief Nowak reminded residents to lock your cars, close your windows, and set any alarms that you may have on your vehicle. Chief Nowak reported that there have been 5-6 residents who have experience identify theft when it came time to file their taxes. Commission Foreman shared a statistic that over 75-percent of convicted burglars believe that other burglars are using social media to identify their targets. Chief Nowak agreed, and added that law enforcement agencies are traditionally between the times with technology due to cost factors. Chief Nowak reminded residents that the police department does due vacation checks.

### **City Commissioner Liaison Reports**

Commissioner Krzysiak reported that on Saturday, May 23, at 11:00a, children are invited to bring their bikes to the Community Center parking lot to decorate for the parade on Memorial Monday. Commissioner Krzysiak thanked the Mayor, Commissioners, and the residents for attending the pancake brunch, and apologized for the pancake snafu. The Recreation Commission has said

farewell to Bridget Brown who has moved on to Huntington Woods to advance her career. Assistant City Manager Scott Pietrzak reported that the shelter at Gainsborough Park is now open for card access, and the Commissioners were presented with their cards. One card per household and any replacement cards will have a small fee. Hours are 9:00a to 9:00p, April 1 to October 31; and then starting November 1, 9:00a to 7:00p. Once cards are issued, it may take up to one day to have the information loaded into the system for the card to work. Forms are available at the Community Center for the cards.

Commissioner Foreman addressed the school restructuring process and reported that the open classroom model and Cambridge International curriculum. The planned outcome of this restructuring will be strong parent volunteerism, student directed learning, project-based education, outdoor education, focused learning, and student peer mentoring. The new model will also allow for the return of the Spanish language, Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade, more opportunities for advanced course work, individual focus studies, service learning, individual computer tablets available to students that are in grades 3-5, and systematic interventions to help all students when they struggle. The elementary schools will be broken up into an upper and a lower elementary. The lower building will be Roosevelt and will host grades K-2, JFK will be 3-5. Sixth grade will be moved to the middle school. These changes will take effect in the 2016-2017 school year which will allow a year to work out all the details with the Transition Committee, which will be composed of members of the community, parents, or at-large community residents. The first meeting is tomorrow, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00p, Ferndale High School Media Center. Anyone interested in being a part of the Transition Committee can attend the meeting or email kim.shepherd@ferndaleschools.org. has been selected at the last school board meeting. The Oscars fundraising dinner held March 13<sup>th</sup> was a huge success and raised approximately \$19,000. Commissioner Foreman thanked the Mayor, fellow Commissioners, and the community for their support.

Commissioner Perry reported that the Planning Commission/DDA met on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, and discussed the 2015 Alley Improvement Project and budgeting for the rising costs of construction materials, and also discussed the PC/DDA budget. On April 15<sup>th</sup>, the DDA is having a meeting with the downtown businesses to establish a networking opportunity between business owners and city administration, and promote awareness for the residents to know what type of businesses are in the city. The next meeting for PC/DDA is Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7:00p. Bob Gibbs will present the final study of the I-696/Woodward recommendations.

City Clerk Drealan reported that the Home and Garden plans are well underway that is scheduled for June 6<sup>th</sup>. The Historical Commission is still looking for residents who are interested in having their home as part of the tour. Please contact city hall or a member of the Historical Commission. A commitment must be made by the next meeting of May 6<sup>th</sup>.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **15-3171**

Motion by Commissioner Krzysiak, second by Commissioner Foreman, that the Consent Agenda, be approved, as recommended, with the removal of 10(c) for further discussion.

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

**Resolution encouraging MDOT to prioritize the implementation of low-cost pilot projects at the I-696/Woodward intersections – Consent Item 10(c)**

Commissioner Krzysiak inquired where other communities are in the process and how will Pleasant Ridge residents be able to contribute their feedback to the process; and an overall understanding of the timeline. City Manager Breuckman explained that the resolution is led by the WA3, and Royal Oak and Huntington Woods are also going to adopt this. The resolution focuses on asking MDOT to start working on this project this year by providing short-term testing techniques of the removal of excess roadway before the eventual capital investment of moving a curbed parkway. One of the first areas to be worked on is Main Street from Woodward to I-696 in effort to claim lanes that are not being used, along with improving the pedestrian traffic around the zoo. Breuckman shared some of the material from the Gibbs Planning Group. Breuckman encourages the Commission to attend the PC/DDA meeting on May 4<sup>th</sup>. The public presentation at the Community Center will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30p. Information will be on the City's Website. Commissioner Krzysiak added that he is encouraged that residents and the Commission will be involved in the process.

**15-3172**

Motion by Commissioner Krzysiak, second by Commissioner Perry, that the Resolution encouraging MDOT to prioritize the implementation of the low-cost pilot projects at the I-696 and Woodward intersection as identified by the Gibbs Planning Group be approved, as recommended.

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

**Resolution regarding establishing fees for certain Licenses, Permits, and Applications required by the City Code.**

City Clerk Drealan explained that certain fees for licenses and permits have not been increased since 2003, and the Building Department fees have not been increased since 1997. Pleasant Ridge is well below the average of the surrounding communities on permit fees, and did not have many things listed to even require a permit. A survey of surrounding communities was used to compile the proposed list of permits and fees. The Recreation Center is looking at a 9 to 11-percent increase on rentals. General department fees will increase, primarily, Zoning Board application fee, copy fees, and notary service for non-resident, and some additional new items. Mayor Metzger inquired if enforcement of the new permits will be provided, and Clerk Drealan responded that they will, especially in the Building Department.

**15-3173**

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Perry, that the Resolution establishing fees for certain license, permits, and applications, as required by the City Code, be adopted and the new fee schedule be effective May 15, 2015.

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

**Master Agreement for the Citywide Municipal Street lighting upgrade between the City of Pleasant Ridge and DTE Energy.**

City Manager Breuckman explained that all of the streetlights will be converted to LED. It will cost \$49,360 to complete the project, and DTE will provide a rebate of \$8,279; thus, the cost to the City is \$41,081. LED lamps are more efficient, so the yearly street lighting maintenance and operation fee would go down from \$47,197.26 to \$35,390.35, an annual savings to the city of \$11,800. The proposed increase in rates by DTE are included in these numbers. The project could be completed within 6-8 weeks from approval of the Master Agreement, or by November 30<sup>th</sup> the latest. A loan from SCAF will fund the improvements, and equal annual payments of \$11,000 will be paid over 4 years.

**15-3174**

Motion by Perry, seconded by Foreman, that the Master Agreement for the Citywide Municipal Streetlight upgrade between the City of Pleasant Ridge and DTE Energy, be approved.

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

**Streetlight Upgrade Financing**

**15-3175**

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Perry, that the Segregated Capital Assets Fund (SCAF) finance the Citywide Municipal streetlight upgrade over four (4) years, as recommended.

Commissioner Foreman added that he is excited that these improvements are being made and will provide a cost-savings to the City both in the financing and overall maintenance.

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

**Oxford Boulevard Road Reconstruction Project Bid**

City Manager Breuckman reported that the City has received bids back for the reconstruction of Oxford, along with two alternates to reconstruct the alley from 10 Mile to Devonshire and the alley from Amherst to Sylvan. DiLisio Contracting is the low bidder. This is the final phase to complete the alley reconstruction on the east side of the city behind the business district. Due to rise in material costs, the bid for Oxford reconstruction is approximately \$890,000, Devonshire-10 Mile Alley is \$140,000, and Sylvan-Amherst Alley is \$120,000; the total bid is \$1,152,694.08, plus a 5-percent contingency, for a total amount of \$1,210,328.79. The DDA has discussed this at its last meeting and there is in interest in doing both alley projects. Funding sources include the Water and Sewer Fund \$100,000, DDA contribution \$100,000, Local Street Fund \$100,000, and Infrastructure Millage Revenue \$400,000, for a total of \$700,000. The shortfall of \$550,000 could be financed by a SCAF loan to be repaid in full in 2016-2017 using infrastructure millage money. This could adjust the future plan of having Norwich and Hanover redone in 2018-2019, and Ridge redone in 2021. There are a few possible cost savings measures in the Oxford project, one that includes not reconstructing all the sidewalks along Oxford due to the fact that it disturbs the root system of the existing trees, and there is now a millage to cover the annual sidewalk maintenance. Also, additional contributions from the DDA over a multi-year budget will benefit this project. A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> and the construction project could start in June. Commissioner

Foreman inquired if the City still plans on sealing and maintaining existing roads in an effort to prolong the useful life of the roads until they are able to be replaced, and Breuckman responded that the Local Street Fund has monies available for yearly repairs. Commissioner Krzysiak inquired if a separate motion is needed for financing through SCAF and Breuckman recommended using the same language as the street lighting motion.

**15-3176**

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Krzysiak, that the bid for the Oxford Boulevard Road Reconstruction project, including alternates 1 and 2 for the alley reconstruction from Sylvan to eastbound 10 Mile Road, be awarded to the lowest bidder, DiLisio Contracting, Inc., of Clinton Township, in the amount of \$1,152,694.08, plus a 5-percent contingency, for a total bid of \$1,210,328.79.

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

**Oxford Boulevard Road Reconstructing Financing**

**15-3177**

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Perry, that the Segregated Capital Assets Fund (SCAF) finance the Oxford Boulevard Road Reconstruction over one (1) year, as recommended.

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

**Pleasant Ridge Foundation Auction Donations**

Assistant City Manager Pietrzak provided the Commission with a list of suggested City donations for the annual auction which include two Community Center rentals for residents, a summer fun package for residents, a private pool party for residents, two Name-a-Street signs, a police ridge along, and a reserved lounge chair at the pool 5/22 to 9/6 for residents. Commissioner Perry inquired if the Polar Plunge is going to be held the day before, and Pietrzak responded that there will be some event but not sure if it will actually be the Polar Plunge.

**15-3178**

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Foreman, that the City Commission approve the items recommended by the City Administration as donations to the Pleasant Ridge Foundation for sale at its 2015 Annual Auction.

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

### **Utility Bill update**

City Manager Breuckman provided an overview of the recommended billing structure for water rates and garbage pickup. Pleasant Ridge utility bills will go down. Regional entities are moving towards a fixed cost model. Breuckman had a presentation outlining the utility costs and comparison with other communities, including millage. The proposed billing structure is a fixed ready-to-serve charge, plus water consumption rate. Residents will only be billed for water actually used and there will be no minimum usage charge, and the billing will go to a bi-monthly system (six bills per year). The recommended utility rates are: Fixed Ready-to-Serve charge \$28.35; water service rate \$31.80 per MCF water used; sewage disposal \$69.70 per MCF of water used; and garbage pickup \$15.60. The average reduction per household could be \$160.00 per year.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Breuckman mentioned the new residents reception taking place on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and majority of the committees and clubs of Pleasant Ridge will be in attendance. Those who are attending are asked to register online for tickets or come to the Community Center to register. Long-time residents are encouraged to come as well.

Assistant City Manger Pietrzak reported that on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1:00p, there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Gainsborough Park for the new playground and shelter. The Citywide Garage Sale is May 9<sup>th</sup> and registration is required. The Women's Club Brunch is April 18<sup>th</sup> and a registration is required due to the fact there are only a few tickets left. The Annual Auction on May 16<sup>th</sup> also requires an advanced ticket. Pietrzak also reported that the Commission meetings are now being live-streamed, although, a few glitches need to be worked out.

### **Other Business**

Commission Foreman again highlighted the statistic that over 75-percent of convicted burglars believe that other burglars are using social media to identify their targets. Please be careful what is posted on social media so that it is not used against you and monitor your privacy settings. Complex passwords and multiple passwords on various sites is highly recommended, and there is a list available online of the top ten commonly most used passwords that you should avoid. There are various applications and programs available to assist you in remembering all the different passwords.

Commissioner Krzysiak reported that the next book for the Book Club will be the "White Tiger" by Aravind Adiga and will be discussed on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00p, Community Center. New members are always welcomed, even if you haven't read the book. In May, "The Fool" by Christopher Moore, and in June, "Stand Facing the Stove" by Anne Mendelson are the proposed books. Krzysiak would also like to work with the City Administration to have a Little Lending Library opened on both sides of town.

Commissioner Perry mentioned that donations are still needed for the Annual Auction on May 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be a "wine wall" at this event with bottles of wine of \$20.00 or more. All donations benefit the City. Please contact [aperry@cityofpleasantridge.org](mailto:aperry@cityofpleasantridge.org) if you have a donation. There will be a silent and live auction at the event.

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

---

Mayor Kurt Metzger

---

Amy M. Drealan, City Clerk  
/mat