



23925 Woodward Avenue
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069

**Public Hearing and Regular City Commission Meeting
July 14, 2015**

Having been duly publicized, Mayor Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:34 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 on Saturday, September 26th, there will be a recycling day, which will include shredding, and Ridge Resale will be there to collect clothing and other small items. Volunteers are needed to assist with a literature drop, traffic control, and assisting residents at the different recycle areas. No heavy lifting will be required. Information is on the Facebook page.

Assistant City Manager Scott Pietrzak introduced and welcomed his new Assistant Recreation Director Shawsheen Stamper.

Presentation by Mr. George Lenko

Mr. and Mrs. Lenko donated artwork to the City. The artist is Ms. Jeanne Ruzzin, 7 Hanover, Pleasant Ridge. Mr. Lenko provided the history of the painting of the orphaned fawn “Baby.” Ms. Ruzzin’s art show at the Scarab Club runs through August 29th.

Presentation by Mr. Fred Sedden

Mr. Sedden gave a presentation regarding his personal care experience for a Maple tree on his property. Proper trimming and feeding assists in a longer life of the tree. City Manager Breuckman reported that there are about 2,200 trees in the city, and it is estimated at a cost of \$350 per tree. Mr. Sedden had a slideshow presentation on the various stages of his tree growth and other Maple trees in the city. Maple trees and others need an acid-based soil, and Pleasant Ridge is primarily sand. Adding sulfur to the ground will assist the tree in maintaining the manganese needed for a healthy tree. Mr. Sedden recommended that the City should have a soil test at the cost of \$11.00 through Michigan State University extension program. A residential test is \$25.00. Breuckman reported that residents need to contact the City before the trimming or removal of any tree on city property. Mr. Sedden inquired if the City would be able to purchase bulk manganese spikes to provide to the residents for feeding the city trees, and Mr. Breuckman replied that this is something that can be looked into to see if it would be cost effective.

Mr. Andrew Bahrou, 45 Sylvan, inquired if a city survey could determine the relative health of the trees and whether the application of the spikes would be a possibility. Mr. Bahrou added that the MSU program also tests for phosphorous levels.

Ms. Rosemary Spataforta, 51 Amherst, reported that the Ornamental Pears on her street towards I-696 are in bad shape and hopes the City will have someone take a look at them. Breuckman reported that the trees have a fungal disease and is aware of the situation. These trees will have to be replaced in the future.

Governmental Reports

County Commissioner Gary McGillivray reported that the Great Lakes Water Authority has taken shape, and now the County has some say in the operations and rates. Commissioner McGillivray also reported that the Public Services Subcommittee has been looking into gun safety over the past 3 years and a free gun lock program was just initiated. If the local police department does not have the locks, contact the County Commission.

Police Chief Kevin Nowak, Pleasant Ridge Police Department, explained Dearborn Police Department's Operation Blue Light which is a campaign to make police highly visible with intense proactive traffic stops and suspicious pedestrians, especially on major thoroughfares and shared borders. Many agencies participated from June 22nd to July 4th in the Tri-County area. Chief Nowak reported that a suspect has been apprehended by Ferndale and linked to the recent home invasions that he had reported at last meeting. The police vehicles have new graphics. Chief Nowak reported that the Dream Cruise is 8/15/15. The 15th Annual Emergency Vehicle Parade is 8/14/15, and a special program will be held on Nine Mile between Bermuda and Leland, at 1:00p.

City Commission Liaison Reports

Commissioner Scott reported that the Historical Commission will have no meetings during the months of July and August.

Commissioner Krzysiak reported that the Recreation Commission will be hosting public visioning and community collaboration events this weekend in Gainsboro Park, 7/16 to 7/21. Living Design Lab will be onsite to interact and receive ideas and suggestions from the residents. The Ice Cream Social will be on Thursday, July 16th to coincide with the vision open house, 6:30-8:30p. Saturday, July 18th, focus meetings will begin at 9:00a for seniors; 10:00a for families with young children; 11:00a for gardens and public art; 12:00p for discussion on walking paths; 1:00p will be a drop-in design workshop. On Monday, July 20th, a prioritization meeting will be held in Gainsboro Park. On Tuesday, July 21st, the weekend's events will be wrapped up with a community celebration at 7:00p. On Wednesday, July 22nd, the Recreation Commission will hold its meeting, 7:00p, at the Community Center. Recreation Director Pietrzak reported that for the Ice Cream Social, there will be three different bounce houses, a bungee run, as well as bubble soccer. City Manager Breuckman stressed that the Gainsboro events are for residents to spend as much or as little time as they so choose with the focus groups and design sessions. Mr. Bahrou, 45 Sylvan, inquired if residents will have an opportunity to review and comment on the final drafts of the Gainsboro Park proposals. Breuckman responded that there will be several review processes in the future.

Commissioner Foreman reported that Ferndale Schools is hosting a Maker Camp, which is free. Cambridge Honors Program has 200 students enrolled in this program for the fall. The District Administrative Offices are now moved to the high school. A fundraiser for the campus pond to provide a solar powered aerator, fish and aquariums for winter months, and improved pathways to enjoy the pond area is being set up through youcaring.com, Ferndale Pond. The goal is \$3,000.00, and to date, \$2,145.00 has been collected. Donations are tax-deductible via the Ferndale Education Foundation.

Commissioner Perry reported that the Planning Commission and the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) combined the May/June meetings, and the next meeting will be Monday, July 27th, 7:00p. The Woodward Avenue Action Association has opened registration for the Woodward Vision Lunch, Friday, September 11th. Saturday, September 12th is the Bike Woodward event starting at the Ford Highland Park Plant. You can register at www.woodwardavenue.org.

Consent Agenda

15-3194

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Perry, that the Consent Agenda, be approved as amended with the removal of item 9e.

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

Complete Streets Ordinance

City Manager James Breuckman explained that this ordinance is being adopted pursuant to Michigan Public Act 135 of 2010 which is a complete streets state law that was put into place. Adopting this will allow MDOT to make recommendations and review city plans on any improvements or changes to streets. The City is in the process of completing a traffic calming/green infrastructure manual on how to treat local streets better.

Mayor Metzger opened the public hearing at 8:35 p.m.

Mr. Andrew Bahrou, 45 Sylvan, is in full support of the ordinance, especially the traffic calming. Mr. Bahrou works for the Department of Environmental Quality in storm water management programs and is knowledgeable on green and complete streets, and has shared with Breuckman the link for the City of Cleveland's manual and policies. Mr. Bahrou is actively getting involved with the Pleasant Ridge Environmental group and will be making recommendations via this group. SEMCOG is using funds to put on a 4-part workshop on green infrastructure that has already had two sessions. On July 21st, the third workshop is on integrating green infrastructure with ordinance and policy. The last one is August 20th for elected officials. Mr. Bahrou will share the link with the city officials.

Commissioner Krzysiak inquired of Mr. Bahrou with his background and knowledge for the area around Gainsboro Park to eliminate the storm water pressure. Mr. Bahrou responded that permeable pavement and asphalt are options for parking lanes, small ditches to infiltrate and capture overflow are a few ideas. Mr. Bahrou added that there are grants through the State of Michigan for various programs involving storm water retention. He will provide the City with information.

With no further comments or discussion, Mayor Metzger closed the public hearing at 8:50 p.m.

15-3195

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, that Ordinance 412, amending Chapter 62 (Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places) of the Pleasant Ridge City Code by the addition of a new Section, Section 62-1 (Complete Streets), be adopted.

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

Commissioner Foreman thanked Mr. Bahrou for speaking and sharing his knowledge, and getting involved with the Environmental group. Foreman inquired of Breuckman that once the manual is approved, does the ordinance need to be amended to refer to the manual. Breuckman explained that the ordinance addresses the Pleasant Ridge Complete Street Plan and is automatic upon adoption of the ordinance. Pleasant Ridge is primarily focusing on the complete streets due to the overall size of the community compared to the larger-scale cities, i.e., Cleveland and Ann Arbor.

Commissioner Perry thanked Mayor Metzger and City Manager Breuckman for moving the complete streets forward.

Establishing a Special City Commission Meeting on Tuesday, July 28, 2015, at 7:30 p.m

City Manager James Breuckman explained that the purpose of setting the public hearing is to purchase 99 Kensington in order to better serve the renovation of Gainsboro Park adding to the green park buffer and create additional space for a park walkway area. Funds will come from the recently approved park millage. The purchase of this property will aid in the relocation of the garden club and make a better entry into the dog park. Commissioner Foreman inquired as to the time line of the purchase and adding the property to the new plan. Breuckman responded that the closing is set for August 3rd and the current owners have 60-day occupancy after closing.

15-3196

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Perry, that a Special City Commission Meeting for the purpose of conducting a public hearing be established on Tuesday, July 28, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., to solicit public comments on the proposed acquisition of real property, property commonly known as 99 Kensington, Pleasant Ridge, Michigan.

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

Establishment of a permit parking district on Sylvan Avenue

City Manager James Breuckman reported that the City has received a petition by the residents of Sylvan Avenue to create a permit parking zone. The proposal for the permit parking zone is Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., excluding holidays. Businesses will be free to use the parking spaces that are towards Woodward from the retaining wall, the Woodward parking spaces, and the Fairwood public parking lot. Commissioner Foreman inquired as to how an individual would know the restricted area for permit parking and Breuckman replied that signage will be placed in the area. Commissioner Krzysiak mentioned that residents are concerned about enforcement and were wondering if the fine for the parking penalty could be listed. Breuckman responded that there is very limited space on the signs and that most likely will not be listed. Signs will be placed at the beginning and end of the permitted parking area.

15-3197

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, seconded by Commissioner Scott, that a permit only parking district be established for Sylvan Avenue, encompassing all addresses between 6 and 18 Sylvan, effective Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excluding holidays.

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

Commissioner Foreman added that Chief Nowak has indicated in the past that the permit parking will be enforced.

Resolution - Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office

City Manager Breuckman explained that the Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office (SEMREO) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that has local units of government as its members. SEMREO is more of a resource and advocacy organization for implementing renewable energy projects. There are no costs for being a member. Commissioner Foreman inquired as to language in the proposal for costs of obtaining grants. Breuckman explained that if the City did partner with SEMREO to obtain a grant that there may be costs that need to be repaid.

15-3198

Motion by Commissioner Krzysiak, second by Commissioner Perry, to support the joining the Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office be approved, and that the City appoint City Manager James Breuckman as the City's delegate representative, and Assistant City Manager Scott Pietrzak as the City's alternate representative to the Regional Energy Office membership meetings.

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

Commissioner Foreman indicated that SEMREO has already been involved with the City before this approval to join.

Resolution in support of joining the Southeast Michigan Street Lighting Coalition.

City Manager Breuckman explained that the Southeast Michigan Street Lighting Coalition is connected with SEMREO, and is intervening in the Michigan Public Service Commission rate case for the specific purpose of challenging DTE's proposed rate increases to operate LED street lighting. The City is in the middle of a LED conversion project with DTE currently that will save the City about \$12,000 a year and pay back in a bit less than 4 years based on DTE's proposed rates. Had the City completed the conversion a year earlier, it would have saved the City about \$17,000 a year and paid back in 2.5 years. The conversion to LED will reduce the City's lighting use by 61-percent in electricity costs, but the savings on lighting costs will only be at 25-percent. The Coalition has a fee to join and Pleasant Ridge's portion would be \$400.00 and is based on the number of streetlights in the community, and involves a number of communities. If additional costs are necessary in the future, City has an option to opt out. Commissioner Foreman inquired if the reason DTE is requesting the higher pay back due to the fact that the LED lighting is more efficient, lasts longer, thus, impacting the bottom line to DTE in the long run. Breuckman added that there is a per fixture fee that the City pays for each light. Commissioner Foreman inquired if a decision has

to be made on the “leadership committee” as part of the coalition. Breuckman responded that the leadership committee is elected amongst the members of SEMREO.

15-3199

Motion by Commissioner Perry, seconded by Commissioner Foreman, to support joining the Southeastern Michigan Street Lighting Coalition as adopted.

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

Installation of a Little Library in a public park.

Commissioner Krzysiak reported this is something that has been discussed in the past and the Little Library is a way to create strong social ties that enrich a neighborhood. A national movement has developed to create self-supported lending libraries that enable book sharing among neighbors, and work through efforts of book loving volunteers. Since 2015, over 16,000 little libraries have been installed throughout 65 countries worldwide and in every state in the U.S. Little Free Library.org is a group dedicated to promoting this concept and has developed a program guide for municipalities and individuals seeking to bring the benefits of a little free library to their communities. The process is to identify stewards and an ongoing work group; locate your library; buy or build your library; finding resources; and installing and celebrating the library. The proposal is the installation of a freestanding little lending library in one of the parks on Pleasant Ridge’s west side. The library will be entirely self-sufficient, financed by community contributions and maintained by volunteers. A work group will be organized and the first meeting will be on July 27th to coincide with the Book Club meeting, 6:00p, Memorial Park. Design and contributions will be solicited during the month of August, and then decide on August 31st. Construction will be in September, and the grand opening event in either September or October. Other communities have them as well, i.e., Berkley. Commissioner Foreman thanked Krzysiak for making this a reality.

Update regarding Citywide Sidewalk Survey

City Manager Breuckman reported that the City has been working on a sidewalk inventory the past few months. The inventory is completed and staff will provide an update on the results. There are four areas of concern with the sidewalks. Critical flags are areas that have more than 2-inches of unevenness or are severely crumbled, and these will be addressed in the most cost effective way. Small heaves are less than 1.5 inches and can possibly be corrected with a grinding machine. The City does have a grinding machine and most likely will be addressing these areas quickly. Cracked and spalling flags do not really pose a tripping hazard, but the only way to fix is by replacing the sidewalk overall. Streets with the most small heaves will be handled first. Once those are completed, the cracked/spalling sidewalks will then be addressed. Critical flags are the most expensive to replace, and will be addressed as monies are available. There is no set time on when the project will be completed. Commissioner Scott inquired if Woodward should be considered first due to the amount of food traffic. Breuckman responded that Woodward is overall in good shape except for a portion of the east side. The rapid transit on Woodward could involve many changes and Breuckman recommends waiting to see what this may entail. Also, the Honey Locust trees may need to be replaced in the next 5 to 10 years which will also tie into the sidewalks.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Breuckman reported that *The Ridger* has a new look and has been delivered by the mail. A new format will be designed and may be an 8-page pamphlet for the future. Breuckman reported the LED conversion has begun and will be a savings to the City over time. LED lights offer full spectrum color renderings, and the perception at night is better.

Assistant City Manager Pietrzak reported that the concrete pour will begin on Oxford tomorrow, and that the saw cutting could go as late as 8:00 p.m.

Establishing a public hearing on Tuesday, August 11, 2015, at 7:30 p.m

Commissioner Perry asked this to be removed from the Consent Agenda just in case there were any residents that had any comments or questions.

Mr. Marc Levine, 8 Sylvan, inquired as to why this house was being condemned. Breuckman explained that this house has many hazardous situations and no progress has been made to remedy them. City Attorney Need explained the process of setting the public hearing in order to determine whether the house should be torn down or remedied. The property owner will be given a deadline to comply.

Mr. Tom Treuter, 11 Oakland Park, inquired if the current owner forfeits ownership, and Breuckman replied that it would not. Need explained that if the property owner does not follow the recommendations to repair and rectify the hazardous situation, the City can have the repairs and/or demolition ordered and place a lien on the property for the costs.

15-3200

Motion by Commissioner Perry, seconded by Commissioner Scott, to establish a public hearing on Tuesday, August 11, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., to solicit public comments on the condemnation and demolition of the property commonly known as 7 Oakland Park Boulevard, Pleasant Ridge, Michigan.

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

Other Business

Commissioner Krzysiak announced that the Book Club for July will be the "This Far by Faith" by Faith Fowler, and will meet on Monday, July 27th, 7:00p, Memorial Park. The first Little Library meeting will be at 6:00p.

Commissioner Foreman reported that the summer tax bills are higher than the past and asked for an explanation. Breuckman explained that there was an increase in the taxable value that was affected by all the millages, an increase of 2-3 percent. There were 3.9 mills that will take effect this year.

City Clerk Drealan reported that petitions for the office of City Commission are available 4:00p, July 21st. Two petitions have been submitted to date.

Mayor Metzger reminded that the Ice Cream Social is Thursday, July 16th, 6:30p.

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

Mayor Kurt Metzger

Amy M. Drealan, City Clerk
/mat