



23925 Woodward Avenue
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069

Regular City Commission Meeting September 8, 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.

Pleasant Ridge Cubs Minors Baseball Team Recognition

Assistant City Manager Scott Pietrzak introduced the Pleasant Ridge Cubs Minors Baseball Team as the Tri-City Minors Champions. Coach Eric Schieble presented Mayor Metzger with a Cubs Jersey. The Team was presented with a special certificate from the Mayor. Mr. Schieble thanked all the families for participating in support of the team.

Public Discussion

Ms. Leslie Jones, 19 Fairwood, Environmental Commission, announced that the recycling fair is September 26th, 1:00p to 5:00p, accepting electronics, computers, clothing, and books, along with shredding. On Monday, October 19th, at 7:00p, 4 Ridge Road, a presentation by Kay Sicheneder, an arborist from Owen Tree Service, on care and management of trees. Commissioner Foreman added that the Pleasant Ridge Foundation is having its Baggo Mania tournament on September 26th.

Mr. Ted Zachary, 68 Devonshire, reported that he attended a seminar on community gardens and mentioned it is important to have insurance and involve youth. The presentation is available online and you can contact Mr. Zachary at wprtv@yahoo.com for the link. Any terrific tip suggestions are also welcomed. Mr. Zachary demonstrated the use of a timer while cooking as a reminder that you may have something on the stove if you are distracted by sitting at the computer.

Ms. Jessica Herzig, 1 Sylvan, Historical Commission, reported that June 4th, 2016 is the date of the garden tour. New ideas are being considered for some changes in the program. The Historical Commission is looking for new members. The Historical Museum will reopen Saturday, September 19th, 10:00a to Noon. Commissioner Foreman thanked the Historical Commission for its work in the community.

Ms. Jodi McGuire, 6 Woodside, trustee of the Pleasant Ridge Foundation and a founding member of Ridge Resale, reported that the Ridge Resale is 100-percent run by volunteers and located at the DPW. The proceeds raised are used by the Pleasant Ridge Foundation to enrich the City. To date, \$4,950.00 has been passed onto the Foundation. Sales are the second Saturday of every

month, weather permitting. Next sale is September 12th, 9:00a to 2:00p, which will include a tent sale with \$1.00 items. Many items may be used for upcoming Halloween costumes. Donations will not be accepted on this date due to the special sale. On September 26th, Ridge Resale will be open from 1:00p to 5:00p in conjunction with the recycle fair to accept donations only. Also, Ridge Resale will be open on the Sunday of the hayride.

Mr. Fred Seoden, 29 Fairwood, wanted to set the record straight on flooding and sewers after the anniversary of the flood 2014. The City's drain contains no pressure whatsoever and works like a river with an open channel flow. Floor drains are connected to gutter drains. A backflow preventer will cover your house, but not the basement. A good suggestion is to shut your water supply off while you are away for a period of time.

**Whistle Stop 1 – Liquor License Transfer of Class C License from Mae’s Restaurant, Inc.
15-3207**

City Manager Breuckman explained that the transfer needs state and City approval. A meeting was held in July with the City and the residents with a positive outcome. New owners have arranged for an extra trash pickup at the restaurant. The operating agreement has some minor changes to the hours of operation with a later start in the morning and longer hours on the weekend. Commissioner Foreman inquired if the days of operation are different and Breuckman reported that Whistle Stop 1 will be a 7-day operation as opposed to Mae's being closed on Mondays.

Mayor Metzger opened the public hearing at 8:01 p.m.

Ms. Patricia Ignatius, 9 Amherst, raised concerns of the leaf collection especially with the operation being open seven days a week now. Collection the last few years has been a major problem. Breuckman is aware of the concerns on Amherst and the City is addressing ways for better efforts, possibly closing the street to parking on the day scheduled for leaf collection.

With no further comments or discussion, Mayor Metzger closed the public hearing at 8:05 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Perry, that the City Commission approve the request to transfer the Class C Liquor License from Mae's Restaurant, Inc., to Whistle Stop 1, Inc., to operate the Whistle Stop restaurant at 24060 Woodward Avenue, Pleasant Ridge, Michigan, under the terms and conditions of City Ordinance 391, and that the Development and Operational Agreement be finalized between the parties.

Commissioner Krzysiak was pleased with the comments addressed at the meeting in July and thanked those who participated. The community values the establishment location and looks forward to supporting the new owners.

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

Mayor Metzger welcomed the new owners to the community.

Governmental Reports

Mr. Blake Prewitt, Superintendent of Ferndale Public Schools, shared an opening day presentation. Some parents from the community provided breakfast for the teachers and staff as organized by the School Board. The theme for this school year is “Team of Endless Dreams.” Ferndale schools have been addressed in the media, both newspaper and radio, outlining success stories and programs. New at the schools is an early childhood center at the former administration building. Ferndale Open Classroom is in all three elementary schools. This program will be district wide next year. Project Lead the Way, a STEM program, is being started at the Ferndale Middle School and the only school in the area hosting this program funded by a state grant. Ferndale School District is the first in the state to adopt the Cambridge International Program. Over 100 students are involved in this program. The Secondary Honors Program is also offered, along with an Early College program with Baker College. The alternative education program has been revised and is part of the Tri-County Educational Program. Mr. Prewitt mentioned that there is a renewal of the school millage this November for 20 years and is a non-homestead tax.

Fire Chief Kevin Sullivan mentioned that school is back in session and asked residents to be alert of those walking and on bikes.

Police Chief Kevin Nowak reported that the Dream Cruise went well with no major issues. Many surrounding communities have reported an increase in crime, but Pleasant Ridge has not experienced it. Police patrols have stepped in the neighborhoods. Police Nowak also reiterated that schools are back in session and to be mindful as you approach school zones. Police Nowak also reminded residents that if you see anything unusual, please contact the police department immediately. Commissioner Foreman inquired about some of the expenses on the disbursement report and Chief Nowak explained that the in-car cameras were all broken and unable to be repaired, and new ones were purchased; two tasers were purchased for availability on the shifts; and patrol rifles were purchased and being reimbursed by individual officers in a buyback program. Ms. Herzig, 1 Sylvan, inquired about contacting dispatch for a situation and felt that the dispatcher was curt with her. Chief Nowak commented that he has heard similar comments and has spoken with this dispatcher himself. Berkley does dispatch for several communities and the workload can be stressful, and Chief Nowak will look into this matter further.

City Commissioner Liaison Reports

Commissioner Foreman had no additional information to add to Mr. Prewitt’s report.

Commissioner Perry reported that the Planning Commission/DDA did not meet in August and their next meeting will be September 28th. Commissioner Perry reported that Friday, September 11th, the WA3 is hosting the Woodward Vision luncheon focusing on economic development along Woodward with a great panel discussion. Tickets are still available; 11:30a to 2:00p. Saturday, September 12th, 9:00a, will be a bike route along Woodward Avenue starting at the Highland Park plant. City Manager Breuckman presented a slideshow that offered samples of buffered and protected bike lanes which will be the future of Woodward Avenue. Commissioner Krzysiak added that many people rode their bikes to the Arts, Beats & Eats, and the future dedicated bike lanes will be a huge benefit for residents and the city.

Commissioner Scott invited residents to attend the next Historical Commission meeting on October 7th, Community Center, the first Wednesday of every month.

Commissioner Krzysiak requested cardboard boxes for the September 12th box castle build behind the Community Center. Wednesday, September 16th, Community Center, 6:30p, there will be a workshop on the tentative plans for Gainsboro Park. Wednesday, September 30th, 7:00p, Recreation Commission will be meeting to review the plans and seek input from residents. Thursday, October 8th, 6:00p, Community Center, Senior Bingo. Saturday, October 10th, Community Center, Mom-to-Mom sale. There are two openings on the Recreation Commission and will be filled at the October meeting. Anyone interested in serving on this commission, please contact the Recreation Department or City Clerk for an application, or online.

Consent Agenda

15-3208

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Scott, that the Consent Agenda, be approved, as recommended, with the removal of 9(f) for further discussion.

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

Receipt of Correspondence regarding Pit Bull and Vicious Dog Ban

City Manager Breuckman reported that Ms. Thea Augustyn, 20 Maplefield, has a concern about a proliferation of pit bulls at the north end of Maplefield and is requesting a ban. Many communities have created breed specific bans or an ability to deal with potentially vicious dogs. In the last 10 years, there have been 20 reported dog bite/attack cases, 10 of which were confirmed bites with a variety of breeds.

City Attorney Need reported there are no specific ordinances in the City that deal with these situations and the City relies on the state law. The City has three options: Propose an outright ban on one or more breeds; adopt additional protections and/or regulations directed towards one or more breeds; and adopt additional regulations that would apply to any type of dangerous animal overall. Some communities have adopted outright bans of a specific breed, but most adopt additional regulations. Need cautioned the Commission on an outright ban due to the fact that it is difficult to categorize a particular common breed and could possibly lead to intense litigation; enforcement issues are raised as well. Commissioner Foreman inquired as to what type of regulations could be added in order to include dangerous animals overall. Need explained that an ordinance of this nature needs to be cleverly crafted so that it is clear as to what is being regulated and what is prohibited.

Mayor Metzger indicated that he would not support a breed specific ban but would like to explore other possibilities of potentially dangerous situations. Commissioner Krzysiak shares the Mayor's concerns and believes that this should be explored, especially to encourage the responsibility of the animal owners. Krzysiak indicated that the discussion has come up about dogs being allowed in the park on the walking path. Commissioner Scott inquired if the reported dog bite cases were actually dogs owned by residents or if they were just along Woodward Avenue. Breuckman reported that many were dogs owned by residents, but there were also incidents at the dog park with non-resident

dogs. Commissioner Scott suggested that Woodward Avenue brings many non-residents through Pleasant Ridge and this will have to be investigated as well. Commissioner Perry does not support the ban specific ordinance, but overall regulations need to be addressed as a safety issue. Commissioner Foreman inquired if there were any other residents who have provided correspondence on this matter. City Clerk Drealan explained that residents were inquiring as to what the agenda item meant and what direction the City would be going on this matter. Mayor Metzger suggested a workshop be held to provide the City Commission with more information. Commissioner Foreman suggested a town hall meeting just on this topic.

Ms. Terry Hodskins, Waterford Township, founder of Michigan Pit Bull Education Project, and reported that ban specific ordinances do not make communities safer. An ordinance should be passed to make dog owners more responsible and not the breed. Ms. Hodskins' foundation is available for education and can assist in drafting an ordinance, along with providing training. Commissioner Krzysiak inquired as to what is the best way to handle neighbor situations involving a dog, and Ms. Hodskins explained that every situation is different. Her expertise is educating the public, and she will speak with the Police Chief to offer further assistance. Ms. Hodskins explained that having your dog spade or neutered are a benefit to the animal and the owner.

Ms. Valerie Newman, 19 Maplefield, assisted Ms. Augustyn with the research. The main concern is the children in the neighborhood playing at the dead-end street and a dog possibly jumping a fence. A discussion is needed in the City to bring it to everyone's attention, especially with the fact there are a number of rental homes in the area.

Mr. Josh Diskin, 15 Maplefield, is the owner of the dog mentioned in Ms. Augustyn's letter. He and his wife will do everything in their power to make the neighbors feel comfortable and safe about their pet.

Police Chief Nowak provided a thorough explanation of the 20 cases that were reported over the 10 years. The bottom line is that residents have to take responsibility of their pets and proper education is important. Ms. Augustyn inquired if there is an ordinance that requires a certain height of a fence for a dog and the Chief was not aware of any such ordinance. Chief Nowak did report that police officers do enforce pets that are not on leashes, both dogs and cats. Ms. Herzig inquired if the police department should be notified of dogs seen running at large and Chief Nowak encouraged residents to call. Commissioner Foreman added that pet owners need to be prepared for the "what ifs" that can happen and education is important.

Ms. Alissa Sullivan, Hazel Park, indicated that her city just repealed the breed specific ban. Having a safe neighborhood is a community effort, and proper education is important.

Resolution in support of the Environmental Committee letter to businesses regarding Eco-friendly lawn and garden products

15-3209

Commissioner Foreman requested the Environmental Committee to provide more background on the proposed resolution. Ms. Leslie Jones explained that the point of the letter was to have local businesses stock eco-friendly lawn and garden products, safer alternatives to pesticides that are currently not available. Commissioner Foreman is in strong support of this request.

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Scott, that a resolution in support of the letter regarding eco-friendly lawn and garden products by the Pleasant Ridge Environmental Committee be approved as presented.

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

City Manager's Report

City Manager Breuckman reiterated the Gainsboro Park workshop is next Wednesday, September 16th, 6:30p, at the Community Center. The City did receive a DTE tree planting grant of \$4,000.00, which will be planted next spring. The sidewalk replacement program is on its way and the big heaves are being replaced first to provide a safer walkway. Breuckman reported that Pleasant Ridge and neighboring communities are experiencing a rodent problem. Code enforcement is getting involved and the City is being proactive. Breuckman reported that MDOT is allowing the City to do some test projects on Main Street/I-696 corridor in order to perform a traffic study. Breuckman reported that applications for any of commissions are available online and there is a need to fill the slots on the Recreation Commission. Applicants should apply by the end of September. Commissioner Foreman emphasized the importance of getting involved in a commission, and the Recreation Commission is a great way to make a difference in this city. The Beautification Awards will be presented in October.

Assistant City Manager Pietrzak reported that 99-percent of Oxford construction is completed and only the landscaping needs to be finished. The pool is now closed after a very busy season.

Mayor Metzger inquired if the LED program is completed. Breuckman reported that it has been completed and DTE did present a rebate check to the City upon completion.

City Clerk Drealan reported that Election Day is November 3rd. The last day to register is October 5th. A write-in candidate must file paperwork by October 23rd. The school millage on the ballot affects businesses and non-homestead residents.

Other Business

Commissioner Krzysiak reported that the next book for the Book Club will be the "Rosie Project" by Graeme Simsion and will be discussed on Monday, September 28th, at 7:00p, Community Center. The Little Lending Library project is underway and two school-themed libraries are being constructed for Hessle Park, and another library for Flynn Field. Krzysiak thanked Commissioner Scott for his support of the project, who has offered to help with cost overruns.

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Mayor Kurt Metzger

Amy M. Drealan, City Clerk
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