



23925 Woodward Avenue
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069

**Regular City Commission Meeting
October 13, 2015**

Having been duly publicized, Mayor Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:33 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

Mr. Ted Zachary, 68 Devonshire, reported that the July recycling was 28 tons, August was 25 tons, and September was 21.5 tons. Leftover pumpkins from Halloween can be recycled in the compost bin.

Ms. Leslie Jones, 19 Fairwood, Environmental Commission, thanked those who participated in the recycling fair on September 26th, especially the volunteers. This is an event that may be held twice a year. 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.

2015 Beautification Awards

Commissioner Foreman and David Laidlaw gave a presentation on the PR Beautification Committee, the process of selecting homes, and a description of the homes that are this year's award winners: Conrad Stack and Carole Boyd, 147 Cambridge; Dr. Dorothy Pasikowski & Fred Brown, 21 Norwich; Raj and Susan Telang, 19 Oakland Park; Jessica & Todd Herzig, 1 Sylvan; Adam & Janelle Blumerick, 58 Amherst. Tokens of appreciation were presented to the award winners.

Mayor Metzger presented a Mayoral Recognition to Charles Dunlap and Lee Hart, Hart-Dunlap Enterprises, for the exterior, interior, and landscaping renovations to their property.

Establish Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., Consumers Energy Ordinance

City Clerk Drealan reported that Consumers Energy provides natural gas to the City and is requesting to extend the existing franchise. The City Attorney has reviewed and approved the proposed ordinance that would grant Consumers Energy the continued power and authority to lay, maintain, and operate gas mains, pipes, and services on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges, waterways, and other public places, to do a local gas business in the City. Commissioner Foreman inquired if anything has changed from the past 30-year agreement to the

new one. City Attorney Need responded that the proposed ordinance is substantially similar to the current franchise. Commissioner Krzysiak inquired if it is compatible with other local communities and Need responded that it is. Drealan added that any residents who would like to make comments for the Public Hearing can mail or email them to the City and that the information can be found online. Commissioner Scott inquired when does the current franchise expire and the Consumers Energy representative responded it expires in December 2015.

15-3210

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Perry, that a public hearing be established on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, at 7:30 p.m., to solicit public comments on an ordinance granting to Consumers Energy Company, its successors and assigns, the right, power and authority to lay, maintain, and operate gas mains, pipes, and services on, along, across and under the highways, streets, alleys, bridges, waterways, and other public places, to do a local gas business in the City of Pleasant Ridge, Oakland County, Michigan, for a period of thirty (30) years.

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

Governmental Reports

Commissioner Gary McGillivray reported that the Oakland County Commission has adopted its budget for 2015-2016, \$800 million, which includes Tri-Party Road Funding. Discussions are being held on having some of this funding apply to city roads.

Mr. Kevin Deegan-Krause, Ferndale Public Schools Board Member, gave a presentation on how Michigan schools are funded. Information on this presentation can be found on the school's website. The funding process in Michigan is extremely complicated. The state provides most of the funding to the School Aid Fund from various sources. School districts have very little control over the amount of funding that is received. It is important for residents to approve millages that are on the ballot for public education. Commissioner Freeman inquired as to how the millage amounts are determined and Mr. Deegan-Krause explained that the state maximum is 18 mills.

Police Chief Kevin Nowak reported that everything is status quo with the police department.

City Commissioner Liaison Reports

Commissioner Perry reported that the Planning Commission/DDA met on September 28th. The City Manager presented an overview of exterior design standards for discussion that further define neighborhood compatibility. The DDA discussed the Woodard/I-696 test project on the studies of calming traffic and the possible implementation of changes to the area, which runs through October 19th. The next Planning Commission/DDA meeting is Monday, October 26th, 7:00 p.m. The Woodward Avenue Action Association approved the complete streets plan for Woodward Avenue which includes the whole 27 miles of Woodward to make it an avenue again. The WA3 bike ride had about 100 bikers.

Commissioner Scott reported the next Historical Commission meeting on November 4th, 7:00 p.m. Community Center, and invited residents to attend.

Commissioner Krzysiak thanked the residents for donating cardboard boxes for the September 12th box castle build, though, dampened by the rainy weather. Kids Halloween Party will be hosted, Friday, October 23rd, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., ages 7-12, \$3/donation and RSVP; Saturday, October 24th, 10:00 a.m., ages to 6. Sunday, October 25th, Halloween Hayride, 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Gainsboro Park. The Artist Market will be November 13-14. Friday will be the opening event at 6:00 p.m., \$5.00. Recreation Director Scott Pietrzak reported some field trip events for the 50-over residents: Afternoon Tea, Townsend Hotel and Holiday Shopping in Birmingham, November 19th, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., \$42.00. December 1st, Painting with a Twist Holiday Edition, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., \$35.00. Pietrzak reported that the Garden Club event on October 12th had 175-190 attendees. On October 8th, the Health Fair, Walgreens administered 60 flu shots and Claddagh Chiropractor performed 30 massages; 50-plus bingo had 34 players. The Mom-to-Mom sale on October 10th had 17 vendors and 176 attendees. Donations of services and money have been received by Trader Joe's, Claddagh Chiropractor of Ferndale, Walgreens, Meijer, and Dr. Zervos' Office to the Community Center and Recreation Department to offer the various programs, and Pietrzak thanked them for the contributions.

Commissioner Foreman reported that the funding information for the schools can be found at www.ferndalevotinginfo.org. Ferndale's Homecoming parade and football game was October 9th, and Commissioner Perry reported that it was a very well attended event of both students and parents. The Superintendent's Advisory Council meeting was held October 12th and focused on the upcoming millage. The All-District Fall Festival will be held Saturday, October 17th, 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., for the entire school district. Election Day, November 3rd, will have an item on the ballot for the millage renewal. An adult talent show will be hosted on Saturday, November 7th, 7:00 p.m., Loving Touch in Ferndale, which raises money for children to attend the open classroom camp.

Consent Agenda

15-3211

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Foreman, that the Consent Agenda, be approved, as recommended.

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

Pleasant Ridge Recreation Commission Appointments

City Clerk Drealan reported that two applications were received for the vacant positions. The two applicants are Catherine Russell and Richard Cook. Commissioner Krzysiak recognized the service of Victor Furnari and Diana Peraino on the Recreation Commission over the years, and looks forward to working with the new appointees.

15-3212

Motion by Commissioner Krzysiak, second by Commissioner Foreman, that Ms. Catherine Russell be appointed to the Pleasant Ridge Recreation Commission, to fill a partial term, term to expire December 31, 2017; and that Mr. Richard Cook be appointed to the Pleasant Ridge Recreation Commission to fill a partial term, term to expire, December 31, 2016.

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

Interlocal Cost-Sharing Agreement for the Woodward Neighborhood Bicycle Route Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) 2015 Project

City Manager Breuckman reported and had a presentation on Ferndale receiving a grant through SEMCOG and MDOT for the Woodward Neighborhood Bicycle Route that will travel through Pleasant Ridge, Oak Park, Huntington Woods, Royal Oak, Hazel Park, and Ferndale. Ferndale needs resolutions in support to administer the implementation of the project. Also requested is an expenditure of not more than \$2,000. The overall grant is \$300,000. Commissioner Krzysiak appreciates the work that City Manager Breuckman and staff have done on this project, and inquired if directional signage could be specific to Pleasant Ridge along the route. Breuckman responded that this is a state program and he is not sure of the answer to that particular question, but he will inquire of Ferndale as the project begins. Krzysiak is excited about the connectivity of the neighboring communities along Woodward. Commissioner Scott inquired as to the crosswalks along Oakland Park and pedestrian crossing, and if this would provide an opportunity to rethink crosswalk markings. Breuckman responded that it is a very expensive project to meet MDOT standards and alternative options are being considered.

15-3213

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Foreman, that the City of Pleasant Ridge hereby supports City of Ferndale's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application to the Michigan Department of Transportation for a connected bicycle route through the cities of Pleasant Ridge, Ferndale, Oak Park, Huntington Woods, Royal Oak, and Hazel Park; and that, the City of Pleasant Ridge approves the interlocal agreement between the participant cities to allow Ferndale to administer the TAP funding grant for the Woodward Corridor Neighborhood Bicycle Network project and approves funding not to exceed \$2,000.00 for Pleasant Ridge's share of the total project cost.

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

Update Regarding Woodward Avenue/Main Street Test Project

City Manager Breuckman presented a PowerPoint on the Woodward Avenue/Main Street Test Project that is currently in progress. A traffic engineer is collecting data and the results will be reviewed for either implementation or further testing. The implementation goals are to maintain vehicle capacity, slow vehicle speed, ease pedestrian crossings, and consider future bike/transit infrastructure. Recent testings show that Ridge Road has the highest daily traffic volume and highest measure speeds of 32.3 mph. A mid-block crossing will be implemented at Roosevelt, along with place projects in the future. Another consideration on Ridge is lane narrowing in order to reduce speeds. Alley narrowing by placing planters is another test project. Commissioner Foreman inquired as to what type of signage could be provided to warn drivers of the changes ahead on the roadway. Breuckman responded that signage could address lane assignments, or even a curb build-out. This is something that would be raised with the traffic engineer. Commissioner Perry mentioned that businesses in the test area have noticed a difference in the driving patterns over the past few weeks, and Breuckman reported that the actual testing does not start until after a week or two to allow drivers to get used to the changes being made.

Update Regarding Dangerous Dogs/Breed Specific Ban

City Manager Breuckman reported that City Attorney Need has drafted three ordinances to be reviewed and considered. Breuckman reported that this is a very emotionally charged issue. Background information has been provided from the American Veterinary Medical Association, an official White House response, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. City Attorney Need reviewed his Memorandum that outlined three specific ordinance samples that includes breed-specific ban or regulation, local dangerous dog ordinance, or dangerous/potentially dangerous animals, and reviewing the advantages or disadvantages of each approach, including costs. Commissioner Foreman suggested a town hall meeting to get residential input on a complex issue. Commissioner Perry agrees that there is not enough feedback from residents to make an informed decision. Commissioner Krzysiak echoes the comments made, would like to see a pro-active approach be made, and encourages everyone to read the American Veterinary Medical Association's Community Approach to Dog Bite Prevention. Krzysiak is most comfortable with the Farmington Hills example. Commissioner Scott supports the town hall suggestion. Mayor Metzger recommends taking the breed specific approach off the table; Commissioners Scott and Foreman support. City Attorney Need agrees with the town hall approach. Commissioner Foreman added that the type of ordinance drafted may result in a major impact on the police department investigating and enforcing the ordinance. Krzysiak responded that having a guideline for the officers to follow would be a safety issue for the residents. Police Chief Nowak indicated that the police receive those calls now and it is part of their job, and he supports the town hall meeting idea.

Ms. Valerie Newman, 19 Maplefield, appreciates the consideration and supports the town hall meeting. Many proactive steps can be implemented by the pet owners for proper licensing, fencing, and overall control of the animal. Ms. Newman also supports to remove the specific breed ban as an option.

Commissioner Foreman mentioned that ground rules should be established in conducting the town hall meeting, and Mayor Metzger agreed.

Mr. Jeff Augustyn, 20 Maplefield, agrees that the proactive approach of the pet owner is important with the licensing and fencing. Commissioner Krzysiak agreed and reiterated that the Farmington Hills ordinance sample is a good start.

15-3214

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Scott, that City Administration establish a town hall meeting for the purpose of discussing animal legislation or taking no action on this issue, a date and location to be determined.

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

Commissioner Perry inquired if a further narrowing of the provided samples should be discussed before the town hall meeting, and City Attorney Need responded that the Farmington Hills ordinance is a more proactive approach.

Arianna Kughn, 40 Maplefield, supports the town hall meeting, but recommends it should be residents only focusing on making the neighborhood safe. City Attorney Need stated that under the Open Meetings Act, anyone would be allowed to attend and speak.

Mayor Metzger encourages residents to attend the town hall meeting instead of using social media to discuss this topic.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Breuckman reported that through a grant from MDOT, improvements will be made around existing tree plantings and adding new trees in empty well areas along Woodward Avenue.

Breuckman reported that the new water billing structure is in place, and in 2015, Pleasant Ridge dropped from number one in 2014 to fourth for water/sewer costs per MCF to \$112.20, a decrease of 10.9-percent.

Other Business

Commissioner Krzysiak reported that the next book for the Book Club will be "Working" by Studs Terkel and will be discussed on Monday, October 26th, at 7:00 p.m., Gainsboro Hut. The Little Lending Libraries have been installed in Hessell Park. The principal at Roosevelt was excited to see them installed and an event will be organized with the school. A library soon will be installed at Flynn. Please share books or borrow from the libraries.

City Clerk Drealan reminded everyone that the election is November 3rd. Last day to get an absentee ballot is October 31st.

Mayor Metzger reported that there will be an open house for the retiring Mayor of 34 years in Huntington Woods on November 9th, 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Recreation Center.

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 9:51 p.m.

Mayor Kurt Metzger

Amy M. Drealan, City Clerk
/mat