



*23925 Woodward Avenue
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069*

Regular City Commission Meeting June 14, 2016

Having been duly publicized, Mayor Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Foreman, Krzysiak, Perry, Scott, Mayor Metzger.
 Also Present: City Manager Breuckman, City Attorney Greg Need, Assistant City Manager Scott Pietrzak.
 Absent: None .

Public Discussion

Ms. Gail Gerdan, 54 Ridge Road, representing the Environmental Committee, reported that on May 23rd an educational seminar on native Michigan plants was held; and on Saturday, June 4, a native plant sale was conducted with over a hundred people in attendance. A fall schedule for the Environmental Committee will be provided in the near future. June 20th to June 26th is National Pollinator Week. In order to protect the bee population, use organic products and avoid chemical pesticides in your gardens/yards; plant wild flowers and native plants; eat organic; and recommends “beyondpesticides.org” for helpful hints. Mayor Metzger read an email from Brenda Nolan commending the native plant sale.

Tom Trader, 11 Oakland Park, mentioned the Little Free Library fundraiser held on June 9th and the wonderful contacts that were made and ideas. Two more may possibly be added this summer. Bookmarks were presented to Mayor Metzger and Commissioner Krzysiak. Mr. Trader commended City Manager Breuckman and the Commissioners for how the budgets are presented for easy understanding.

Richard Burr, east-side resident, reported a rat problem in Pleasant Ridge, and inquired as to the City’s input. City Manager Breuckman reported that the City inspects and maintains the parks and public property. The only way to get rid of rats is to deny habitat. The City does have a code enforcement officer now and any complaints should be submitted to the City for follow-up.

Governmental Reports

Superintendent Blake Prewitt, Ferndale Schools, presented a PowerPoint on the “sinking fund” election coming up in August. Ferndale is no longer funded by property tax and \$7,900 is received per student from the state. Cuts have been made outside the classroom in order to stay within the budget. Ferndale does not have a capital outlay account to maintain the buildings like other districts. After the bond projects are complete this summer, there are no funds for building maintenance/repairs. Any funds would have to come from the classroom since about \$3 million

(10%) has already been cut from instructional support. A “sinking fund” is a limited property tax, considered a pay-as-you-go method for funding building maintenance and infrastructure projects. No debt or interest expense is incurred with a sinking fund. The tax is levied each year and the revenue generated from this levy is designated to building upgrades or repair. The sinking fund cannot be used for general fund expenditures. Ferndale as never utilized this in the past, but neighboring districts have for a number of years. The restructuring of the district closed three buildings gaining \$1.5 million in the sale of the buildings and reusing the items for existing buildings. It costs approximately \$1 million per year for building maintenance. Roofs and exteriors are in major need of repairs, including the athletic fields, and some interior maintenance projects. The ballot is August 2nd and 1.3 mills are being requested.

Chief Kevin Nowak, Pleasant Ridge Police Department, reported all is well in the City.

City Commissioner Liaison Reports

Commissioner Perry reported that the Planning Commission and the DDA did not meet in May due to the lack of a quorum. The next meeting in Monday, June 27th. Commissioner Perry reported that the Regional Transit Authority has rolled out its master transit plan for SE Michigan and propose a regional transit millage on the November ballot. Public meetings will be held locally for feedback: Monday, June 20th, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Costick Activities Center (Farmington Hills); Wednesday, June 22nd, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Berkley Community Center. The master plan is online at RTA.org. Mayor Metzger added that the business community will have to come out in support of this.

Commissioner Scott on behalf of the Historical Commission thanked the community for coming out to the Home & Garden Tour on June 4th. The next meeting will be held September 7th.

Commissioner Krzysiak reported that there was an informational meeting held on June 13th on the Gainsboro Park improvements which was well attended. City Manager Breuckman reported the contractor will be onsite starting June 15th through August 27th. The schedule and construction documents are available on the City’s Website. The tennis courts will start in September, followed by the playground for 5-12. The park will be closed during construction in order to speed up the project.

Commissioner Foreman reported that the last day of school is a half day Friday, June 17th.

Consent Agenda

16-3263

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, that the Consent Agenda be approved, as recommended, with item 7(g) removed.

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

2015-2016 Budget Amendments

City Manager Breuckman explained that this is the final budget appropriation to close out 2015-2016 Budget, as follows: (1) Recognizing \$46,000 of additional revenue from dividends paid to the City from the MMRMA's loss pool fund; (2) A transfer out of \$70,500 from the general fund. This includes a \$500 transfer to the debt service fund to cover a part of the final loan installment payment on the DPW pole barn building. The remaining \$70,000 transfer will go to the capital improvements fund to cover expenses which were budgeted for this year, but which may not be paid until the next budget year.

16-3264

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Scott, that the 2015-2016 Budget Amendments be approved, as listed.

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

2016-2017 Utility Bill Rates: (a) Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Water and Sewer Rates; (b) Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Industrial Waste Control Rate

City Manager Breuckman presented a PowerPoint highlighting the proposed utility rates as follows: Ready-to-serve charge \$29.50 per bill; combined usage rate \$71.47; garbage pickup fee \$16.77 per bill; ERU Storm Water fee \$45.12 per ERU per bill. Commissioner Foreman added that the City's fiscal year starts on July 1 and runs until June 30 of the next calendar year. A bill for May and June water usage and garbage pickup under the current rates in effect for the 2015-16 fiscal year will be mailed in July. This bill will be due in late August. The bill for July and August water usage will be the first bill using the new rates and will be sent to residents in late September and due in late October. Breuckman also added that a letter will be sent out to the residents explaining the ERU rates.

16-3265

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Foreman, that the proposed 2016-2017 Utility Bill Rates be adopted, as recommended.

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

City Manager Breuckman explained that Industrial Waste Control charges that are given to the City from the Great Lakes Water Authority.

16-3266

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Scott, that the proposed 2016 Industrial Waste Control rates be adopted and effective July 1, 2016, as recommended.

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

Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Combined City Budget and 2016-2017 Millage Rates

City Manager Breuckman presented a PowerPoint highlighting the budget process. The millage rates have a rollback factor of 0.9737 and this is the largest rollback in Oakland County. Revenue growth is of 0.3-percent. Assessed value growth is of 10-percent. The budget is now for 3 years in order to plan for future expenditures. General fund revenue is increasing by \$7,600.00 in 2016-2017, and expenditures are increasing by \$20,000.00 due to personnel costs and a new police car. Pension costs and healthcare costs are always a challenge. The budget is available on the City's Website. Commissioner Foreman appreciates the sensible arrangement of the documents to make for an easy read, especially on the millage and grants. Commissioner Krzysiak echoed the comments, and added that it defines how the millages are dedicated. Mayor Metzger added that there are many pieces in the media that explain how cities are suffering with funding cuts, and that he appreciates all the work that is happening in Pleasant Ridge.

Mayor Metzger opened the public hearing at 8:44 p.m.

With not comments or discussion, Mayor Metzger closed the public hearing at 8:45 p.m.

Commissioner Krzysiak inquired about a grant opportunity for the covered pavilion at the park, and funding for a small play area near the baseball diamonds. City Manager Breuckman responded that it has hard to predict what will happen with the Gainsboro construction project at this point, but can reevaluate it at the end of the year to see where the budget stands. The City has applied for the pavilion grant and will hear about that in December. The projects mentioned are actually slated for phases two and three.

16-3267

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Scott, that the 2016-2017 Combined City Budgets be approved and that the Budget Resolution be adopted, including the levying of 13.6238 mills for the General Fund Operating, 2.8472 mills for Infrastructure Improvements, 1.6260 mills for Solid Waste and Disposal, 0.3481 for Publicity, 0.3763 mills for Library Services, 1.2074 mills for Community Center Complex Operations, 1.2122 mils for Community Center Complex Debt Service, and 0.7190 for Park Improvement, be approved, as recommended.

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

Resolution regarding the concept of increasing the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Commissioner Foreman would like more information for the residents to understand what this item is all about. City Manager Breuckman explained that the energy plan is being developed as part of a grant awarded to the City through the Southeast Michigan Regional Energy Office (SEMREO). The city's match for the grant is being provided through staff time and the cost of the increased insulation that the City installed as part of the Community Center roof replacement project this past spring. SEMREO has partnered with EcoWorks Michigan to conduct the work associated with the grant. One of EcoWorks' tasks is to prepare Community Energy Strategic Plans for each of the participating communities. EcoWorks is using an energy plan template provided by the Federal Government, and one of the things that they have requested of the City is a resolution in support of the creation of the plan. Creation of the plan will have no direct cost to the City, and will provide a

resource for us as we seek to continually improve our energy efficiency and use of renewable energy where feasible.

16-3268

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Perry, that the resolution regarding the concept of increasing the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy be adopted, as recommended.

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

Other Business

Commissioner Krzysiak mentioned that there has been discussion about the surfacing at the 5-12 area, which is a huge investment of the project, and is looking for input from the Commission. City Manager Breuckman added that \$150,000.00 is allocated for the entire project and that it may be premature at this time to discuss. Commissioner Foreman mentioned that this was discussed at a workshop and mulch was agreed to at that time. Mayor Metzger believes that the subcommittee appointed from the Recreation Department should oversee this process. Commissioner Scott believes that this is a decision that should be made by the Recreation Commission. Commissioner Perry added that the poured-in-place surface is more accommodating to those with special needs. Assistant City Manager Pietrzak added that engineered wood fiber chips are used for playground surfaces and is not your basic wood chips. Wood fiber chips only last 2-3 years and need to be replaced. Commissioner Foreman mentioned that he is not comfortable with the subcommittee making major changes on the play area over and above what has already been agreed upon at the workshop. Breuckman added that the Recreation Committee has a meeting July 13th and a special meeting will have to be held within a week in order to meet the window of getting the equipment ordered and installed. The risk of having the City Commission review the decision of the Recreation Commission could have the project put on hold until next year if the City Commission does not agree with all the elements.

Motion by Commissioner Krzysiak, second by Commissioner Scott, that a special meeting of the City Commission be held following the July 13th Recreation Commission's meeting to approve the 5-12 play area project.

Adopted: Yeas: Commissioner Krzysiak
 Nays: Scott, Foreman, Perry, Mayor Metzger

Commissioner Krzysiak mentioned that Gainsboro Park construction is starting and the existing play structure has been disassembled for possible future use. Krzysiak thanked the volunteers for their help.

Commissioner Krzysiak reported that the next book for the Book Club will be "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbery on June 27th, 7:00 p.m., Hessel Park.

Commissioner Perry reported that on Wednesday, June 29th, is the Fifth Annual Sunflower Gardens and Trees Woodward event. Donations assist the landscape, and \$75.00 will allow you to attend a wine and cheese reception; woodwardavenue.org from more information.