



**City of Pleasant Ridge**  
23925 Woodward Avenue  
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069

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**Public Hearing and Regular City Commission Meeting  
June 13, 2017**

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

Present: Commissioners Foreman, Krzysiak, Perry, Scott, Mayor Metzger.  
Also Present: City Manager Breuckman, City Clerk Drealan.  
Absent: None.

**Public Discussion**

Amanda Wahl, 27 Fairwood, Pleasant Ridge Foundation, noted that the Foundation is distributing six \$1000 scholarships within the week. Even though attendance was down at the auction, over \$42,000 was raised. Proceeds will go toward upgrading the back area of the Community Center.

**Governmental Reports**

Chief Kevin Nowak, Pleasant Ridge Police, stated that the basketball net is open at Gainsboro Park. There have been no new incidents since it was reopened. A loose dog was successfully captured with the help of many residents. The dog was turned over to Oakland County Animal Control. There was a discussion whether the dog would be available for adoption. The department assisted with a recent tanker fire.

**City Commission Liaison Reports**

Commissioner Foreman reported on Ferndale Public Schools. There were a total of 49 applicants for Superintendent. Dr. Dania Bazzi has been hired. She will begin on July 1, 2017. Lisa Williams has been rehired to replace Roger Smith as Ferndale High School Principal. She will also begin on July 1, 2017. Mr. Smith's retirement event was filled with music and was very memorable. The next School Board meeting is June 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the High School Media Center.

Commissioner Perry reported on the Planning Commission/DDA. The next meeting is Monday, July 24. DDA business members were invited to attend a casual happy hour to talk about some of the plans and projects being considered.

Commissioner Krzysiak reported on the Recreation Commission. There was a productive discussion regarding the basketball court issues. The rules for use of the court have been posted. Recreation Director Scott Pietrzak discussed the summer programs. Ninety children have already signed up. There are 132 children on the swim team. Many programs begin on Monday, June 19. Baseball teams and sand volleyball teams have been formed. The City is working to grow a larger soccer program.

Liverpool Coaches Academy is offering free open training and tryouts will be held soon. The pool has been cooler than normal and the pool heater is being replaced.

Commissioner Scott reported on the Historical Commission. The Home and Garden tour was a great success. Over three hundred people attended. Seven homes were on the tour. The Environmental Committee plant sale was also a success. John Wright will speak on August 2 regarding the history of the pool. The next regular meeting is September 6.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **17-3313**

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

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

### **2017-2018 Utility Bill Rates**

City Manager Breuckman commented that final rates have not yet been received. Details were presented last month and there is no change at this time. Sewer lining projects are planned for West Cambridge, Oxford, Norwich and Hanover. The average water user will see an overall 3.94% increase in their bill. Rates have been coming down and stabilizing over recent years.

There was discussion regarding consideration of alternative storm water rate calculations that had previously been presented by a resident. The current rate structure is more predictable than previous methods.

#### **17-3314**

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, to approve the resolution regarding 2017-2018 Utility Bill rates, as recommended.

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

### **2017 Industrial Waste Control Rate**

City Manager Breuckman noted that this is a standard item that is a pass-through cost to non-residential customers.

#### **17-3315**

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Scott, to adopt the proposed Industrial Waste Control Charges to be effective July 1, 2017.

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

**Fiscal Year 2017-2018 Combined City Budget and Millage Rates**

City Manager Brueckman noted that there were no significant changes to what was presented last month. The fund balance is approximately \$12,000 which is low. Millage rates are declining.

Mayor Metzger opened the public hearing at 8:18 p.m. With no comments or discussion, he closed the public hearing at 8:19 p.m.

**17-3316**

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Perry, that the 2017-2018 Combined City Budgets be approved and that the Budget Resolution including millage rates be adopted as recommended.

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

**Police Pension Millage Discussion**

City Manager Breuckman presented an overview of the current situation. The pension is currently 53% funded. Pension costs will nearly double from 2015 to 2021 and will represent approximately 12% of total general fund expenditures. The budget has been cut in previous years to absorb the increases but further cuts are not feasible. A number of changes in the pension plan have been made throughout recent years to help address the issue. Changes in benefits and hybrid plans were introduced for new hires. New plans created after 2011 are fully funded. The legacy costs for personnel hired prior to 2011 are problematic.

Commissioner Krzysiak inquired regarding the impact of the new health care savings plan. Costs will increase in the short term but the city will save money long term. MERS changed their parameters significantly so the impact of the problem was not fully realized until after the 2014 millage request. Other cities are facing a similar problem. Commissioner Krzysiak noted that if revenue sharing from the State had been maintained at previous levels this problem would not exist.

A pension millage is being proposed that would be a fifteen-year levy of up to 1.4 mills phased in over four years. Millage rates have been reduced in the last two years. This request would not result in a tax increase but would lower the rate of tax reductions to the residents. Another half-mill Headlee reduction is likely for next year. If there is no new millage, the budget would need to be reduced by another \$125,000. Cuts in police personnel would likely be necessary that would result in eliminating twenty-four hour coverage. Cuts in the recreation department would also be needed. An additional \$55,000 would need to be cut from other departments in order to meet the budget requirements without the pension millage. Millage language will be presented in July and the goal is to have the millage request on the November ballot. Commissioner Krzysiak noted that the pension costs already exist and must be funded in some way.

**Community Energy Management Plan**

City Manager Breuckman presented an update on the project which has been grant funded by the State. A draft plan will be published for comment along with a survey for residents. The plan will provide a roadmap for the city to continue to reduce its energy usage. The goal is to reduce energy usage by 25% by the year 2020. Very likely that the city will meet those goals by implementing this plan. Some items have already been implemented including converting street lights and all lighting at the Community Center to LEDs. City Hall has also been partially converted to LED lighting.

Increased roof insulation was also installed at the Community Center. RFPs have been issued for a 20 kilowatt solar energy system for the Community Center. The overall program will likely save the City \$25,000 per year in energy costs. The plan and survey are on the city's website. In the future options for homeowner projects may be considered such as shared solar panels. Commissioner Foreman commented that this has been a long-term goal for the city and not just a result of the Paris Agreement. He requested that the survey also go out by e-blast and be placed on the City's Facebook page.

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

City Manager Breuckman reported that the Hanover and Norwich paving projects are proceeding very quickly. The City is participating in the Local Road Improvement Matching fund through the County and will receive approximately \$5800. This is the second year the City has participated in that project. Commissioner Foreman asked for an update regarding drainage at Gainsboro Park. There are still some drainage issues that may resolve themselves over time. Some dry wells are also planned. He also inquired regarding the street tree program. Approximately six residents participated in the cooperative program. Mayor Metzger inquired about the DDA sidewalk projects on Woodward. The project is being coordinated with Oak Park and will likely be completed within the month. The misting station is due to be installed shortly.

### **Other Business**

Commissioner Krzysiak noted that the book for the Book Club will be *The Handmaid's Tale*, by Margaret Atwood. It discusses a dystopian future where women are oppressed. The meeting will be June 14 at 7:00 p.m. at Gainsboro Park. He suggested that everyone read it even if they cannot attend the meeting. The book for July is *Annie's Ghost*. Email Commissioner Krzysiak to obtain a copy of either book.

City Clerk Amy Drealan noted that qualifying petitions for Mayor and City Commission are available. They are due by July 25 at 4:00 p.m. One petition for Mayor and three for Commissioner have been issued. No petitions have yet been returned.

Commissioner Perry noted that the Gainsboro Park Campout will be August 12. There will be a movie and other activities.

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 9:12 pm.

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Mayor Kurt Metzger

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Amy M. Drealan, City Clerk

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