



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

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**Regular City Commission Meeting  
September 11, 2018**

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

Present: Commissioners Krzysiak, Perry, Scott, Wahl, Mayor Metzger  
Also Present: City Manager Breuckman, City Clerk Drealan, City Attorney Need  
Absent: None

**Public Discussion**

Ms. Judith Quinones, 92 Kensington, noted that the tree in the boulevard is leaning and has a black disease. The tree needs to be checked so that its disease does not spread. She also inquired when street sweeping would be done. Breuckman noted that it is contracted to be done on the second Tuesday of the month.

Mr. Richard Burr, Woodward Heights, asked for an explanation as to why the stop sign lines at Woodward and Bermuda were not repainted after the new paving was completed. City Manager Breuckman stated that there is a study underway to consider removing the stop signs. Mr. Burr indicated that he thought the signs should remain. He noted that there used to be a flashing light at that intersection. He also indicated that the stop sign helps with the traffic flow and allows residents to back out of their driveways. Breuckman noted that there would be a test period, with a speed and traffic counter installed, before any permanent change was made. The city has begun engaging in active traffic calming using design interventions. The program has been working on Ridge.

**Governmental Reports**

Chief Kevin Nowak, Pleasant Ridge Police Department, noted that school is back open which has had a negative impact on local traffic at Lower Elementary. A number of complaints have been received by a variety of agencies. He suggested finding an alternate route around 8:00 a.m. when school starts and 3:00 p.m. when school lets out. Many drivers are passing illegally which is a significant safety concern. Breuckman noted that this year has been worse than others and indicated that a meeting was held with representatives from the cities and the school to discuss ways to address the problem. The school is not willing to change the bus routes to alleviate the back up. There was a traffic study done approximately 30 years ago that addressed this same issue. Chief Nowak concurred that the school is reluctant to make any changes. Letters are being sent home with students reminding everyone of the proper routes and rules of the road. There are approximately 535 students currently enrolled. The school was designed in the 1950s to be a school

that students walked to rather than drove so the infrastructure is not well-equipped to handle the traffic volume. Chief Nowak participated in a 9/11 memorial ceremony at the Capital in Lansing at the invitation of Representative Wittenberg. He complimented the services of Representative Wittenberg.

Chief Kevin Sullivan, Ferndale Fire Department, noted that the department is down approximately 1/3 of their personnel due to medical leave and retirements. He noted that the hiring pool is very small. There are six candidates currently going through the background investigation process. He discussed the Jacob's Kit program which includes equipment and training for school personnel to stop the bleeding from gunshot wounds as soon as possible. One kit was placed in every classroom. The kits were paid for with drug forfeiture funds.

### **City Commission Liaison Reports**

Commissioner Wahl reported on the Recreation Commission. The next meeting is October 24th. The master plan process has begun. There will be hayrides September 21st. Demolition on the rec room has begun and the work should be completed in a couple of months.

Commissioner Krzysiak reported on Ferndale Public Schools. He delivered a message from School Superintendent Bazzi. The theme for this school year is Change, Challenge and Excel. The next School Board meeting is September 17th. He indicated that he would address the traffic concerns and encouraged anyone who wanted to discuss the issue to attend the meeting. He discussed a new visitor credential exchange program. Visitors to the schools will have to exchange their photo ID for a visitor badge while they are at the school. The ID will be returned when the visitor turns the badge back in at the end of their visit. David A. Kelly, author of the Ballpark Mystery Series, donated books to the elementary schools.

Commissioner Perry reported on the Planning Commission/DDA. The commission did not meet this month. The next meeting is October 22nd. She noted that the Chariot program was active for the Arts, Beats and Eats event. She noted, and Breuckman, agreed that the program was well utilized. Breuckman indicated that there were approximately 80 to 100 riders each day of the event. The overall Chariot program will begin on September 21st. The stops in Pleasant Ridge will be the same as they were for the Arts, Beats and Eats event. Livernois Tap has been added as a stop. The program will run Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 4:00 p.m. to midnight.

Commissioner Scott reported on the Historical Commission. The Commission is working on digitizing the contents of the museum including updating the catalog of donated items. They are also working on updating the history of the city. Pewabic tiles are available at City Hall. The next meeting is October 3rd.

### **Consent Agenda**

**18-3380**

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Wahl, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

**Traffic Control Orders #192 - No turn on red at Oakland Park and Woodward, and #193 - No turn on red at Sylvan and Woodward**

City Manager Breuckman indicated that engineers had been brought in to discuss issues at both intersections and ways to make them more comfortable and safe for pedestrians and bicycles. The primary issues arise at the Oakland Park/Woodward intersection which is wider, has more lanes and is not at a perpendicular angle. MDOT will be redesigning the curbs at Oakland Park/Woodward to create more distance and better sight lines. Bike boxes will also be created to allow the bicyclists to cross Woodward first, ahead of the rest of the vehicular traffic. The timeline for the corner improvements is the Spring of 2019 and Fall 2019 for the bike boxes. Disallowing turn on red will add the final safety improvement to the intersection. Bicyclists and pedestrians have been hit because drivers are looking at traffic rather than at the entire intersection to find an opportunity to turn. No turn on red can be implemented immediately. Mayor Metzger noted that, because of parked cars on Woodward, drivers trying to see if they can turn onto Woodward on red have to pull into the crosswalk. Additionally, drivers who are going straight make an artificial second lane to accommodate those who are trying to turn on red. He is in favor of no turn on red at these intersections. Krzysiak encouraged citizens to review the entire engineering packet. He inquired whether pedestrian push buttons were being considered. Breuckman discussed the pros and cons and indicated that it was the staff recommendation to implement no turn on red which is safer and less costly. There was discussion regarding MDOT's unwillingness to allow push buttons to extend the timing of the red light. MDOT has been cooperative regarding this project overall. They are working on various projects all along Woodward. Scott inquired regarding the location of the no turn on red signs. Breuckman indicated that sign location is still being researched.

**18-3381**

Motion by Commissioner Wahl, second by Commissioner Scott, to approve the traffic control order as presented.

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

**Establish Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 13, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. to Consider the Parks and Recreation Master Plan**

City Manager Breuckman indicated that, in order to be eligible for state DNR funding, cities must have a five year plan for their parks and recreation departments. He noted that this proposed plan contains much smaller projects than the last plan which included Gainsboro Park. The new plan began with a survey which was followed by a prioritization exercise. The short list of projects includes improving the Memorial Park fountain, installing fitness stations and path lighting at Gainsboro Park, and installing a play area at Victory Park. Other possibilities include a tennis backboard and a pavilion at Gainsboro Park. The projects that received the most votes from the survey were the path lighting and pavilion at Gainsboro Park. Third was the Memorial fountain project. The votes for the other projects were very close. Funding sources for all of the projects over the next five years have already been identified. The prioritization identified the pathway lighting as the first project to be implemented along with a new project of adding shade and seating to the artificial grass portion of the pool. Wahl noted that the prioritization process identified safety issues as well as just aesthetic improvements. The second priorities were the pavilion and natural

play area. The third tier included the tennis backboards, the fitness stations and the Memorial fountain. There are links to the plan available on the website. There was discussion regarding other suggestions that were made for various projects that did not make it into the plan. Breuckman noted that the safety zone necessary for swing sets is one of the reasons that swings are not being considered.

**18-3382**

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, to approve the public hearing for November 13, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. for the 2019-2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

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

**Discussion Regarding Placement of Flags In and On City-owned Property**

Commissioner Krzysiak indicated that flags were lowered to half-staff in response to the death of Senator McCain. He then discussed a proposal to raise a POW/MIA flag in Pleasant Ridge. Additionally, he proposed raising a Rainbow Pride flag which has been installed in the City of Ferndale. Scott discussed logistics and noted where flags are currently raised throughout the city. He supported the proposal overall but noted that some flags cannot come down to make room for other flags. Breuckman indicated that the commission should establish some rules and guidelines for the staff such as whether the flags would be flown indoors or outdoors, all the time or on certain dates, etc. There was discussion regarding Ferndale's

**18-3383**

Motion by Commissioner Krzysiak, second by Commissioner Scott, to instruct staff to develop a framework and policy regarding flying flags on city property.

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

**Closed Session under section 8(e) of the Open Meetings Act to Consult with Attorney regarding Trial or Settlement Strategy in Connection with USCA 18-1253, Stallworth v City of Pleasant Ridge, et al.**

**18-3384**

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, to move into closed session. (8:53p)

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

**18-3385**

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Wahl, to reconvene the regular city commission meeting. (9:28p)

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

**Settlement Agreement**

**18-3386**

Motion by Commissioner Scott, second by Commissioner Perry, to accept the advice of counsel and enter into the settlement agreement as presented.

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

**City Manager's Report**

(None)

**Other Business**

Krzysiak indicated that the next book club meeting will be September 12th and the book is "1968."

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

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Mayor Kurt Metzger

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Amy M. Drealan, City Clerk

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