



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

**Regular City Commission Meeting
October 9, 2018**

Having been duly publicized, Mayor Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

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

Recognition of the Pleasant Ridge Angels Minor League Baseball Quad-City Champions

Coach Eric Schibel and the other coaches thanked the city for their support and the improved baseball field. They also congratulated the team for their athleticism and sportsmanship. The team's record for the season was 10-0. Assistant City Manager Scott Pietrzak thanked the coaches for their service. He also acknowledged the successes of the younger leagues.

2018 Beautification Awards

Mr. Don Daniels presented the awards. He thanked the committee: Cathie Gillis, Melinda Pillel, Jennifer Kueber, David Laidlaw, Jan Treuter and Jay Foreman. He also thanked Tom Treuter for his photography. Awards were presented to 19 Poplar Park, 32 Devonshire, 29 Cambridge and 66 Wellesley.

Public Discussion

Ms. Lynn Stojic-Nilson, 28 Elm Park, expressed concern regarding some of the proposed traffic changes. Specifically, she is concerned about eliminating the right turn only lane at Oakland Park which may increase the turn traffic on Elm Park. She would prefer eliminating the right lane entirely. Breuckman noted that the primary focus of the traffic pattern changes was to make it easier and safer to cross Woodward on bicycles or on foot. He indicated that the right lane at Oakland Park will not be eliminated but will be striped out, tapering from Elm Park. He stated that some drivers would still turn at Oakland Park but that the change would cause some drivers to go to Elm or other streets. He noted that MDOT is building the project and that the proposed changes have been approved as part of that project. There was discussion of the details of the project.

Ms. Cheryl Ramos, 59 Kensington, stated that it has been almost two years since the small dog gate at the dog park was rebuilt. At the commission meeting in April she was told that the new gate would be installed that spring. Temporary solutions were offered but did not last. Breuckman

responded that the gate has been repaired. The plan is to transition the dog park gates to work with the same key fobs that work at the wellness center. The current magnetic cards all expire on the same date. The new fobs would all be active for a full year from date of purchase. He acknowledged that several problems arose during the conversion that slowed down the project.

Ms. Patricia Ignatius, 9 Amherst, asked for details and an explanation for why she received a tree removal letter. Breuckman indicated that an arborist performed an evaluation of the trees in the city and made recommendations. He stated that he would respond after reviewing the arborist's report. There was discussion that there was one tree on the list that was currently healthy but showed evidence of infestation by the emerald ash borer. Krzysiak discussed the city policy and appeals process regarding tree removal. Treatment for the borer is not available because it damages the bee population.

Governmental Reports

Sergeant Robert Ried, Pleasant Ridge Police Department, encouraged citizens to lock their cars as several cars had been burgled recently. He reminded that there is now no turn on red at Oakland Park and Sylvan. He suggested alternative routes for drivers near the schools during the drop off and pick up hours.

City Commission Liaison Reports

Commissioner Krzysiak reported on Ferndale Public Schools. Student representatives from both high schools presented updates to the Board. Zoey Butters represented Ferndale High and Sydney Embry represents University High. In 2017 there were 2880 students. In 2018 3058 students are enrolled. Lisa Wright was appointed to the Special Education Advisory Committee. The football team is very successful and the marching band won first place at the Linden Invitational. The last Learning Garden was installed at the high school. The first meeting regarding a potential bond proposal for 2020 will be on October 22nd at Ferndale High School. The current bond is expiring and needs to be replaced with a new bond. The next school board meeting is October 15th. There was discussion regarding the involvement of school-of-choice students in the overall enrollment increase.

Commissioner Perry reported on the Planning Commission/DDA. The next meeting is October 22nd. She indicated that the Chariot program has been well received.

Commissioner Scott reported on the Historical Commission. The Home and Garden Tour will be moved from late spring toward late summer/fall. Residents are invited to register their home for the tour. The next meeting is November 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioner Wahl reported on the Recreation Commission. The five-year master plan is on the website and is open for comment. Comments should be posted through November 7th. The public hearing to finalize the plan will be held on November 13th. The Junior Garden Club meets on October 16th. Many other educational and recreational events were scheduled for October and early November. The next meeting will not be held on Halloween. The new date will be posted on the website.

Consent Agenda

18-3386

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

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

Traffic Calming and Ridge Road Pedestrian Crossing Update

City Manager Breuckman presented an overview of the project and the results of the online survey. Over 70% of the respondents voted that the "stop for pedestrians in crosswalk" signs should be made permanent. It was noted that, not only are drivers stopping for pedestrians at Ridge, but they are stopping at other crosswalks as well. Slides were displayed showing the reduced speeds on Ridge since the various improvements have been made since 2014. Average speeds have been reduced by 2.0-2.5 miles per hour. The speeds on Ridge Road now are similar to the speeds on other roads throughout the city. The focus will be on Woodward Heights for similar improvements next year. A traffic calming manual is being prepared that can apply to any street in the city. The potential for additional signs on Ridge Road is limited due to the number of driveways. The bolted signs would need to be removed in the winter to allow for plowing. There was discussion regarding how residents can opt into implementing the concepts in the traffic calming manual.

Mr. Tom Treuter, 11 Oakland Park, inquired regarding whether there was a freeze/thaw problem with the holes in the street. Breuckman indicated that was not a problem.

Krzysiak discussed how other communities address pedestrian safety. He asked whether there would be a public hearing regarding the traffic calming manual. Breuckman stated it would follow the same process and the tree maintenance manual. There was discussion regarding the size of the no right turn on red sign at Oakland Park.

18-3387

Motion by Commissioner Wahl, second by Commissioner Perry, to make the traffic calming changes on Ridge Road permanent.

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

Placement of Flags In and On City-owned Property

Breuckman discussed the information that was gathered to create and support a municipal flag policy. This included an inventory of both permanent and temporary flag displays throughout the city. Krzysiak inquired whether adding to existing flag poles is a possibility. Breuckman and Pietrzak both indicated that that was possible.

18-3388

Motion by Commissioner Krzysiak, second by Commissioner Perry, to adopt administrative policy 2018 and add the POW/MIA and Pride flags on permanent display in the City Commission chambers and add the POW/MIA flag to the permanent display under the U.S. flag in Memorial Park. Scott discussed adding the new flags as limited rather than permanent display. There was discussion regarding amending the policy in the future to accommodate other flags.

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

City Manager's Report

Breuckman discussed that the city is working with the DDA on a grant application to update the Woodward streetscape. Tree maintenance season is beginning. Trees on the east side will receive elevated trimming. The pear trees on Indiana will be replaced and some new trees will be planted on Ridge this fall.

Other Business

Krzysiak indicated that the next book club meeting will be October 10th. The book is "The Rent Collector." Coffee with the Commissioners will be October 23rd at 7:00 p.m. at Gainsboro Park.

Mayor Metzger noted that Harvest Days at Iron Ridge will be October 20-21. Election day is November 6th. Pleasant Ridge is in a contest with Huntington Woods for the highest voter turnout. The winner receives \$1000 for their recreation department. Sample ballots and additional information are available at city hall. He encouraged citizens to get absentee ballots if they will not be able to vote in person. The deadline for absentee ballots is November 3rd.

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

Mayor Kurt Metzger

Amy M. Drealan, City Clerk

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