



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

**Regular City Commission Meeting and Public Hearing
January 15, 2019**

Having been duly publicized, Deputy Mayor Perry called the meeting to order at 7:32 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

Amy Butters, 23 Millington, discussed the Ferndale Fine Arts Booster raffle. FAB supports students in the fine arts programs through donations of concert uniforms, an instrument trailer and the like. Tickets sell for \$10.00 and the prizes are \$500, \$1000 and \$2000. The drawing is February 2nd at 4:00 p.m. during the All City Concert. There is a drive to raise funds to provide bottled water and snacks for students during finals. A link to that site has been posted on the Facebook group page.

Governmental Reports

Chief Kevin Nowak, Pleasant Ridge Police Department, noted that Daniel Simon has been hired as a new part-time officer. He recently retired from the Ferndale Police Department and is a lifelong resident of the area. A new patrol car is being outfitted and should be in service within a week.

Acting Fire Chief/Fire Marshall Jack Pesha, Ferndale Fire Department, indicated that Chief Sullivan is recovering from a medical emergency that occurred in November.

Assistant City Manager Scott Pietrzak noted that the January meeting of the Recreation Commission will be rescheduled. The renovations to the big room at the community center are 98% complete. SOCR has an app called Waste Wizard which will explain how to dispose of any material including hazardous waste that is not picked up curbside. The video doorbell company, Ring, has a program called Neighborhoods where residents can post videos to their neighbors to share useful information regarding suspicious activity in their area. He is working with Ring to obtain some test equipment to expand the service to various intersections in the city. Discount coupons for home doorbell systems may be made available. Krzysiak thanked Pietrzak for the tour of the community center and indicated that anything that needs work at the center should be brought to Pietrzak's attention. Krzysiak inquired about the status of the dog park. Pietrzak noted that at the current time the two entrances to the park use different access passes so citizens can have time to switch to the new pass. Additionally, wiring needs to be laid to connect the two gates. Installation of the underground wiring has been delayed due to the weather.

City Commission Liaison Reports

Commissioner Wahl reported on the Recreation Commission. The next meeting will be the week of February 4th. The movie of the month was Little Women. There is a free computer program on January 24th. A tour of the Masonic Temple with lunch will be February 7th. The Daddy Daughter dance is February 8th. February 27th there is a tour of Little Caesar's Arena with lunch. Spring sports registration is under way. Application deadline for summer camp counselors and lifeguards is March 8th.

Commissioner Krzysiak reported on Ferndale Public Schools. The process of drafting a new strategic plan began last year. They are recruiting stakeholders for the Strategic Planning Committee. Interested parents or students can email strategicplanning@ferndaleschools.org before January 26th. Seth Petty is the new principal for Ferndale Middle School. There is a Meet and Greet on January 31st at 6:00 p.m. Zoe Butters, FHS Liaison, spoke at the December 17th School Board meeting. She discussed the Winter Voices Concert, which was a great success, as well as Spirit Week and the Motor City Roundball Classic. Sydney Embry, the UHS Liaison, also addressed the Board. She noted that the students have been participating in a number of charitable activities including Ronald McDonald House and Gleaners. The student body pledged to continue to donate throughout the year. Bridget Tweedle and Lydia McKee represented the United Student Assembly and discussed the students' work on the Canned Food Drive for the Renaissance Church Food Pantry, and Adopt-a-Family. There was also a Penny Wars program that raised \$350 for gifts for needy families. The Superintendent's Excellence Award was given to Brittney and Branden Nichols. The Eagle of the Month award was presented to FMS Math Teachers, Mike Sigler and Nate Austin. Building Pride went to Upper Elementary. Katie Jeffrey gave an update on the work accomplished through the FUEL program. The next meeting is February 25th.

Commissioner Perry reported on the Planning Commission/DDA. The next Planning Commission meeting is January 28th. The Chariot program has been discontinued. There was discussion regarding the usage of the Chariot program. Ridership had been tapering down through the cold weather months. There was also discussion regarding potential alternative riding services.

Commissioner Scott reported on the Historical Commission. There will be a workshop on February 6th to introduce the new members of the commission to the museum. The next regular meeting will be March 6th.

Consent Agenda

18-3399

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

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

Overview of Proposal 18-1, Michigan Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana Act

Breuckman presented an overview of the Act. The Act permits possession and use of 2.5 ounces of marijuana and regulates the amount that can be grown at one location. Up to 2.5 ounces may be given to persons 21 and older. A list of prohibited actions was presented. The Commission needs to address the various options regarding marijuana businesses within the city. City Attorney Need addressed the licensing requirements through LARA. They have one year to promulgate rules for licensing. If they do not have rules in place within one year, individuals may apply to their local municipalities. Need noted that litigation is probable to answer some of the many questions arising from the passage of this bill. Any amendments to the bill require support from three quarters of the legislature to pass. The city can opt out of the bill which would prohibit marijuana establishments entirely. Opting in would allow the establishments with city regulation. Taking no action results in the city having opted in to the rules of the Act. The city can limit the number of establishments. If more applications are received than the city allows, the city must enter into a competitive process. The details of that competitive process are not defined. There are questions regarding what kind of ordinance would be necessary to regulate these establishments. There are also questions as to whether the city can ban certain types of establishments but allow others. The statute states that local ordinances cannot be unreasonably impracticable but does not clearly define that term. There will likely be litigation to clarify this issue. Local ordinances may regulate signage; the time, place and manner of operation; allow sale and use in some restricted areas and at special events. Violation of a local ordinance would result in a civil infraction with a fine of no more than \$500. Municipalities may require local licenses but may not charge a fee of more than \$5000 and cannot prohibit transportation of marijuana through the city. Krzysiak inquired whether the city could simply allow these establishments only in certain zones of the city. Need responded that that issue is unclear given the wording of the statute.

If the city opts in or out, a citizen initiative can be put on the ballot to change that decision. By state law the signatures of 5% of the voters are needed to place the issue on the ballot. Scott inquired regarding the number of licenses that might be issued statewide. There will be a 10% excise tax on retail sales. Those taxes will be used by the state to defray administration and enforcement costs. Additionally, for at least two years or until 2022, \$20 million may be spent annually for research into usage and veterans issues. After that, any balance will be distributed 15% to counties and 15% to municipalities in proportion to the number of retailers and microbusinesses; 35% to the school aid fund; and 35% to roads. The state has estimated that \$27 million dollars will be distributed to municipalities by 2022-23, however the potential tax revenue picture is really too uncertain to predict at this point in time. Metzger recommended continuously monitoring the process while some of these issues are addressed throughout the state before the city formally makes any kind of decision. There was discussion regarding the likelihood and cost of litigation. Krzysiak discussed the potential for increased revenues over time and recommended opting in sooner rather than later to maximize revenue. He expressed concern about the potential market getting more diluted over time. He read an article regarding the positive impact revenues from marijuana sales has made on small communities in Colorado. He recommended drafting an ordinance to allow these establishments in the city as soon as possible. Scott suggested waiting for a while to see what direction the state takes. Wahl expressed concern regarding bearing the burden of litigation that will likely come along with being an early adopter of any ordinance.

Ordinance to amend Section 82-197(b)(9)(c) - Automobile Service Station, Hours of Operation

Breuckman presented an overview of the proposed ordinance which would allow the Sunoco station to sell packaged beer and wine from 8:00 a.m. till midnight. The current hours are 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. There has been no increase in the need for police activity at the station in the six months since

packaged liquor sales were authorized. Residents within 300 feet of the station were notified of the amendment and asked to comment. No responses were received.

Mayor Metzger opened the public hearing at 8:50 p.m. Mr. Rob Sakat, 8 Fairwood, indicated that he was in favor of adopting the ordinance.

With no further comments or discussion, Mayor Metzger closed the public hearing at 8:51 p.m.

Perry was contacted by a resident who was concerned that the extended hours would attract unwanted patrons. Mr. Singh commented that 80% of his customers are residents of Pleasant Ridge and it is those residents who have expressed a desire to purchase alcohol during the extended hours.

18-3400

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Wahl, to approve the amendment to ordinance 82-197(b)(9)(c) as presented.

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

Traffic Calming Manual and Program Introduction

Breuckman explained that a town hall meeting will be held Tuesday, January 22nd at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the effects of traffic calming measures. Traffic calming is the most common concern raised by residents throughout the city. The manual discusses the traffic calming process and the various techniques available. Overall Pleasant Ridge streets are safe, but improvements can always be made. As a general rule, slower speeds are safer for pedestrians. State law sets the speed limit on residential streets at 25 miles per hour. Design speed, posted speed and operating speed are all elements of traffic calming. While operating speed usually equals design speed, design speed is traditionally higher than posted speed to provide a safety buffer. In Pleasant Ridge 85% of drivers travel at 30 miles per hour which is also the design speed of the residential streets. Driver behavior can be changed by making adjustments so that design, posted and operating speed are all equal. There are limits on what the city can do with regard to signage and other traffic control measures. Other factors that can affect driver behavior include lane width, the number of lanes, curb radius and the number of straight street segments. There are both horizontal and vertical traffic calming elements. Horizontal elements include constricting the width of the street and creating deflections. Vertical elements include bumps, humps and tables that would cause traffic to slow down. There was discussion regarding various design options and their effect.

Krzysiak inquired regarding center lines. Breuckman noted that studies have shown that center lines actually cause drivers to go faster. Allowing parking on both sides of the street also slows traffic because it effectively narrows the street two cars cannot easily pass each other. This, however, is typically an unpopular solution. Wahl discussed allowing residents to test it on their streets because it can be easily reversed. City Attorney Need inquired whether there were more accidents when parking on both sides is allowed. Breuckman responded that the data does not seem to show that but there have been no specific studies on that issue. Pleasant Ridge switched to allowing parking only on one side of the street in the 1990s. Krzysiak inquired as to the reason for the change. Breuckman noted that it was likely either at the request of the fire marshal or local residents. Perry indicated that she was originally opposed to both side parking but Breuckman explained that there would not be more

cars, they would just be more spread out. Stop signs, road closures and enforcement measures do not improve traffic calming.

Traffic calming projects are being considered on streets that have either a volume of more than 2500 vehicles per day or where 85% of the speeds recorded are greater than 32 miles per hour. Areas where there is a high safety risk for pedestrians or bicyclists will also be considered. The streets that meet these criteria are Ridge, Woodward Heights, Oakland Park and Oxford. Residents can petition for traffic calming projects on other streets by filing a petition signed by 66% of the households on the street. The city would then present options and costs. The residents would determine the desired course of action. Various options would be field tested and then the residents would vote to make them permanent. The residents would pay for the cost of the improvements through a special assessment district. A lot of data has been collected for every street which residents can review in the manual.

There will be a special meeting focusing on Woodward Heights immediately following the general town hall. Krzysiak commended the guide and encouraged residents to review their options. He would be in favor of the city sharing the cost of improvements with the residents.

City Manager's Report

(None)

Other Business

Krzysiak indicated that next book club meeting is January 16th, the book is *Shark's Fin and the Sichuan Pepper: A Sweet-Sour Memoir*. The February book is *The Underground Railroad*, by Evelyn Millstein. The meeting will be on February 20th at the Community Center. The author will be present at the meeting. Mayor Metzger commented on the life and contributions of Eugen Kepler who passed away recently.

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 9:34 p.m.

Mayor Kurt Metzger

Amy M. Drealan, City Clerk

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