



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

**Regular City Commission Meeting
October 15, 2019**

Having been duly publicized, Mayor Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

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

Beautification Awards

Mr. Don Daniels presented awards on behalf of the Beautification Committee. Recipients receive a specially commissioned tile and a lawn sign. The recipients were: A11 Devonshire, Michael Holmes; 56 Ridge Road, Judith and Robert Wachler; 54 Woodward Heights, Michele Varady; 22 Poplar Park, Amy and Brian Roemer. Special recognition was given to Rick Cook and Michael Yoskovich for the Ridge Roots community garden.

Public Discussion

Allison Smith, 85 Wellesley, objected to the tall pathway lighting that has been installed in the park. The footpath lighting was acceptable but the tall lights illuminate her home. The lights are left on all night long. Eight foot spruce have been planted but will take a great deal of time to grow to cover the 14 foot lights.

Cathy Koch, 83 Wellesley, also objected to the pathway lighting in the park. She noted that many other residents have been affected. She also mentioned the lighting at the Iron Ridge Development. The problem will worsen as the trees lose their leaves. She commented that the fact that the lights are on all night encourages people to use the park after hours.

Bill Rauch, 90 Wellesley, expressed concern that the park pathway lighting has deviated from the mission stated in the budget. The tall lighting illuminates the playscapes and not just the pathway. He commented that the park hours are not posted at the park.

Breuckman commented that they are looking into putting a timer on the pole lights. He noted that there are no set hours for the park. The 14-foot pole lights still fall within the definition of low lighting. Street level or parking lot lighting is typically 25 or 30 feet. He discussed the foot candles of light that are generated by the pole lights. He indicated that glare is more of a problem which is why the trees were planted. The Iron Ridge lights are taller and so trees cannot be planted to block them. The Iron Ridge lights meet city code. Scott discussed closing the tennis courts during late fall and

winter so that the lights never come on. Krzysiak raised the issue of looking into strengthening the lighting ordinance. Breuckman indicated that there was little more that they could do other than set certain height standards. There was discussion that there used to be posted park hours and Krzysiak suggested building that into the ordinance. He also raised the possibility of moving some of the taller lighting to the dog park and not installing the remaining pole light. Metzger also expressed concern regarding the installation of the second pole light. Breuckman indicated that more trees can be planted but it will take three or four years for them to block the lights.

Ted Zachary, 68 Devonshire, Pleasant Ridge Environmental Committee, expressed support for placing timers on the lights to reduce energy consumption. Recycling tonnage was 21 tons for August. Mixed solid waste was 80 tons. He suggested publishing a list in the Ridger of organizations that will pick up or accept drop offs of items that can be reused or donated to charity rather than going into the solid waste stream. He raised examples of furniture, medical equipment and books. Scott suggested adding the Yahoo group Freecycle to the list. New ideas for the list can be sent to wprtv@yahoo.com.

Jay Foreman, 60 Oakdale, candy collection at 4 Ridge will begin on November 1 and end on election day. The date stated in the Ridger is incorrect. Last year 318 pounds of candy were donated. He thanked Commission Krzysiak for his support and efforts in the community.

Governmental Reports

Chief Jack Pesha, Ferndale Fire Department, reported that two recent fires resulted from candles and one from halogen lights. Home inspections can be schedule by going to the ferndalemi.gov website. He indicated that they intend to expand their community outreach including a File of Life program and user surveys.

Chief Kevin Nowak, Pleasant Ridge Police Department, congratulated the beautification winners and the new Fire Chief. He asked that residents not park in the street on scheduled leaf pick up days. He also urged caution when parking a hot car near a pile of dry leaves. Recommended time for Halloween is from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. The department recently purchased body cameras. Personnel are in the process of being trained. New car cameras will also sync with the new body cameras. He congratulated Krzysiak for his years of service.

City Commission Liaison Reports

Commissioner Krzysiak reported on Ferndale Public Schools. The September School Board meeting included reports from school liaisons Nya Williams and Zoe Butters. Ferndale Schools received the MAP Equity Innovator Award. They will receive a \$5000 honorarium to support equity efforts. School administration presents what make them proud about the district. Trustee Anna Ebrahim celebrated Jaya Webster from University High who is a member of the Detroit Youth Choir. He thanked the School Board, teachers, administrators and parents.

Commissioner Perry reported on the Planning Commission/DDA. The September 23rd meeting was a public hearing regarding the expansion of the Whistlestop dining room. One concern was the impact on parking. The Commission passed the request which will now go before the full City Commission regarding the liquor license. The next meeting is October 28th.

Commissioner Scott reported on the Historical Commission. The Home and Garden Tour was a great success. Over 300 people purchased tickets and attended the event. They will discuss whether to keep the tour in the fall next year. There are only five or six 100th Anniversary tiles left. The Historic Museum is open every third Saturday from 10:00 to noon.

Commissioner Wahl reported on the Recreation Commission. The Halloween movie is Hocus Pocus. The Hayride is October 26th at Gainsboro Park. Halloween house decorating contest ends on October 22nd. Junior Garden Club meeting November 19th at 3:45 p.m. Seventy shots were administered at the flu shot fair. Next meeting is October 30th.

Staff Addition to Agenda

Breuckman requested an addition to the Agenda - Item 7a Call for Public Hearing regarding Condemnation of the Property Commonly Known as 71 Devonshire.

19-3437

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

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

Schedule Public Hearing Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. to Solicit Public Comment on Condemnation of the Property Commonly Known as 71 Devonshire, Pleasant Ridge

Breuckman noted that this property has had chronic blight violations dating back to 1998. The property was cited again for blight in July as well as for health and safety code violations. The police and fire departments visited the property and there were numerous dumpster bags overflowing with construction debris. A stop work order was issued on July 25th. A door was open and the police observed multiple installations of wiring and heating equipment which had been done without a permit. The previous owner passed away and their granddaughter is the new owner. She indicated that she had owned the property for over year. She does not live there, and she stated that the property is vacant. She applied for the proper permits on August 15th. Permits for first floor renovations were issued but there have been no permits for electrical, plumbing and HVAC replacement. The owner has not allowed entry by inspectors or city personnel. The city is in the process of replacing the code enforcement officer. Noxious odors are now emitting from the property. Police and city clerk visited the property yesterday and no progress has been made. In fact, the condition of the property has seriously deteriorated. The deadline for permits to be applied for and approved is November 7th, including an interior inspection by the building official before that date.

Krzysiak inquired regarding the permitting costs. Breuckman indicated that the owner has full equity in the property. There is no mortgage and they do not live in the home. Permit costs are based on the value of the job.

19-3438

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, to schedule a public hearing Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. to consider condemnation of the property commonly known as 71 Devonshire Road.

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

Consent Agenda

19-3439

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

Establish Public Hearing on November 12, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. to Solicit Public Comments on the Request by Whistle Stop I, LLC, to amend the Class C Liquor License Operating Agreement

Breuckman noted that the Whistle Stop has begun work on expanding their dining room. The liquor license operating agreement specifies the number of seats that can be in the restaurant, so it now needs to be amended to accommodate the expanded seating. The remainder of the agreement will be unchanged. Extra parking will be accommodated through the use of the parking attached to the new leased space. The garbage storage will be moved off of Amherst.

19-3440

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, to schedule a public hearing Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. to consider the request by Whistle Stop I, LLC, to amend the Class C Liquor License Operating Agreement.

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

Establish Public Hearing on November 12, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. to Solicit Public Comments on an Ordinance Regarding Trimming or Cutting Trees Susceptible to Oak Wilt

Breuckman stated that the city contracts with one part of Davey Tree, which is a very large corporation. DTE contracts with another part of the same company. The city got DTE to stop trimming oak trees until November 1st. A previous city resolution had already addressed this issue. He presented a summary of oak wilt and its effect on the trees. Oak tree roots graft together so the fungus can spread easily. Red oak trees are more susceptible than white oaks. Due to the ability of the fungus to spread rapidly, it is necessary for the city to be vigilant in removing trees that contain the disease. It is best to trim oak trees when average daily temperatures are below 50 degrees which is essentially from November 1st to March 31st. Krzysiak discussed the fact that the ordinance applies to private property and civil infractions could be written for violations.

19-3441

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Wahl, to schedule a public hearing Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. to solicit public comment on an ordinance regarding trimming or cutting trees susceptible to oak wilt.

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

Discussion Regarding Consolidation of Election Precincts

Drealan indicated that the city periodically receives notice from the state that the number of voters does not meet the threshold for separate precincts. The threshold is 2999 voters. The city is under that and Drealan does not anticipate the number of voters will exceed that threshold in the near future. With the move to the electronic poll book, going to one precinct would be manageable at this time. There would still be the same number of voting booths and the change would allow the absentee ballots to be counted using a counting board. The voting location would still be the community center. The change would reduce the number of inspectors needed and would also reduce printing costs. The Election Commission, which consists of Drealan, the city manager and the city attorney, recommends changing to one precinct beginning with the March 10, 2020 election. The Election Commission will make an official determination in November and forward that decision to the Secretary of State.

There is an election November 5th, 2019. Absentee ballots are available now. Ballots must be returned by 8:00 p.m. on election day. Residents can register to vote at the city clerk's office through 8:00 p.m. on election day. She discussed the process for using the new electronic poll book. It is also backed up by a paper poll book.

Oakland County Sheriff's Office will be conducting the Coats for Cold Program. There will be a collection box at both the recreation center and at city hall throughout the month of November.

City Manager's Report

Breckman noted that the construction barrels are decreasing. Construction continues at Woodward/Oakland Park for crosswalk improvement. Leaf pickup begins the last Monday of October. Leaf pickup will not be extended. The last week in November is the end of leaf pick up. Leaves can be put out in bags until December 16th. The Woodward Heights project is continuing and is both state and federally funded. It should be completed within a few weeks. The November City Commission meeting should be back in City Hall.

Other Business

Krzysiak proposed a resolution supporting the striking UAW workers. The resolution was read by Krzysiak and amended by Scott. Krzysiak agreed to the amended motion.

19-3442

Motion by Commissioner Krzysiak, second by Commissioner Perry, to issue the amended resolution in support of the striking UAW workers.

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

Krzysiak indicated that he had lawn signs and he listed a number of ways to contribute towards fundraising.

The next book for the book club is Toni Morrison's first book. November's book is *Beneath the Tamarind Tree*.

Drealan reported on the upcoming election. Two city commission seats will be on the ballot along with a library millage renewal. There is also a renewal millage for Oakland Community College. Absentee ballots will be available soon. Anyone can apply to vote absentee. New e-poll books will be used for the first time in this election.

Metzger discussed meeting Krzysiak at a public hearing in 2001 regarding moving fire services to Berkley. Krzysiak was in favor of staying in Ferndale. Krzysiak's input was very impactful. Krzysiak and Perry ran against incumbents and won. They worked hard to improve the communication and transparency of the city. Metzger noted that the city has been changed profoundly to the good by Krzysiak's dedication and hard work.

Perry expressed that she has been honored to serve on the commission with Krzysiak.

Krzysiak noted that it has been a challenging pleasure to serve the city for the last eight years.

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Mayor Kurt Metzger

Amy M. Drealan, City Clerk

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