



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

**Public Hearing and Regular City Commission Meeting
February 9, 2021**

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

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

Public Discussion

Jaime Powell-Horowitz, 45th District Court Judge, gave an update on events happening at the court, the court docket is still being handled via Zoom until more of the population is vaccinated against COVID-19. Court will be working on the marihuana expungement program.

Sign Ordinance Amendments

Need gave an overview of the proposed ordinance amendments for consideration. He explained due to a recent supreme court determination, the City's ordinance must be amended to comply. The proposed ordinance address time and place that signs can be displayed, and does not regulate content, which is allowable under the supreme court decision. No part of the City's proposed ordinance is unconstitutional or overly restrictive. Perry questioned whether the City's current unconstitutional. Need replied the current ordinance does not comply with the ruling and is therefore unconstitutional and the City will need to do something. Breuckman commented that when the ordinance was being drafted, there are provisions of the ordinance that will not be proactively enforced. The ordinance standards are enforced when there is a complaint. The proposed ordinance also relates to temporary signs, which falls under the supreme court ruling. The number of signs that would be permitted was determined by the average number of signs that are currently being displayed.

Mayor Metzger opened the public hearing at 7:42pm.

Jay Ahmed, 92 Kensington, is not in favor of the time limit provision. Gave his opinion regarding the supreme court ruling. Commented that the ordinance may not be accomplishing anything if he could take the sign down for one day, after the 365-day approval, and then out the sign back up. Breuckman indicated the time limit should not be the focus of this ordinance amendment, it is a small part of the amendment, the Commission can determine if that part of the ordinance should be kept. Ahmed commented the practical effect is the sign can be taken down and put right back up, why should the time limit remain in the ordinance if this is the case. Scott commented the purpose of the public hearing is to hear options on the proposed ordinance to assist the Commission in making a determination, and he understands the point Mr. Ahmed is making. Tom Wilkinson, 130 Maplefield, reviewed the ordinance with the Planning Commission, and this ordinance was proposed to deal with

temporary signs. By nature, a temporary sign would have a time limit on it and create a reasonable aesthetic. Ahmed noted there is a three-sign limit, would political signs count towards that three-sign limit. Metzger commented political signs are in a separate section and do not count towards the limit.

Alex Lenko, 16 Millington, part of the charm of the community is the diverse tapestry of the community, understands the need to reduce the clutter and the need to update the current ordinance. Can the time constraint on temporary signs be for a longer period of time, as opposed to one year. Need commented the ordinance defines temporary as time and permanence of construction. It may not be necessary to have a time limit in there, but there should be a time limit. The thought was to define temporary and permanent signs and regulate them in their respective sections. The time duration helps define what temporary means.

Jason Krzysiak, 55 Wellesley, feels the proposed ordinance is limiting free speech, until now this was not the case. Government should not be the one deciding when expressions of personal speech, including sign regulations. Support for free speech in Pleasant Ridge is strong, he has not seen issues with clutter from signs, and free speech should not be encumbered by durational limits or number of signs allowed. Ordinance should be crafted to represent Pleasant Ridge. Number of signs, duration and materials should be struck from the ordinance. Feels these provisions have not been addressed at the supreme court level. This ordinance does not need to be passed as written. Need stated there are restrictions in the current ordinance. Krzysiak believes the proposed ordinance is an overreach. Breuckman stated the currently ordinance defines design materials of temporary signs.

With no further comments or discussion, Mayor Metzger closed the public hearing at 8:06pm

Scott questioned whether the proposed ordinance could be amended to remove the temporary sign duration, would that be allowable. Breuckman commented the time limit does not have a large impact, and there would be no issue in removing that language. Scott asked if there could be changes also made to the political sign section. Breuckman stated Need would have to weigh in. Need commented that purpose of the language is to expand the right of free speech during the election season. Perry questioned if there will be an impact to the business district. Breuckman stated the proposed ordinance would also effect the business district, same as the residential district.

21-3500

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott , that the ordinance to amend Pleasant Ridge City Code, Chapter 54, Article I – Temporary and Nonconforming Signs, Section 54-2 – Definition, Section 54-7(b)(6) – Election Signs, Section 54-7(b)(8) – Sandwich Board Signs, Section 54-7(b)(9) – Street Banner Signs, and to amend the Pleasant Ridge Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 82, to remove the provisions dealing with temporary signs, and to revise sections of Chapter 82 accordingly, with the amendment to Section 54-7(b) to remove “for a period not to exceed one year”, be approved.

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

Introduction of Officer Marc Kieleszewski

Chief Kevin Nowak, introduced the newest police officer, Marc Kieleszewski. Officer Kieleszewski offered some information regarding his background and thanked the Commission for the opportunity.

Governmental Reports

Chief Kevin Nowak, Pleasant Ridge Police Department, gave updates on Code Enforcement activities, snow removal, parking ordinance and a brief crime update.

Chief Teresa Robinson, Ferndale Fire Department, introduced herself and gave information related to her background.

City Commission Liaison Reports

Commissioner Wahl gave an update from the Recreation Commission. She detailed upcoming events related to the Recreation Department.

Commissioner Budnik, Ferndale Public Schools, moving to a hybrid format in March, virtual and in person learning will be available. Check the Ferndale Public Schools website for additional information. The Huntington Woods Library has events happening at the library. Check the website for opening times and activities.

Commissioner Perry gave an update from the Planning Commission/DDA. Planning Commission will be working on the Master Plan update, bur updating the projects that have been completed. The next meeting will be held Monday, April 26th.

Commissioner Scott gave an update from the Historical Commission. September 11, 2021 is the date for the 2021 Garden Tour. Centennial tile recipients will receive letters notifying them that the tiles are available for purchase. The museum hours are by appointment only. Contact City Hall for information. The next meeting will be held March 3, 2021.

Consent Agenda

21-3501

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

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

Oakland County Community Development Block Grant Program 2021 Application and Subrecipient Agreement

Allison discussed the basics of the CDBG program. The City receives the minimum level of \$7,000 which can be used for projects based on the parameters of the program which focus on low income areas. Since Pleasant Ridge no longer has a qualifying low-income area, the funds are primarily used for services for senior citizens, through the City’s Recreation department. The funds will offset administrative costs of the senior programs and activities. Individuals who are 62 years or older are presumed to qualify for the services.

Mayor Metzger opened the public hearing at 8:49 p.m.

With no comments or discussion, the public hearing was closed at 8:50 p.m.

21-3502

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, to approve the Oakland County Community Development Block Grant 2021 Application, and the 2021 Subrecipient Agreement, and that the Mayor or the City Manager as his designee, be authorized to sign the application and agreement with the following allocations:

172170-73169	Public Services-Senior Services	\$7,000.00
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Adopted: Yeas: Commissioners Perry, Scott, Budnik Wahl, Mayor Metzger
Nays: None

City Manager's Report

Woodward Avenue streetscape plan presentation.

Special Meeting to be held February 23rd regarding Woodward Avenue TAP grant.

March 23rd meeting for water rates and water infrastructure project. Letter will be mailed to all households.

Other Business

Perry commented about residential salt buckets can be filled the third Tuesday, October – April. Snow removal and neighbor assistance.

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 9:08pm.

Mayor Kurt Metzger

Amy M. Allison, City Clerk