



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

City Commission Meeting September 14, 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

Howard Smith, 60 Woodward Heights, concerns regarding construction traffic and dream cruise traffic on Woodward Heights and the Pleasant Ridge police are not patrolling the street. DTE trucks, GFL garbage trucks, Consumers Energy trucks, Comcast trucks, etc.

Governmental Reports

Chief Teresa Robinson, Ferndale Fire Department, update on the department. Suicide awareness month and shirts. 24 responses in Pleasant Ridge for the month of August. Railroad track construction should be complete first week of October. Five vacancies and hiring process. Car seat and home safety inspections are offered.

Chief Kevin Nowak, Pleasant Ridge Police Department, Ferndale Lower Elementary school traffic enforcement, one incident during Dream Cruise – missing person, was found that evening in Detroit, catalytic converter theft, Officer Kolezar retiring at the end of September, accepting applications for officers, replacement of AED's, Woodward Heights patrolling – most enforced street in the community.

City Commission Liaison Reports

- **Commissioner Budnik – Ferndale Public Schools/HW Library Board.**

Information and events related to the Huntington Woods Library, report provided by Mary Foreman and Stacey Stutcher. No report for Ferndale Public Schools. Commissioner Scott indicated the Ferndale Public Schools will be introducing a robotics team.

- **Commissioner Perry – Planning/DDA.**

Last meeting in July 2021, reviewed the water meter infrastructure millage and project information. Also reviewed Woodward streetscape improvements on the east side of Woodward. Next meeting will be held on October 25, 2021.

- **Commissioner Scott – Historical Commission.**

Thanks to the participants of the Garden Sanctuaries Tour on September 11, 2021. Looking forward to next year. Looking for feedback on the date change. Then and Now update is ongoing. Book is in editing phase.

- **Commissioner Wahl – Recreation Commission.**

Information and events related to the Recreation department, Halloween events, Hayride, Movie night, Teen trip to Cedar Pointe, Flu shot clinic. Also, information regarding the Foundation Auction including online bidder and online ticket purchases. Since bidding is online, individuals can register to bid without attending the event. Commissioner Budnik commented about the 2021 Pool Season and the success of the season.

Consent Agenda

21-3524

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Wahl, that the Consent Agenda be approved.

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

Woodward Avenue TAP Grant Application Update

Breuckman gave an update regarding the TAP, Streetscape and Cycle Track and Stormwater grants. WA3 complete streets plan identified projects that could be done along the Woodward corridor. This plan did not address projects related to Pleasant Ridge due to the 696 underpass “the ditch”, an additional study was by the City of Pleasant Ridge and WA3 was done – Complete Streets – and this study was adopted. Some of the projects that are being proposed currently were identified in the Complete Streets Plan. Discussed grant funding levels for each proposed grant project. Local match funds will be provided by the Pleasant Ridge Downtown Development Authority. Information related to the grants and projects are available on the City’s website. Perry appreciated the explanation of the project and defining that the projects are a test to claim the lanes ahead of the Woodward Avenue rebuild or reconstruction. Metzger commented part of the study recommended getting rid of the underpass, could this happen. Breuckman is unsure if that would happen. Scott commented traveling on Woodward feels different north of 696 and south of 696 due to Woodward projects.

Legacy Meter Read Fee

Breuckman gave an overview of the project and where the project is now. Addressed interior shut off valves and stop boxes repair and/or replacement. The new meters are cellular and are read by a different process than the reading system currently. There is a cost incurred to read the meters and process the bills. The legacy meter read fee would apply to households who have not responded to have their meter and transponder changed. Notices are going out to residents from the City regarding the process and next steps. The fee would apply per billing cycle. Three notices have been sent from HydroCorp and door hangers have been left at properties also.

21-3525

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, that a \$49.52/bill legacy meter fee be assessed on the utility bill for the properties who have not replaced their water meter and transponder, effective October 31, 2021 and continue to be billed until the water meter and transponder have been replaced.

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

Woodward Heights Boulevard Resident Petition regarding Traffic Calming

Breuckman gave an overview of the petition request by 16 residents on Woodward Heights. Closing streets is not part of the traffic calming plan. Staff is in need of direction from the City Commission regarding the request. A likely outcome would be traffic moving along other streets based on the petition request. The petition is a benefit to the residents on Woodward Heights and move traffic to other parallel streets. Woodward Heights currently exists as a half mile road (9 ½ mile). Revenue would be lost to the City by Act 51 be redesignating Woodward Heights from a Major Street to a Local Street, which would be done if the petition to close the street moves forward. The approximate project cost is \$35,000 and a test closure is about \$10,000. Test projects have been done along Woodward Height to calm traffic, one of the projects could be to move the stop sign at

Bermuda, and replace at the Bermuda intersection, near the Ferndale border – Ferndale has already adopted a Traffic Control Order to allow for this. Staff recommends a survey of residents regarding the change, residents on the eastside who would be affected would get surveys and the results would be brought back to the City Commission and proceed with test projects after the survey. Howard Smith, 60 Woodward Heights, was not aware there was so much traffic on his street when he moved here, and believes the traffic is getting worse. There are some cars that are annoying, and the truck traffic is a nuisance. Feels closing the street would make the neighborhood safer. Traffic isn't an issue, it is the truck traffic that is an issue. DTE and Consumers trucks are always cutting through, also SMART buses are cutting through. OK with moving stop sign from Pleasant Ridge Bermuda intersection to the Ferndale Bermuda intersection. Has seen police patrolling at the stop signs. Overall he feels the truck traffic needs to be addressed due to the wear on the road and the smell from the trucks. Metzger commented about the petition and the request before the Commission tonight is to close the street on both ends. Smith would like to see the test done and see what the results are, believes moving the stop sign and more police patrols would be a solution to the traffic on the street. Always sees police patrolling Woodward and not the neighborhood streets. Wants something done about the truck traffic. Metzger feels a survey is needed. Perry indicated if steps from the traffic calming manual can be done. Wahl agrees that traffic calming measures can be done on the street before the street closure. Perry indicated that signs can be placed in Ferndale regarding No Trucks. Breuckman stated those signs have gone up. There are currently five No Truck signs on Woodward Heights. Perry stated many of the traffic calming measures proposed were not approved by the residents of the street. Scott indicated more information is needed from the households on Woodward Heights, the petition did not show what the majority of the street desires. He is in favor of doing a survey Citywide so all residents can have a voice to consider closing the street. Perry feels there are viable options in the traffic calming manual in lieu of closing the street. Breuckman indicated there are things that can be tested with direction tonight. Budnik thanked Smith for attending and offering solutions. Believes there are things that need to be addressed first to get more data and get a better understanding of the issues and solutions. Alex Friedman, 50 Woodward Heights, feels it is unreasonable to jump to conclusions and move the stop sign at Bermuda, does not want it moved, feels that is a mistake and that intersection is dangerous. Test moving it, maybe test adding more stop signs or a stoplight. More options should be studied and a survey should be done regarding options. Breuckman indicated there is data regarding stop signs, the stop sign is not warranted at that intersection but is warranted at the Ferndale Bermuda intersection. Richard Burt, 48 Woodward Heights, petition is for the closure of Woodward Heights. Feels that should be considered and a survey would be fine. Does not feel that moving stop signs should be discussed or decided at this meeting, Linda Hypio, 40 Woodward Heights, did not sign the petition, had discussion with City Manager about a speed sign being put at her property. Breuckman stated speed issues do not currently exist on Woodward Heights, but that can be considered. Smith indicated he crosses the street mid-block without a problem at not at the stop sign. Feels the stop sign should be moved and a survey should be done.

21-3526

Motion by Commissioner Scott, second by Commissioner Perry, that a Traffic Control Order be completed to move the stop sign at Woodward Heights near N Bermuda to Woodward Heights and S Bermuda (in Ferndale) and create a survey within three months for residents regarding the closure of Woodward Heights, TCO for eastbound truck traffic

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

City Manager's Report

Water Infrastructure Millage Open House, October 5th, 7pm, 4 Ridge Road.

Gainsboro Park Pavilion project. Recreation Commission will be developing policies regarding pavilion rental. Policy regarding use of fireplace at the Gainsboro Park pavilion.

Marijuana Facility applications accepted beginning September 15th. Will be vetted and submitted to City Commission for consideration at a later date.

Other Business

Allison gave an update regarding the upcoming election to be held November 2nd. Absentee ballots will begin to be mailed out in the next few weeks. Applications for absentee ballots are available now.

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 9:49pm.

Mayor Kurt Metzger

Amy M. Allison, City Clerk