



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

City Commission Meeting October 12, 2021

Mayor Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

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

Mayor Metzger introduced the 2021 Ridger of the year, Mr. John Wright.

2021 City of Pleasant Ridge Beautification Awards

Mr. Don Daniels, Chairman, introduced members of Committee and made the presentation. The winners of the award are: 37 Fairwood, Asheligh and Jeff Imerman; 89 Oakdale, Jean Herron and Jeffrey Husby; 16 Fairwood, Geoffrey Diamond and Thomas Hosinski; 11 Elm Park, Amy and Chip Kulikowski.

Public Discussion

Mr. Howard Smith 60 Woodward Heights, happier that the stop sign has been moved and has experienced less noise at his home. Noticed that the cars are stopping for the other newly placed stop sign. Has not noticed an uptick in speeders and has seem on Ryder truck.

Water Infrastructure Millage discussion

Metzger commented about the information that has been presented regarding his millage discussion, options for paying for the project, and the state mandate that is requiring the replacement. Breuckman gave a brief presentation regarding this item. Discussed challenges regarding the project, funding options, timing of the project and the information that has been presented to date. Presented some funding options with and without passage of the millage. Discussed pros and cons of separating the projects, lead service line replacement and water main replacement. Cost beneficial to do both projects at same time. Planning flow/stress testing to examine the system. Katy Schmier, 29 Wellesley, appreciated the presentation and will look into the new information further. Feels there should be a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) formed regardless of the millage vote. Jay Ahmad, 92 Kensington, appreciates the work that has been done regarding this project. Question regarding millage passage and when the mills are levied. Breuckman indicated the millage would take effect in July 2022 and the water rate would remain the same until that time. Ahmad questioned why the flat fee model was not used instead of the usage rate. Breuckman indicated the blended model was chosen – not the flat fee option. Ahmad questioned if the flat rate could be implemented without the millage need. Scott indicated all options were considered. Ahmad commented when a choice is not available, millage is the only option, in this instance, millage is not the only option and looks forward to the update literature. Feels that a millage is flawed/unfair method of funding because it does not test on means. Assessing on means is more equitable, than taxable value. Would

like other options considered due to the stress placed on residents of the community. Agrees a CAC should be formed to look at this project funding to solicit more public comments and consideration. Metzger and Scott discussed how things are paid for. Scott feels the blended model is the best model and considerations can be made annual as to how the funding is divided between the tax bill and the utility bill. Discussed the use of Facebook for discussions regarding this item. Commission is limited as to discussions that can be held via Facebook. Ahmad commented the way things are funded and reliance on millages. Feels millages are a lousy means and are disproportionate to homeowners. Budnik commented the blended model was chosen for him based on the millage being able to be spread over the year via a mortgage. Dan Riley, 30 Oakdale, questioned how the flat fee would be assessed. Can the appraised value of the home be used to assess this fee? Feels the means discussion is irrelevant. Would like more transparency regarding this issue. Does not feel a flat fee would be equitable. Howard Smith, 60 Woodward Heights, can a flat fee be assessed based on road frontage. Encouraged people to vote. Breuckman commented that the replacement of the lines must be done at public cost. Cannot create classes based on something like frontage. Christy Hand, 8 Oxford, agreed with Commission Scott, but feels the projects can be funded differently. The lead service line is a mandated project, and the water mains are not. Having a flat fee makes more sense to her. Jay Foreman, 60 Oakdale, commented regarding the CAC, that was used in the past and worked very well. Agrees that a CAC should be established regardless of the millage vote. Allows residents to be part of the process. Metzger agrees that a CAC was a good/successful tool and could be looked at for this issue. Audrey Tedford, 35 Oakland Park, newer resident so she is paying a higher taxable value than others. Feels flat fee would be more equitable. Taxing based on SEV is a regressive form of tax. Karen Leonard 121 Maplefield believes more discussions should be held with the State to benefit Pleasant Ridge, knows the City Administration is looking at other options, but does not feel a 30-year millage is the right thing. Hopeful that the State and Federal leaders will come up. Kristin Welbourn, 9 Woodward Heights, feels that a tax increase is concerning. Newer residents have a higher value, asked about the flat fee length of collection. Breuckman have her the increased based on her homes value. Alex Lenko, 16 Millington, questioned some data in the charts presented this evening. Breuckman commented that the outlier was removed from the box and whisker chart presented this evening. Tom Wilkinson, 130 Maplefield, intense discussion since the town hall, but the discussion has been good. Appreciated the updated data and the work that has been done. Wahl commented this was not an easy decision for the Commission, and now it is the public/voters job to make the decision. Perry commented that there was information presented early on but recognized it may have not been enough. Looking forward to continuing the conversation. Scott commented that the public should bring their comments/concerns to the Commission. Breuckman commented that data is available for each properties impact. Contact City Hall to determine the costs based per property. Perry requested that neighbors share the information with each other that the information is available at City Hall. Lenko requested that a sanitized list be public without addresses. Metzger commented absentee ballots can be spoiled at City Hall.

Governmental Reports

Chief Nowak, Pleasant Ridge Police, gave an update for Chief Robinson, Ferndale Fire Department, since she was unable to provide the report this evening. He also gave an update regarding events related to the Police Department.

City Commission Liaison Reports

Commissioner Perry, Planning/DDA announced the next meeting will be held Monday, October 25, 2021, 7pm.

Commissioner Scott, Historical Commission, next meeting November 3, 2021, 7pm, discussions regarding centennial homes. Update regarding the Then and Now book progress.

Commissioner Wahl, Recreation Commission, thanked the Ferndale Orchestra for performing at the Foundation Auction. Gave an update on events related to the Recreation Department.

Commissioner Budnik, Ferndale Public Schools/Huntington Woods Library Board. Roosevelt School/Ferndale Lower Elementary will turn 100 years old, there will be an event. Events held within the district. Also gave report regarding events related to the Huntington Woods Library provided by the Pleasant Ridge representatives to the library board. Scott commented the robotics team is up and running in the district. He is assigned to the 6th grade team.

Consent Agenda

21-3527

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

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

Segregated Capital Assets Fund/Parks and Recreation Special Revenue Fund (SCAF/RSRF) update

Breuckman gave presentation regarding the fund, and the history/establishment of the fund. Fund has grown over time and has allowed for funding of park improvements such as the pavilion projects, park lighting, Gainsboro Park renovations.

Woodward Heights Consultant Scope of Work

21-3528

Motion by Commissioner Wahl, second by Commissioner Scott, that the City Commission authorize staff to release an RFQ to retain the services of a qualified consultant to:

- Conduct the resident survey regarding traffic issues on Woodward Heights and potential closure of the street;
- Identify traffic calming and management techniques and actions that can be applied to Woodward Heights; and
- Work with Woodward Heights residents to seek consensus among the residents of the street on potential changes or actions to address traffic issues.

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

City Manager's Report

Leaf Collection begins November 1st, leaves can be placed in the street beginning October 30th. Recognition of Mayor Metzger and presentation of ceremonial gavel.

Other Business

Allison gave an update regarding the upcoming election to be held November 2nd. Application for absentee ballots are available in person or online. City Hall will be open Saturday, October 30th from 9am-5pm to accept applications and issue absentee ballots. Contact City Hall for more information. Perry recognition of Mayor Metzger and Commissioner Wahl, thanked them for thier service to the community. Jay Foreman 60 Oakdale, thanked the Mayor for his service to the community.

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 9:07pm.

Mayor Kurt Metzger

Amy M. Allison, City Clerk

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