

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS/COURTROOM OF THE ROBERT E. NOVITKE MUNICIPAL CENTER, 20025 MACK PLAZA DR., GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:52 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Bryant
Council Members: Brown, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Vaughn
ABSENT: Gafa

Also Present: City Administrator Schulte
City Attorney Waller
Treasurer/Comptroller Murphy
City Clerk Antolin
Assistant City Administrator Como
Director of Public Services Kowalski

Motion by Granger, seconded by Koester, that Councilmember Gafa, be excused from tonight's meeting.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Vaughn
No: None
Absent: Gafa

Motion by Granger, seconded by Vaughn, that all items on tonight's agenda, be received, placed on file, and taken in order of appearance as presented.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Granger, Koester, McConaghy, Vaughn
No: None
Absent: Gafa

The first item discussed was regarding a **dog park near City Hall**. Steve Lorenz presented his Dog Park Overview document dated September 6, 2022. The presentation provided information regarding:

- Location and size
- Purpose

- Security Options
- Fiscal Impact Plans
- Fundraising Opportunities

Lisa Fuller of the Grosse Pointe Woods Foundation stated that, through Covid-19 and changes in City Administration, the foundation has remained dormant and is now ready for a wish list of projects from Council. Mrs. Fuller also stated there has been discussion within the Foundation, that there is an interest of a new dog park. In fact, one of the Board Members of the Foundation is Chair of the Citizens' Recreation Commission and an interest of a dog park has been mentioned. She added that, if the city would approach the Foundation for assistance in funding, most likely they would accept.

There is a concern for the size of the proposed dog park being too small. Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of expanding the proposed size. A discussion with the Director of Public Safety is necessary to discuss the department's training programs located near the proposed area and if the proposed dog park would be feasible.

Other topics of discussion ensued regarding landscaping (planting of trees and shrubs), the installation of a water line, and other important items such as benches and trash cans.

The possibility of budget neutrality for the city was discussed and needs to be revisited when more information is gathered and reviewed.

The Council stated this project is at a very preliminary phase and requires more information to effectively move forward.

Prior to COVID-19, the Citizens' Recreation Commission performed a thorough evaluation of the city parks and created a list of priorities needed. Collaborating with the Citizens' Recreation Commission and getting their input will benefit in the progression of this project.

There was a consensus of the Committee-of-the-Whole to refer this item to the Citizens' Recreation commission.

The Mayor recessed the Committee-of-the-Whole at 8:39 p.m. and reconvened at 8:44 p.m.

The next item discussed was regarding **Mack Avenue Holiday Decorations (Snowflakes)**. The Director of Public Services, in his memo dated September 8, 2022, stated that he and The Avenue in the Woods had a discussion regarding updating decorations for the 2022 holiday season. After further research, it was discovered that St. Clair Shores and other nearby communities have been installing light up snowflake decorations on their streetlights. Photos of sample snowflakes were provided in the supporting documents.

The intent is to initially, purchase six snowflakes and see how it goes. Four snowflakes are to be placed on the poles at Mack Avenue and Vernier Road, and two in front of the Robert E. Novitke Municipal Center by the porches. Administration believes that the snowflakes will enhance the decorations and prolong the holiday and winter season.

A brief discussion ensued and there was a consensus of the Committee-of-the-Whole to place this on the next Council agenda for approval.

The next item discussed was regarding **Ahee Jewelry's 75th Anniversary Donation – Parking Meter**. The Assistant City Administrator provided an overview and stated that Ahee Jewelry is celebrating their 75th Anniversary and wanted give back to the city, customers, and residents. They are offering to cover all the parking meters with bags from November 1 through December 31, 2022 and incur the cost in the amount of \$27,400.00, which they will donate to the city.

There are some exceptions, which the parking meters are to remain uncovered at the request of some business owners.

There was a suggestion to invite Ahee Jewelry to the Tree Lighting ceremony to acknowledge their generous donation.

On the topic of 75th anniversaries, it was also suggested to prepare for the City's upcoming 75th anniversary in 2025.

There was a consensus of the Committee-of-the-Whole to place this item on the next Council agenda for approval.

The next item discussed was regarding the **3-year Assessing Contract with Wayne County Appraisal (WCA)**. The City Administrator provided an overview and stated that the contract language remains the same as the expiring contract, with the exception of a 5% increase each year of the contract.

The contract increase amounts by year are as follows:

- 2022-2023 – approximately \$82,000.00
- 2023-2024 – approximately \$86,000.00
- 2024-2025 – approximately \$90,000.00

WCA provides assessing service to all of the Grosse Pointes and has been servicing Grosse Pointe Woods since 2016. They provided exceptional service to the city and works well with administration.

The administration did receive a proposal from an individual assessor, Tom Agrusa, currently with the City of Utica. Although Mr. Agrusa is a qualified assessor and proposed a lower quote than WCA, administration feels, as an individual, there may be serious issues if he has no backup.

There was a consensus of the Committee-of-the-Whole to concur with the City Administrator's recommendation to renew Wayne County Assessing's contract and place this item on the next Council Agenda for approval.

Hearing no objections, the following were heard under New Business:

- Councilmember Granger addressed recent power outages and the lack of power being generated. The City administrator will contact the DTE representative.
- Fall Fest this weekend at City Hall–Saturday, September 17, 2022 @ 5:00p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Under Public Comment, the following individual was heard:

- Margaret Potter – Scheduling of meetings

Motion by Granger, seconded by Koester, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 9:10 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

Arthur W. Bryant
Mayor