

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 20, 2022, IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS/COURTROOM OF THE ROBERT E. NOVITKE MUNICIPAL CENTER, 20025 MACK PLAZA DR., GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

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

Also Present: City Administrator Schulte
City Attorney Morita
Treasurer/Comptroller Murphy
Deputy City Clerk Antolin
Building Official Tutag

Mayor Bryant called the meeting to order at 8:50 p.m.

Motion by Vaughn, seconded by Granger, 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 Koester, 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 **Proposed Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 8 – Solid Fences**. The Building Official provided an overview of his memo dated June 15, 2022. He stated that the current fence ordinance only permits solid fences when facing a street or an alley. Many residents request to install a solid fence when not facing a street or alley and gets denied resulting in a variance request and/or unhappy residents.

After many discussions with the Mayor, Council and City Attorney Tomlinson, the Building Official recommends getting rid of the requirements for solid fences and amending the ordinance to make

solid fences permissible all together. The only change in the ordinance would be that residents will be permitted to install a solid fence, up to 6' in height, even if they do not face a street or alley, with the neighbor's signature.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the history of the ordinance, fence maintenance, and the comparison to the other communities.

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Brown, regarding the **Proposed Ordinance Amendment to Chapter 8 – Solid Fences**, that the Committee-of-the-Whole refer this item to the next City Council meeting for Council's approval.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Brown, Bryant, Granger, McConaghy, Vaughn
No: Koester
Absent: Gafa

The next item discussed was regarding **Vicious Dog Ordinance Amendment: Section 6-95**. The City Administrator provided an overview of his memo dated May 13, 2022. He stated that Administration is requesting to amend Section 6-95 of the City Ordinance regarding vicious dogs.

There are three court dates a month making it difficult for administration to conduct on-going business when there is constant interruption with the plaintiffs, defendants and determining whether to remove the dog from the city or contain them at home until the ticket of the court date is written. It would make it easier for Administration to set a court date following conditions of the new ordinance specifying that once a ticket is written, it will be set for the closest court date and in turn, the dog will have to be leashed in its own backyard by an adult and contained until the judge determines if it has to be removed from the city.

The purpose of the ordinance amendment is to eliminate additional hearings that has to be held by Administration and to keep the dog in confinement until the court date.

Discussion ensued regarding the history of the ordinance and procedures of local communities. It was stated that there has been four incidents regarding vicious dogs since January of 2022.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Vaughn, regarding the **Vicious Dog Ordinance Amendment: Section 6-95**, that the Committee-of-the-Whole refer this item to the next Council Meeting for Council's approval.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

- Council was provided an update regarding the Food Truck Ordinance.

Under Public Comment, the following individual was heard:

- Stephen Lorenz, 2049 Lancaster – Dog Park in Ghesquiere Park

Motion by Granger, seconded by Koester, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 9:23 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul P. Antolin
City Clerk

Arthur W. Bryant
Mayor