

City Council MEETING - January 9, 2023
7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Hodges and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ROLL CALL

The following were present: Councilmembers Brenner, Gallagher, Caulfield, Wiener, Relan and McMillan, and Mayor Hodges.

Also present: Nick Sizeland, City Manager; Jane M. Blahut, Finance Director/Clerk; Dan Kelly, City Attorney; Bryan Jarrell, Director of Public Safety; Warren Rothe, Assistant City Manager; and Courtney Delmege, Deputy Clerk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Councilmember Wiener, seconded by Councilmember Caulfield, to approve the consent agenda consisting of the December 12, 2022 minutes, committee and commissions report, fiscal year 2023 budget revenues/expenses, and the finance report.

AYES: Councilmembers Brenner, Gallagher, Caulfield, Wiener, Relan and McMillan, and Mayor Hodges.

NAYS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT (AGENDA ITEMS)

There were no public comments.

MANAGERS' REPORT/PUBLIC SAFETY

City Manager Sizeland presented a brief overview of the status of issues since the last meeting: snow removal; park pass update; DPW update; DDA Civic Campus rendering; and Finance Director/Clerk Blahut's retirement.

Public Safety Director Jarrell presented a brief overview of the following: stop signs; cost recovery ordinance; DPS Fitness room dedication to Lena Carlile; and introduced new public safety officer Emily McGrath.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
COUNCIL COMMENT

There were no council comments.

NEW BUSINESS: STATE OF THE CITY

Councilmember Wiener made the following comments regarding the infrastructure committee: acknowledged the hard work of the team; assessed and continuing to assess the infrastructure of Grosse Pointe Park; changing from reactive to proactive; pursuing preventative maintenance; pursued funds and grant opportunities; passed water/sewer millage on November 8, 2022 election; first water main project in decades to be repaired; making progress on the Extreme Emergency Relief Valve with EGLE; improving PASER rating; and committed to further expand communication efforts.

Councilmember Caulfield made the following comments regarding the ordinance review committee: the main focus is to update and add new ordinances; in 2022, five new ordinances have been established and the ordinance book is being reviewed and updated; enforcement of new ordinances is in effect; working on recodification with Muni Code; identifying high priority ordinances; review and update enforcement codes; and begin full ordinance review.

Councilmember Gallagher made the following comments regarding the personnel committee: oversees the performance of the City Manager, City Clerk/Finance Director/Treasurer, and City Attorney; addresses concerns as necessary; measures performance towards goals; provides performance reviews; and the biggest achievement of the year was acquiring the new City Attorney, the Kelly Firm.

Councilmember McMillan made the following comments regarding the public safety committee: increased training opportunities for public safety officers; improvement in command and supervisor training; exploring fundraising opportunities; DPS accreditation goal for 2023; reorganization for DPS retirement; continued recruitment of crossing guards; shared radio costs; and DPS open houses.

Councilmember Brenner made the following comments regarding the community engagement committee: new committee founded in 2022; chose proper streaming service for meetings; provided better communication of infrastructure needs on website; refresh on Communicator; highlighted events throughout the year such as Arbor Day, Home Solar and DTE; showed two films during pride month; Town Hall for lot in front of Ewald Library; discussed demolition turned into Town Hall; redevelopment ready certification process ongoing; 2023 black history month; and more focus on communications for 2023.

Councilmember Caulfield made the following comments regarding the finance committee: familiarized with post and past budgets; meeting with staff diligently; requested profit and loss to understand costs of events; Baker Tilly for water and sewer management; insurance update; defense and legal changes; and identified the needs of other committees.

Councilmember Caulfield made the following comments regarding the marina sub-committee: met four times in 2022; focus on marina - to identify and define what the marina is; instilled a one, three and five year plan including a possible rehab or replacement of the marina; and review and update rules.

Councilmember Relan made the following comments regarding the Beautification Commission: annual beautification awards; century club recognition; business awards; holiday decor awards; plant exchanges; arbor day events; integrated equity to community sustainability; for 2023 the

Beautification Commission is pursuing a resident support offering with new members; and creating a senior citizens advisory board to decipher best forms of community engagement for seniors.

Councilmember Brenner made the following comments regarding the Grosse Pointe Park Business Association: commended founder Joe Hebekka; stated how resourceful and self-sufficient the association is and generally will reach out directly with whomever they need assistance from.

Councilmember Gallagher made the following comments regarding the school board: spoke with the school board in early 2022 requesting Trombly to be reopened; Poupard elementary proposed to be turned into multifamily homes; Trombly has been rezoned/corrected to be zoned as a school municipal building in the City Master Plan; and best of course of action to save Trombly is support school board candidates with same goal. Mayor Hodges commented that it would be inappropriate for the City Council to show support for running school board candidates and that the City Council would work with whomever is in office.

Councilmember McMillan made the following comments regarding the Recreation Commission: oversee and assists with the Marina sub-committee and the Recreation Commission; listen, encourage and debate; revising forms and documents; online registrations; online ticket sales; upgrade and replace Patterson Park playscape with the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation; and renovate or replace Lavins Activity Center roof.

Councilmember McMillan made the following comments regarding SEMCOG: works with county road agencies eligible for federal funds; Councilmember Lev Wood from Grosse Pointe Farms is representing all of the Grosse Pointe's.

Director Rothe made the following comments regarding the Tax Increment Finance Authority Board: explained what the TIFA is and plans for what new members can bring to the table.

Mayor Hodges commented on the following: new board appointments for the DDA; hired a campus design firm; dealt with parking lot issues; new legal attorney; Eastside Community Network attended a gala; worked with Mack Ave business district; Gabrielle's Florist purchased a new area on Mack Ave; Ethics Review Board only had to hear two matters in 2022; Michigan Municipal League helps advance legislation, provided budget relieving matters and professional development conferences; Jefferson East Inc. made progress on regional solutions to infrastructure; Planning Commission is redoing the zoning ordinance with was outlined in the Master Plan and also amended their bylaws.

City Manager Sizeland spoke on the following items: water main project; ARPA funds for Pipetek and sewer televising; DPW separated three alleys; approval of Nickel and Saph insurance company; code rewrite with McKenna; applied for SEMCOG grant for Patterson Park boardwalk; bringing some events to Mack Ave; relationship with City of Detroit to bridge borders; working on succession plan; and new DPW building.

COMMISSION AND BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Motion by Councilmember Wiener, seconded by Councilmember Gallagher, to reappoint Carolyn Byrd, A. Pat Deck and Barbara Miller to the Beautification Commission with full terms ending January 31, 2025.

AYES: Councilmembers Brenner, Gallagher, Caulfield, Wiener, Relan and McMillan, and Mayor Hodges.

NAYS: None

Motion by Councilmember Wiener, seconded by Councilmember Relan, to reappoint Kim Clextan, Lisa Kyle, Shellie Hansen, and Alicia Klein to the Beautification Commission with full terms ending January 31, 2026.

AYES: Councilmembers Brenner, Gallagher, Caulfield, Wiener, Relan and McMillan, and Mayor Hodges.

NAYS: None

Motion by Councilmember Wiener, seconded by Councilmember Caulfield, to appoint Jody Bruce and Polly Ryan as alternates to the Board of Review with full terms ending December 31, 2025.

AYES: Councilmembers Brenner, Gallagher, Caulfield, Wiener, Relan and McMillan, and Mayor Hodges.

NAYS: None

APPROVE PURCHASE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT

In 2019, the City entered into a Purchase Agreement with the Urban Renewal Initiative Foundation for the purchase of a number of properties on Ashland in Detroit known as Joe's Garage. Since the execution of that Purchase Agreement, the Parties have agreed to a number of modifications to the Purchase Agreement but have not memorialized those modifications in a binding agreement. As a result, the City Attorney has recommended entering an Agreement Amending the October 29, 2019 Purchase Agreement to formally memorialize the previously agreed upon modifications to the Purchase Agreement.

Motion by Councilmember Gallagher, seconded by Councilmember Wiener, to approve the agreement amending the October 29, 2019 Purchase Agreement and authorize the City Manager to execute the same.

AYES: Councilmembers Brenner, Gallagher, Caulfield, Wiener, Relan and McMillan, and Mayor Hodges.

NAYS: None

RENEWAL CLEMIS AGREEMENT

CLEMIS is an acronym for Oakland County's Courts and Law Enforcement Management Information Systems. It evolved from a batch reporting system to a sophisticated country-wide database with access to all information from participating agencies. Public Safety operations run through CLEMIS from our computer-aided dispatch services to our records management, report writing capabilities and court filings. The agreement is for five (5) years.

Motion by Councilmember Gallagher, seconded by Councilmember Caulfield, to authorize the

City Manager and Director of Public Safety to sign the documents to consummate the agreement with Oakland County to provide I.T. Services, including CLEMIS, to the City.

AYES: Councilmembers Brenner, Gallagher, Caulfield, Wiener, Relan and McMillan, and Mayor Hodges.

NAYS: None

ORDINANCE #236: CHAPTER 16 AMENDMENT

Ordinance 236 was presented at the recommendation of the City Prosecutor. The amendment, if approved, would increase the penalties described in the City Code Chapter 16, Article III, Section 43, for the crimes of Assault and Assault and Battery (Sec. 16-41) and Domestic Abuse (Sec. 16-42) from "imprisonment for not more than 90 days" to "imprisonment for not more than 93 days."

Motion by Councilmember McMillan, seconded by Councilmember Gallagher, to adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 16, Article III, Section 43, and direct the City Clerk to publish said Ordinance in accordance with the City Charter and State Law.

AYES: Councilmembers Brenner, Gallagher, Caulfield, Wiener, Relan and McMillan, and Mayor Hodges.

NAYS: None

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember Gallagher commented on the following: requested the infrastructure committee to conduct a capacity management study and the impact of storm water off of Alter Rd into Grosse Pointe Parks sanitary sewer lines – Mayor Hodges recommended the request be put into writing and sent to City Manager Sizeland and Councilmember Wiener for consideration; requested action items be shown in meeting minutes – City Attorney Kelly advised there is leeway with minutes and changes should be agreed to by the Council with an official motion – Mayor Hodges reminded Councilmember Gallagher about reviewing the consent agenda and requesting the minutes be moved onto the full agenda if there is a problem the Friday before the meeting – Councilmember Gallagher requested meeting with City Attorney Kelly to discuss what should be in the minutes, City Manager Sizeland stated he would assist; discussed helpfulness of reviewing documents for developments before bringing it before council; referenced prior council training and responsibility of City Manager to spend equal time with each councilmember so each councilmember is aware of what is being presented and what is being voted on; referenced Mayor Hodges comments of questions should be asked prior to the council meetings to the City Manager to then have the opportunity to create discussion around the item in question; if questions are not asked beforehand, it is not logical to ask council members not to ask questions at the meeting; if councilmembers are not going to be transparent prior to the meeting then it is fair and logical to be transparent at the meeting.

Mayor Hodges commented on the following: congratulated the Grosse Pointe Sail Club on their gala celebrating their commodore; extended condolences to the family of Gretchen Valade; Grosse Pointe Park Foundation sent out a letter to all residents requesting donations for the Patterson Park playscape to make it ADA compliant and thanked the Grosse Pointe Park Foundation for all they do and congratulated them on their new website.

Councilmember Caulfield commented on the following: inquired whether "State of the City" reports should be emailed to City Manager Sizeland; reiterated goals for 2023 for committees to be prepared for the next council meeting; inquired whether the committee liaisons should be reevaluated and realigned or if any new committees should be established.

Councilmember McMillan commented on the following: regarding Councilmember Caulfield's request for council committee realignments, to occur after two years instead of annually.

Councilmember Brenner commented on the following: recommended Councilmember Wiener to continue to stay on the infrastructure committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT (NON-AGENDA ITEMS)

One public comment was made.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Relan, seconded by Councilmember Gallagher, to adjourn the meeting.

AYES: Councilmembers Brenner, Gallagher, Caulfield, Wiener, Relan and McMillan, and Mayor Hodges.

NAYS: None

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.