



23925 Woodward Avenue
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069

**Public Hearing and Regular City Commission Meeting
February 9, 2016**

Having been duly publicized, Mayor Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm.

Present: Commissioners Foreman, Krzysiak, Perry, Scott, Mayor Metzger.
Also Present: City Manager Breuckman, City Clerk Drealan.
Absent: None.

Public Discussion

Mr. Ted Zachary, 68 Devonshire, representing the Environmental Committee, reported that 30 tons of recyclables was collected in January 2016. If you have any items to sell, instead of going to Craig's List, check out nextdoor@nextdoor.com. Pleasant Ridge is trying to get 500 members at the nextdoor.com website, a social media network for neighborhoods. Or if you have a heavy item to get rid of, contact www.freecylce.org. "Ted's Tip" is that having an infrared thermometer is a handy tool that can assist you checking the temperatures of your walls in your home, for example, to see if you have steady temperatures and adequate insulation. The thermometer is available at Harbor Freight, and one may be available at the Huntington Woods Library in the near future. The Environmental Committee will host a meeting Monday, March 21st, Community Center, 7:00 pm, with guest speakers discussing pesticides and safe/beautiful garden techniques. Environmental Committee information can be found on page 4 of *The Ridger*.

Governmental Reports

Ms. Karen Twomey, Ferndale Public Schools, welcomed new Board Member Jackie Hart and reported that Ms. Hart will be attending a Commission Meeting in the near future. Ms. Twomey reported that there is still excitement from having Marcus Lemonis, host of *The Profit*, at the school to award the winning team who developed an application called "Parkit" that would allow residents to list the availability of their home driveway for parking during major events. Restructuring continues at the schools and you can follow the progress at www.ferndaleforward.com. The latest changes have the Early Childhood Center being run by Heidi Schmidt; Lower Elementary will be run by Diana Keefe; Ferndale Upper Elementary will be run by Katie Jeffrey; Middle School will be run by Jason Gillespie and Robert Francis; and the High School will be joined by Eric Bruner under the leadership of Eric Smith, and Shaun Butler as the Athletic Director. University High School will have Derek Adams joining the team. There will be a "Healthy Heart" event at Roosevelt, February 10th, 6pm-8pm. Ferndale Schools does provide opportunities for childcare, especially during midwinter break wherein a camp will be provided. You can find information at familydaycareworks.com. Ferndale Middle School just completed the Great Kindness Challenge, and also hosted a Geography Bee. The High School also participated in the Kindness Challenge and bagged 80 meals for the warming center. An SAT Camp will be held in the near future. The Robotics Team continues to work on its various projects for the upcoming state and national

championships. Commissioner Foreman inquired as to how the \$10,000.00 received from “The Profit Challenge” is going to be used in the schools, and Ms. Twomey was unable to report that at this time. Foreman also mentioned that the students that won will be attending a week long business course at Universal Studies, Orlando. Commissioner Scott mentioned that if the students who developed the application need to have a patent that he would be willing to assist them with it.

Chief Kevin Nowak, Pleasant Ridge Police, reported the Michigan Association of Chiefs held its conference last month in Grand Rapids and he was in attendance. The keynote speaker was the lead investigator of the Sandy Hook Elementary shooting and many lessons were learned from that horrific event. As a result, neighboring local chiefs will be meeting to put plans in place to better protect the local schools.

City Commissioner Liaison Reports

Commissioner Perry reported that the Planning Commission/DDA met Monday, January 25th. The Planning Commission reviewed and approved the City’s Capital Improvement Plan. A public hearing was established for Monday, February 22nd, 7:00 pm, to consider an amendment to the Pleasant Ridge Zoning Ordinance regarding municipal civil infractions. The next meeting will be held Monday, February 22nd, 7:00 pm. Two new members will be sworn in at that meeting.

Commissioner Scott reported that the Historical Commission will begin to contact residents interested in participating in the Home & Garden Tour on June 4th.

Commissioner Krzysiak reported that at the last Recreation Commission meeting organizational votes were taken and Chris Budnik has been appointed the Chairperson, replacing Jacqueline Scully in this position. Krzysiak commended Ms. Scully for her leadership on the commission. Krzysiak commended Kevin Kelly for his 6 years of service to the Recreation Commission. Ms. Esther Winer was introduced by Krzysiak and will become the newest member of the commission. Krzysiak reported that the Daddy/Daughter dance was a huge success with about 90 in attendance and thanked Scott Pietrzak and his staff for a well-planned event. Krzysiak reported that the 50-plus Club had a great mystery bus trip that toured the Mid-Town area of Detroit. The next trip will be February 25th, 9:30 am, for a Detroit Library tour and lunch at Chartreuse Kitchen, \$12.00. Bingo and a movie are scheduled for February 11th. Youth soccer signup deadline is Friday, March 4th. Pietrzak reported that the SMART program in conjunction with Royal Oak is providing a ride share service within a 5-mile radius of the Community Center on Thursdays, 9:15am-3:30pm. Fees are \$3.00/one-way; \$4.00/round trip. Contact Royal Oak SMART Dispatch at 248-246-3914. Services are available for anyone over the age of 18.

Commissioner Foreman highlighted the school’s transition website www.ferndaleforword.com. Anyone with questions may ask through the website and answers will be posted. The next School Board Meeting will be February 22nd, 7:00 pm, at the high school.

Consent Agenda

16-3236

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, that the Consent Agenda be approved, as recommended.

Adopted: Yeas: Commissioner Perry, Scott, Foreman, Krzysiak, Mayor Metzger
 Nays: None.

Public Hearing – Ordinance Amending the Pleasant Ridge Zoning Ordinance

Mayor Metzger opened the Public Hearing at 8:06 pm.

With no comments or discussion, Mayor Metzger closed the Public Hearing at 8:07 pm.

City Manager Breuckman highlighted that the Neighborhood Compatibility also includes the design standard changes. The reason for the changes being made is the historic context of Pleasant Ridge; current standards are subjective; proposed standards are specific; and will provide clear direction, allow for consistent enforcement. The new design standards principles will establish clear and consistent expectations; preserve design freedom, i.e. neutral style; regulate elements common to all buildings; standards for traditional design elements if used; allow non-traditional styles; and aspire to great, but prevent mediocre or worse designs. A PowerPoint presentation was shown for various examples of styles and materials for homes. The document will be a helpful tool for future homes to be constructed and any remodeling projects.

Commissioner Perry commended City Manager Breuckman for the work on this amendment and how helpful the presentations have been, and added that the document will now make it easier for Planning Commission/Zoning Board of Appeals hearings as a reference. Commissioner Foreman commented that any home that has existing aluminum or vinyl siding can continue to maintain the siding on their home and does not have to be replaced. The proposed changes deal mainly with wood siding cannot be replaced with vinyl siding. Foreman added that the document will be very useful for the Zoning Board of Appeals, and appreciates the hard work and detail that was put into its preparation. Commissioner Krzysiak commended the efforts and professionalism that was put into the creation of the document. Krzysiak expressed concern that the proposed standards may increase costs of improvements to the point that residents may not be able to afford. Breuckman disagrees with the higher costs, and added that the proposed design changes are to prevent homeowners from downgrading existing materials and replacing them with a lesser standard. Exceptions may be heard through the Planning Commission as an appeal process. Final appeal would go to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Krzysiak would like to have this matter revisited in the future if the proposed changes are causing a financial burden to homeowners. Mayor Metzger added that he is pleased with the proposed changes and is more interested in the code enforcement and maintenance issues that need to be addressed in the City. Commissioner Scott added that many existing homes are at the maximum for lot coverage requirements and will be prevented from having new additions.

16-3237

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Foreman, that Ordinance 414 amending Chapter 82 (Zoning), Section 82-3 Definitions, Section 82-98, Districts Established, Section 82-102, District Requirements, Section 82-103, Zoning District Purpose Statements, Section 82-133, Permitted Uses by District, Section 82-164, Yard and Bulk Requirements, Section 82-166, Neighborhood Compatibility, and Zoning Map Amendments, be approved.

Adopted: Yeas: Commissioner Perry, Foreman, Krzysiak, Scott, Mayor Metzger
 Nays: None.

Adoption of the Pleasant Ridge Exterior Design Standards
16-3238

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, that the Exterior Design Standards referenced in Section 82-166 of the Pleasant Ridge Zoning Ordinance be adopted.

Adopted: Yeas: Commissioner Perry, Scott, Foreman, Krzysiak, Mayor Metzger
 Nays: None.

Gainsboro Park Project Update

City Manager Breuckman presented the 60-percent construction drawings and reviewed in detail the proposed changes, and updates on development for the 5-12 playground and tennis court repairs. The completed construction drawings will be presented at the April meeting for approval.

Though unrelated to the park, Ms. Esther Winer, 78 Kensington, inquired as to what time frame does a new home have to be completed. Breuckman responded that there is no specific time frame, but substantial progress must be made on a regular basis. There could be interior work being completed that is not visible from the exterior. Ms. Winer explained the process for seniors applying for home improvement grants through Oakland County and living in a historic district takes a very long time. Breuckman advised anyone having problems with this should contact the City.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Breuckman reported that the Community Survey has been completed with 308 responses. The results will be reported at a future meeting, but 99-percent of the surveys received stated that they are satisfied with their decision to live in Pleasant Ridge. The Cooperative Tree Purchase is also closed and 20 residents purchased trees, one of which was donated back to the City; 76 trees were purchased overall. The Dog Ordinance Town Hall was held in January and was lightly attended. As a result of the meeting, emphasis was added on increasing the enforcement of existing ordinances, such as, dogs should be on leashes while walking on residential streets. Recommendations for the Dog Ordinance will be presented at next month's meeting.

Other Business

Commissioner Krzysiak reported that the next book for the Book Club will be "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman and will be discussed on Monday, February 29th, at 7:00 pm., Community Center.

City Clerk Drealan reported that absentee ballots for the March 8th Presidential Primary are available. Applications are available online or in person. Last day to apply is Saturday, March 5th, 9:00am-2:00pm. The March Pleasant Ridge City Commission meeting will be held March 15th due to the election.

Commissioner Perry highlighted the Pleasant Ridge Knitting Club that meets the first and third Mondays of the month at the Community Center, 7:00 pm, all levels of knitting talent, a wonderful and welcoming group. Snacks are provided.

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Mayor Kurt Metzger

Amy M. Drealan, City Clerk
/mat