



City of Pleasant Ridge

23925 Woodward Avenue
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069

Regular City Commission Meeting May 10, 2016

Having been duly publicized, Mayor Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Foreman, Krzysiak, Perry, Scott, Mayor Metzger.
Also Present: City Manager Breuckman, City Attorney Greg Need, Assistant City Manager Scott Pietrzak.
Absent: None.

Public Discussion

Ms. Amanda Wahl, Vice President of the Pleasant Ridge Foundation, reported that the Auction will be held Saturday, May 21st. There are many interesting items up for auction. Chicken Shack will be providing the food for the auction, along with a donated prize of their food truck for a party of 50 for the auction. Axle Brewing is donating the beer for the auction. Monies raised will be donated to Roosevelt Park, providing new computers for the police department, purchasing covered areas for the city pool, and also installing a swipe card system for the gym area. Tickets may be purchased in advance for a discount rate. A raffle for \$10,000 is also being hosted with only 200 tickets available. Friday, May 20th, the Polar Plunge will be held at the city pool. Kids are also included this year to participate in the plunge.

Mr. Ted Zachary, 68 Devonshire, representing the Environmental Committee, reported that the recycled tonnage for February was 21 tons; March was 22.5 tons; and April was 28 tons. There is an event Monday, May 23, 7:00p, Community Center, about native plants and a sale of native plants will be held Saturday, June 4, which is the same date of the Home & Garden Tour. Because of the construction of the parking lot, there will be no community garden in Pleasant Ridge this year. Mr. Zachary invited residents that want to partake in a community garden to come to Drayton Avenue Presbyterian Church on Ridge Road. There is no charge and you can contact Mr. Zachary for more information. "Ted's Terrific Tip" is in order to save heat in the winter and cool air in the summer, attach a small tab to a rubber band, and attach the rubber band to a magnet. Place the magnet on the mailbox and insert the tab where the lid of the mailbox meets the box itself, thus, when the mailbox is opened and mail inserted, you will be able to tell you have mail by the fact the tab is hanging below the box and saving you energy from opening/closing the house door several times to check for mail. Another tip is if you have a larger item that you put on the curb for trash, mark on a piece of junk mail the word "free" and stick it on the item, thus, someone may take it and save it from going to the landfill.

Governmental Reports

County Commissioner Gary McGillivray gave an update on the tri-party road program, a program sponsored by a one-third investment by the local community, the county, and the road commission, and reported that there are more county roads in the Lake Orion area than there are in the south end of the county. An alternative bi-party program has been proposed for maintenance projects, 50-percent funded by each the local community and the county. Another resolution presented in support of SB 557 is in support of funding trunk lines along I-75.

Chief Kevin Nowak, Pleasant Ridge Police Department, reported that there have been a large number of identity theft crimes reported by residents and advised residents to be aware of how things are paid for, changing passwords, and be mindful of your credit report. A number of recent complaints have been made about parking for longer than 48 hours on the street. Chief Nowak asked that residents be mindful of their neighbors and the parking situation. Also, residents should maintain their lawns to avoid high grass and weeds. The home invasion suspect arrested in December has recently pled guilty and awaiting sentencing. National Law Enforcement week is May 15th to May 21st. The Oakland County Commissioners issued a resolution honoring all law enforcement agencies in Oakland County which was read by Chief Nowak.

City Commissioner Liaison Reports

Commissioner Foreman reported that the Roosevelt play structure and improvements are underway and the workers are in need of wheelbarrows and perennial plants donated. There is a green tarp near the playground area where the plants can be left. You can call for pickup of the wheelbarrow to be used on Thursday, May 12th. A new program for 4th and 5th graders will be the First Lego League which will have groups of up to 10 students with a coach and specific robotic design is given every year. Kennedy Elementary has received the highest status for the 7th year in a row by the Oakland County Green School Program. The sinking fund millage proposal will be on the August ballot and is a limited property tax considered a “pay-as-you-go” method for funding building maintenance and infrastructure projects without having to acquire debt for interest expense. The levy designated is used for building update and repairs. These monies are audited by the Department of Treasury and cannot be used for general expenditures. The district will be requesting an increase of 1.3 mills for 15 years. If approved, \$850,000.00 will be raised every year for facility improvements. An informational meeting will be held at the high school on May 26th, 7:00p, and additional information can be found on the district’s website. Next school board meeting is May 17th, 7:00p, at the high school.

Commissioner Perry reported that the DDA met April 25th and discussed the 2016-2017 Budget which includes further contributions to the 10 Mile to Devonshire alley and the alley from Amherst to Sylvan, along with work for permanent traffic calming measures on Main Street, maintaining and improving the Woodward streetscape, and reintroducing a development grant for façade improvements. A survey will be submitted to the business district to see how the DDA can best serve them. Next meeting is Monday, May 23rd, 7:00p. Commissioner Foreman inquired if the façade grant program is a matching program and City Manager Breuckman responded that that is still being determined. Examples from other DDAs will be considered.

Commissioner Scott on behalf of the Historical Commission reminded residents that the Home & Garden Tour will be held June 4th, 10:00a to 4:00p.m., and tickets are available at City Hall. The plant sale will also be held on June 4th, either at the Community Center or City Hall. Next Historical Commission meeting will be in July.

Commissioner Krzysiak mentioned the official pool opening is May 27th. A special group through the Recreation Commission is working on the playground component for Gainsboro Park and will meet again in June to finalize plans. Mayor Metzger added that there has been a press release by Jessica Herzig on the project.

Consent Agenda

16-3259

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.

2015-2016 Budget Amendments

City Manager Breuckman explained that this is part of the budget process to close out 2015-2016 Budget. Ms. Carolyn Lorenz, Plante Moran, reviewed the minor amendments to the Commission.

16-3260

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Foreman, that the 2015-2016 Budget Amendments be approved, as listed.

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

Establishing Public Hearings on June 14, 2016, at 7:30 p.m., to solicit public comments on the following: (a) Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Millage Rates; (b) Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Combined City Budget

City Manager Breuckman presented a PowerPoint highlighting the proposed 2016-2017 Budget. This year's budget will cover a 3-year period to plan for future endeavors. The budget has to be adopted by July 1st. Pleasant Ridge has the highest rollback millage factor in all of Oakland County which reduces millage rates as a result of higher property values. The reduced rates will save the average homeowner approximately \$70.00-\$80.00 per year on the Pleasant Ridge portion. Assessed values in Pleasant Ridge have gone up 10-percent. Property taxes fund 75-percent of city operations. Only 49-percent of the property taxes goes to the City and 51-percent goes to the schools, SMART, County, and other jurisdictions. The general fund revenue increased by \$7,600.00; and general fund expenses increased by \$20,000.00 mainly due to the purchase of a new police car and personnel costs due to health care and retirements. The Infrastructure Improvement Fund 218 entered the 2015-2016 FY with a \$372,000 fund deficit due to the road construction projects and increased costs of cement. This FY will end with a \$474,000 deficit on the Oxford project. Money will be transferred from the SCAF account and repaid next year. Options are being looked into in order to keep up with the road improvement projects, especially on Indiana and Ridge before 2022. Proposed water rates are as follows: Ready-to-serve charge \$29.40; water/sanitary usage rate \$70.50; garbage pickup fee \$16.95; and ERU Storm Water fee \$275.75 per ERU. Mayor Metzger commended Breuckman on his educational presentation.

16-3261

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Scott, that a public hearing be established for Tuesday, June 14, 2016, at 7:30 p.m., to solicit public comments on the proposed fiscal year 2016-2017 combined city budgets.

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

Update by the City Attorney Regarding Dog Leash Law Provisions

City Attorney Need reported that other community leash law ordinances were reviewed and their language is very similar to Pleasant Ridge's with a few exceptions. Ann Arbor's ordinance has no specific leash length requirement, but does have a more detailed definition of "reasonable control." Bloomfield Township's ordinance has another definition of "reasonable control." Farmington Hills' ordinance has one of the more detailed definitions of a suitable leash with a 15-foot maximum length requirement; Section 6-34 of that ordinance deals with confinement and control. Grand Rapids' ordinance has a 6-foot maximum length leash requirement.

Commissioner Foreman thanked City Attorney Need for his useful memorandum. Foreman prefers the Farmington Hills' ordinance and feels it strikes a good balance between common sense and practicality. Leash strength and length are important factors.

Mayor Metzger agrees with Commissioner Foreman's comments and mentioned that control of the animal is the most important factor regarding the leash.

Commissioner Scott added that if you add a length and strength requirement then you have to be prepared to enforce it.

Commissioner Krzysiak agrees with Mayor Metzger and Commissioner Foreman's comments, and also commended City Attorney Need on his memorandum. Krzysiak recommends having the restrictions in the Farmington Hills' ordinance added to Pleasant Ridge's ordinance for further review and discussion.

Chief Nowak mentioned that every situation will be different and that a general guideline should be considered especially in an exact length in order to enforce effectively. Commissioner Perry inquired if there has been a noticeable difference in the city since word has gotten out about the enforcement of the leash law and Chief Nowak reported that the police department has noticed that more residents have their pets on a leash and fewer violations have been issued as of late. Commissioner Foreman agrees that a range of numbers as to length and strength would be a better approach to amend the ordinance. Chief Nowak suggested having a small questionnaire/test that a pet owner would answer at the time of applying for a dog license that focuses on the understanding of the leash law ordinance.

Mayor Metzger suggests that this matter should be given some more consideration before amending the actual ordinance.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Breuckman reported that the City applied for a grant through the Canadian Railroad and won \$25,000 for the Gainsboro Park project. These monies will be used for the plantings and beautification of the park.

Breuckman mentioned that the State of Michigan is auditing the Oakland County Assessor and Pleasant Ridge is one of the communities selected. Letters have been sent to residents who will be part of this audit process. If anyone has someone appearing at your door expecting to do a walkthrough assessment and you did not receive a letter, call City Hall or the Oakland County Assessor immediately.

Breuckman reported that residents have inquired about the water quality after the concerns of Flint. Assistant City Manager Pietrzak reported that the DEQ requires the City to do a testing every 3 years. The last samples were checked in 2014 and were at zero percent lead. The same homes are checked as part of this testing process. Breuckman added that there is no demonstrative problem in the testing in Pleasant Ridge and the City continues to monitor the situation. The 2014 DEQ report will be on the City's website. Commissioner Perry added that several residents have had private tests performed and all have come back negative. Breuckman encouraged residents who have those reports to share with the City.

Other Business

Commissioner Foreman mentioned that a number of residents on Fairwood have received letters regarding handrail violations by the new code enforcement officer and asked for additional information as to why this is happening. City Manager Breuckman explained that the City has never had a code enforcement officer in the past addressing issues and only acted upon complaints that would have been made by residents. There are two parts to code enforcement: Property maintenance and life safety element that falls under the building code. The contracted code enforcement officer started in February and suggested that handrails would be the first priority due to the safety element to enforce. Property maintenance will also be enforced as to peeling paint and blight. A number of letters have been sent out to many streets and nine homes have complied with adding the handrails to date. There have been instances with homes that have "historical" handrails that do not meet today's code requirements. Follow-up letters will be sent to these homeowners explaining that they do not have to replace the handrail at this time, but for a safety factor, it is suggested to comply. Mr. Robert Sakat, 8

Fairwood indicated that he received a phone call from the code enforcement officer and returned his call leaving a message, and it has been two weeks and he has not heard from him. Breuckman indicated he would follow up on this matter.

Commissioner Krzysiak reported that the next book for the Book Club will be "Once in a Great City" by David Maraniss and will be discussed on Monday, June 6th (due to Memorial Day), at 7:00 p.m., Gainsboro Park. The next book to be discussed is "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbery on June 27th, 7:00 p.m., Hessell Park. Krzysiak was able to pick up a bag of these books from the library so contact him if you would like a copy.

Commissioner Perry reported that the Regional Authority will be hosting workshops over the next week or so to discuss express service along Woodward and Gratiot Avenues: Wednesday, May 11th, 11:00a-2:00p, Roosevelt Public Library; Thursday, May 12th, 4:00p-7:00p, U of M Detroit Center (Woodward Avenue). Public hearings will be Wednesday, May 25th, 12:00-2:00p, St. James Church (Ferndale) and 5:00p-7:00p at the Matrix Center (Detroit).

Commissioner Perry reported that Ridge Resale will be open on Saturday, May 14th, 9:00a-3:00p and the proceeds will benefit the Foundation.

Mayor Metzger inquired if the Regional Authority is presenting its master plan that will be voted on in November and Perry reported that it is on May 31st, at Lawrence Tech, and Breuckman added 10:00a-1:00p.

Commissioner Foreman reminded that the Auction is May 21st, 5:30 p.m., and that raffle tickets are available.

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Mayor Kurt Metzger

Amy M. Drealan, City Clerk
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