



**City of Pleasant Ridge**  
23925 Woodward Avenue  
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan 48069

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**Regular City Commission Meeting  
March 14, 2017**

Having been duly publicized, Mayor Metzger called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

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

**Announcement**

Mayor Metzger announced that the April 11, 2017 City Commission meeting has been rescheduled to April 18, 2017 in observance of Passover.

**Amend the Agenda**

**17-3295**

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Scott, that Consent Agenda Item 10.D be moved to Item 4.A to accommodate visiting speakers.

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

**Consent Agenda Item 4.A - Ferndale Youth Assistance Funding**

**17-3296**

Judge Joseph Longo, Chief Judge of 43rd District Court which encompasses the Ferndale School District, made a presentation regarding the history and achievements of Ferndale Youth Assistance. The organization was created in 1955 between the courts and the school system to help address and prevent juvenile delinquency. Some notable events include recognizing students who have made a positive impact in the community and sending students to camp program free of charge. Counseling services, family education and workshops to help with parenting skills are also offered. There will be a workshop on March 29 entitled Love and Logic.

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Foreman, to approve \$1000 funding for Ferndale Youth Assistance for fiscal year 2017.

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

## **EcoWorks Community Energy Management Presentation**

Henrik Mader, Energy Analyst, EcoWorks-Detroit, delivered a powerpoint presentation regarding the Community Energy Management project. He briefly discussed EcoWorks' 36-year history including its partnerships with government and business, its green job opportunities and energy savings. Its four main programs are: Residential Education, Reclaim Detroit, Youth Energy Squad, and Strategic Community Initiatives. They are a Michigan Community Energy Partnership member. The Community Energy Management project focuses on providing municipalities with assistance to cost-effectively maximize energy savings. In 2016 Pleasant Ridge was an energy leader, and installed lighting improvement projects that resulted in 75% increase in efficiency. There is also a solar project planned for the Community Center roof. A previous lighting project increased energy efficiency at City Hall by more than 60%. Completing the LED conversion could save an estimated \$4000. City Manager Breuckman has been appointed the city's Energy Manager. A revolving energy fund with 50% reinvestment is being considered. The city is looking at a five-year timeline to identify and develop new projects.

Commissioner Perry inquired about solar pool solutions at the community center including a solar water heater. Rob Sakat, 8 Fairwood, asked how EcoWorks is paid. The project is being funded by a grant from the Michigan Energy Office. Matching funds from the city are being provided by the lighting retrofit project.

## **Infrastructure Improvement Bond Approval and Issuance**

City Manager Breuckman noted that notice for these bonds had been sent previously. He presented a proposal to issue bonds with a face value of \$3 million that would be repaid over 15 years through the existing infrastructure millage. No new millage would be necessary. The bonds are necessary for road improvement projects. Hanover, Norwich, Ridge, Indiana and Bermuda projects need to be completed. The infrastructure millage generates approximately \$400,000. Repayment of the new bonds would be \$245, 000 which would leave approximately \$150,000 for maintenance. Hope to have bonds issued in mid-April and begin construction. Commissioner Foreman inquired about the impact on school services and discussed adding green enhancements to roads including using pervious concrete for better drainage. Commissioner Krzyziak discussed need to address road issues sooner than had been previously planned. He expressed concern regarding whether sufficient monies will be left for maintenance to address future problems. Some of the original road improvements are still in good condition. Concrete streets should last 50 years with good maintenance. A joint sealing program is being considered. Sewers under the street have been monitored and maintained along with the street projects. Current technology allows for pipe repair without having to dig up the street. Commissioner Scott discussed repayment interest. Mayor Metzger inquired regarding bond rating process. Commissioner Scott confirmed that a budget amendment will be necessary.

### **17-3297**

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Perry, to approve the resolution authorizing the City to issue and sell general obligation capital improvement bonds.

Adopted:                      Yeas: Commissioners Foreman, Perry, Krzyziak, Scott, Mayor Metzger  
                                     Nays: None

### **Governmental Reports**

Representative Robert Wittenberg discussed that infrastructure improvement is an important issue throughout the country. He has been conducting coffee hours with the citizens and plans to continue to hold them twice a month. He encouraged citizens to contact him for assistance or with questions. Email: robertwittenberg@house.mi.gov. Phone: 517-373-0478. He serves on the Insurance, Financial Liability and Reform, and Law and Justice Committees. He discussed recent attempts to lower the income tax in Michigan. Commissioner Perry inquired about proposed FOIA amendments to improve transparency in state government. Mayor Metzger raised the issue of straight ticket voting and about auto insurance in Detroit. There was discussion regarding Michigan's poor education reports and how to improve. There was also discussion about pension amendment issues.

Chief Kevin Sullivan, Ferndale Fire Department, reported that they hired another fire fighter and have another one in training. They are hoping to hire one more after union negotiations. The storm outages kept the department very busy.

Chief Kevin Nowak, Pleasant Ridge Police, noted that he spoke to Representative Wittenberg opposing the pension amendments. Without a quality pension it is very difficult to find enough qualified applicants for the department. The department has also been busy helping citizens without power due to the recent storm.

### **City Commission Liaison Reports**

Commissioner Perry reported on the Planning Commission/DDA. The DDA will meet on Monday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall. They will be awarding a grant to one of the local businesses.

Commissioner Scott reported on the Historical Commission. The Museum will be open March 18. The Home and Garden tour will be June 10. Looking for people to volunteer to display their home or garden. On August 2nd there will be a speaker regarding the history of the pool. Anyone with information regarding the history of the pool is requested to contact the city.

Commissioner Krzysiak reported on the Recreation Commission. The Pancake Brunch and Egg Hunt will be April 1. There will be a new *Ridger* out in April. Promptly. Citizens are encouraged to get their fob to access the rec center seven days a week from 5 a.m. till midnight.

Commissioner Foreman reported on Ferndale Public Schools. Amy Butters resigned creating an open seat on the Board. Superintendent Blake Pruitt has applied for a position on the west side of the state. Shouldn't affect this school year. Pruitt will stay committed throughout this school year but will need to fill that vacancy when it comes up. The Spring Musical is *Suessical*, March 18 through 26. The FDF dinner and auction is March 31 with a March Madness theme. Mayor Metzger and Ferndale Mayor Dave Salter will be MCs. The School Board will meet on March 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the high school. They may announce the selection of the new board member at that meeting.

**Consent Agenda**

**17-3298**

Motion by Commissioner Foreman, second by Commissioner Scott, that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

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

**Agreement between the City of Pleasant Ridge and the City of Ferndale for Police Dispatch Services**

City Manager Breuckman noted that the city has contracted with the City of Berkley for police dispatch services for many years. The contract is expiring on June 30, 2017. It is proposed to contract with Ferndale for future police dispatch services. There have been no performance related issues with Berkley. One reason for the change is that fire and ems are already with Ferndale so this would remove one step in the 911 emergency call process. The proximity also makes it easier for police to transport prisoners from the lockup in Ferndale. The police currently work closely with Ferndale and the departments back each other up when necessary. There will be a nominal savings of about \$1000, but that is not a key reason for the change. There was discussion regarding the good relationship and services the city has received from Berkley in the past.

**17-3299**

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, that the agreement between the City of Pleasant Ridge and the City of Ferndale for Police Dispatch services be approved and that the Mayor be authorized to sign the agreement.

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

**Agreement between the City of Pleasant Ridge and the City of Ferndale for Supplemental Building Inspection Services**

City Manager Breuckman presented an agreement for a shared services arrangement with the City of Ferndale for Building Inspection services. Either community can ask the other for inspection services at the rate of \$75 per hour. One key reason for this collaboration is the pending development project at the Walker Wire site. Ferndale is more experienced with industrial inspections. The boundary between Pleasant Ridge and Ferndale actually bisects the Walker Wire site so this collaboration allows for one inspection team for the entire project. It will also provide backup for both cities as needed. Ferndale has already confirmed the agreement unanimously. No costs would be incurred unless the services were used.

**17-3300**

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Foreman, to approve the agreement between the City of Pleasant Ridge and the City of Ferndale for supplemental building inspection services and that the Mayor be authorized to sign the agreement.

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

**Supplemental Appropriation A-2017-001**

City Manager Breuckman noted that this is a housekeeping issue changing how retirement costs are allocated. Retirement costs would be allocated by department rather than grouped together. It also amends the budget to account for the bonds and eliminates the transfer from the old Oxford project.

**17-3301**

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Scott, to approve the Supplemental Appropriation A-2017-001.

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

**Certification of delinquent utility bills for collection on the 2017 Summer tax roll**

City Manager Breuckman noted that this is an annual shift of delinquent utility bills to the tax rolls in lieu of shut off.

**17-3302**

Motion by Commissioner Perry, second by Commissioner Foreman, to place those properties with unpaid water and sewer charges for a period of at least two quarters, as certified by the City Administration, on the 2017 Summer tax roll as a special assessment.

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

**Resolution - Welcoming Cities**

Mayor Metzger presented a powerpoint regarding issues of immigration in Michigan. The Welcoming America program began in 2009 and Michigan was the thirteenth state to join the program. In southeast Michigan, a large majority of immigrants are from Iraq, with India in second. This is a different immigration pattern than the rest of the country. Seven percent of the population of Pleasant Ridge is foreign born. Pleasant Ridge wants to actively demonstrate its openness and inclusiveness. City Manager Breuckman will be the Welcoming Host for the City. Christine Sauve of Welcoming Michigan commented that there are over 100 members across the country. There are other small communities involved for Pleasant Ridge to network with and get ideas. There are many things that Pleasant Ridge is already doing that can include the Welcoming Cities concepts - films about immigration can be shown; the Historical commission can share stories from local immigrants. A city language access policy already exists. Commissioner Foreman inquired as to the amount of staff commitment necessary. There is a need to participate in some education programs and special events. Member cities have access to a member database with resources and sample policies. Commissioner Krzysiak asked whether forming a special commission on this issue is helpful. Some communities have volunteer commissions but involvement of city staff is still necessary.

Ms. Cindy Chouinard, 18 Poplar Park, discussed the possibility of a human rights commission in the city. She has been working on inclusiveness and providing shelter to immigrants for many years. She is in support of creating a commission to help liaison between city and residents which would also help provide an avenue toward finding more volunteers.

Ms. Rana Elmir, 5 Maywood, is a foreign born American Muslim and has been a resident since 2011. The inclusiveness of Pleasant Ridge is one of the reasons she chose to live here. She has, however,

encountered bigotry regarding her religion specifically while walking in the dog park. She feels that a formal resolution would make it clear that immigrants are welcome and wanted in Pleasant Ridge. Chief Kevin Nowak noted that the incident was not reported to the police department and that the police would have prosecuted the individual who harassed her.

Mayor Metzger read the resolution into the record.

**17-3303**

Motion by Commissioner Krzysiak, second by Commissioner Perry, to approve the resolution as presented for the City of Pleasant Ridge to participate in the Welcoming Cities program.

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

**City Manager's Report**

City Manager Breuckman reported that the loose brush pickup has been postponed due to the weather. The regularly scheduled loose brush pick up will be Monday. The Fab Cab transit program is progressing and Royal Oak is interested in participating. The next step will be to sign an interlocal government agreement. The launch is planned for May or June. DTE power is mostly back with about 10 homes still out. Hanover and Norwich water mains and hydrants are being replaced. Consumers Energy will be working on gas mains for the next couple of days. Some neighbors may see discoloration in water. It is recommended to simply run the water for a few minutes until it is clear. Mr. Pietrzak reminded citizens to get their fob for the wellness center. The pool system works differently but working on getting them to use the same fob. There will be new flooring for the small meeting room at the end of March but it may be delayed. The center will need to be shut down for three days to install the flooring. The City only lost one banner on Woodward in the storm and others are being repaired.

**Other Business**

Commissioner Krzysiak thanked staff for helping make the rec center available for people who needed it in the storm. He also reported that the Book Club for April will be Frederick Beckman, *My Grandmother Asked Me To Tell You She's Sorry*. Wednesday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. at the community center. The Book Club now meets the second Wednesday of every month.

With no further business or discussion, Mayor Metzger adjourned the meeting at 9:59 pm.

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Mayor Kurt Metzger

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Amy M. Drealan, City Clerk

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