

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2012, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 20025 MACK AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

PRESENT: Mayor Novitke
Council Members Bryant, Granger, Ketels, Koester, McConaghy, Shetler

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Fincham
City Attorney Don Berschback
Treasurer/Comptroller Irby
City Clerk Hathaway
City Assessor Soles

Mayor Novitke called the meeting to order at 9:07 p.m.

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Granger, that all items on tonight's agenda be received, placed on file, and taken in order of appearance.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Granger, Ketels, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke, Shetler
No: None
Absent: None

Discussion ensued regarding **Michigan Tax Tribunal (MTT) – Small Claims**. The purpose of this discussion was to provide the City Attorney and City Assessor with some reasonable level of authority to settling MTT cases, both small claims and full Tax Tribunals.

The City Assessor requested \$500 per year of contention per appeal for small claims (up to 3 years.)

Motion by Bryant, seconded by McConaghy, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend that City Council authorize the City Assessor to compromise small claims up to \$500 per year of contention up to 3 years.

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Granger, Ketels, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke, Shetler
No: None
Absent: None

This item is to be reviewed in one year by the Committee-of-the-Whole.

The City Attorney requested advanced authority to settle MTT cases up to \$5,000.

Motion by Bryant, seconded by McConaghy, that the Committee-of-the-Whole recommend that City Council give advanced authority to the City Attorney to settle MTT cases without any further Council approval in the amount of \$5,000 per year of contention for up to a maximum of 3 years.

Substitute motion by Bryant, seconded by McConaghy, to amend the previous motion by deleting "\$5,000" and inserting "\$2,500".

Motion carried by the following vote:

Yes: Bryant, Granger, Ketels, Koester, McConaghy, Novitke, Shetler
No: None
Absent: None

This item is to be reviewed in one year by the Committee-of-the-Whole.

Hearing no objections, the following items were discussed under New Business:

- A brief discussion ensued regarding routine Commission expenditures being presented to Council for approval one time at the beginning of each year. There was a consensus that Council Representatives will discuss this procedure with their Commissions. This item to return to the Committee-of-the-Whole.
- The City Administrator discussed the Parks and Recreation Supervisor vacancy, and requested permission to advertise the position and bring back to Council for approval. There was a consensus to authorize the City Administrator to advertise. This item is to return to the Committee-of-the-Whole.
- The City Assessor requested to advertise and replace a part-time person with a full-time, Level 2 employee due to a lack of qualified applicants for a part-time Assessor. The intent would be to start the new employee around November 13th. Sufficient funds are available in the 2012/13 budget for eight months of salary. There was a consensus to advertise for the full-time, Level 2 position and obtain information for a 1099. This item is to return to Committee-of-the-Whole.

Motion by McConaghy, seconded by Koester, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 10:11 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk

