

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE OF THE CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS HELD ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2016, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 20025 MACK AVENUE, GROSSE POINTE WOODS, MICHIGAN.

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

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator Fincham
Treasurer/Comptroller Irby
City Attorney Chip Berschback
City Clerk Hathaway
Director of Public Safety Smith
City Engineer Lockwood
Director of Public Services Ahee
Public Safety Officer Schroerlucke

Also in attendance were John McAlpine and Dan Curis of the Local Officers Compensation Commission.

Mayor Novitke called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Shetler, that Council Member McConaghy be excused from tonight's meeting.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

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

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The first item on tonight's agenda was a discussion regarding **Local Officers Compensation Commission**. John McAlpine was in attendance at tonight's meeting for an introduction to the Council in consideration of an appointment to the commission. Mr. Curis recommended the appointment of Mr. McAlpine. The City Clerk was asked to place this appointment on the next City Council meeting.

Motion by Granger, seconded by Ketels, that Local Officers Compensation Commission be removed from the Committee-of-the-Whole agenda.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The next item on the agenda was a **gas renewal informational update**. The City Administrator provided an overview regarding an upcoming DTE project involving changing out meters, construction, and concerns over school crossings. A meeting was held last Thursday with administration, DTE, school representatives, and the City Engineer. Following the meeting, the City Administrator stated that InfraSource, the contractor for DTE, has committed to not doing construction at Mack/Vernier while school is in session. A right-of-way permit will be placed on the January 25th City Council agenda.

DTE wants to start work on an alternate route in mid January. The City Administrator distributed a new map of the revised plan identifying work to commence mid January, and work to commence mid June. Work in January would involve disruption of seven parking spaces in front of Elan Candies/Jets Pizza, as well as Summit Dental, and may impact seven spaces in front of H2O Cleaners/and a salon. This work will be done in June and notices will be sent to businesses. Letters have already been mailed to the residences. Posting of a bond and an escrow account will be required. Discussion included whether a permit would include Mack Avenue, shutting off power to homes that may effect snow-birds, and DTE agreeing to provide a liaison officer 24/7 to respond to calls. The City Engineer stated a timeframe for restoration needs to be included in the permit, approximately 10-12 homes will be completed per day, and bi-weekly update meetings will be held with administration and DTE.

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Shetler, that the gas renewal information update be removed from the Committee-of-the-Whole.

Motion carried by the following vote:

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

The Chair declared a recess at 8:23 p.m., and reconvened at 8:32 p.m.

The next item discussed was regarding **fiscal forecasting**. The reason this is before the Committee-of-the-Whole is to discuss a Headlee override, which was also discussed at the Finance Committee on January 4, 2016. The Treasurer/Comptroller provided an overview of the last Finance Committee meeting. She stated there is a \$345,000 deficit and next year is expected to be higher due to pension obligations.

One option is to cut more budgeted items, however it will not solve the problem. Staffing has already been reduced from 105 to 79 employees. Cutting additional staff will result in services being effected. Another option is a Headlee override; possibly 1.9 mills, 2.2 mills, or 3.0 mills. She stated the City is at a structural deficit; \$17.7 million in unfunded pension, \$52 million in unfunded OPEB.

The Treasurer/Comptroller provided an overview of the Budget Projections sheet revised December 28, 2015. The Chair stated the Committee needs to determine whether to ask administration to spend time preparing a presentation on millage projections regarding a Headlee override, and if yes, determine millages to be considered. The City previously asked the voters for 1.85 mills, or should another number be considered.

Following discussion, there was a consensus of the Committee to obtain feedback from Labor Council, and directed the Treasurer/Comptroller to prepare fiscal forecast projections for 1.9, 2.2, 2.7, and 3.0 mills. The City Attorney was asked to determine whether a Closed Executive Session may be held to discuss labor negotiations, which would be the first item on the agenda if permitted.

This item is to remain on the Committee-of-the-Whole.

The following individuals were heard under Public Comment:

- Chris Kaczanowski, 19888 E. William Ct., spoke regarding The Rivers' and Liggett's landscaping not being in accordance with landscape plans. The City Administrator stated it is to be completed this spring. The City Attorney stated the Certificate of Occupancy is being held until the landscaping is complete, and that he will follow-up with the Building Official. The City Administrator stated he will be following up with the Building Official regarding Liggett's Astroturf.
- Judy Sheehy, 941 Woods Lane, discussed a solicitor selling meats (Omaha Steak), and asked if he was issued a permit. Administration confirmed he was an approved solicitor.

Motion by Bryant, seconded by Granger, that the meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole be adjourned at 9:38 p.m. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk